Call for Submissions of Research

UNESCO Bangkok’s STEM for Girls and Women Asia-Pacific Regional Research Project

Background

Within its leading role for the global Education 2030 agenda and its global priority to mainstream gender equality, UNESCO has placed great emphasis on empowering girls and women through STEM education. Previous UNESCO research into STEM includes, ‘Cracking the Code: Girls’ and Women’s Education in STEM’, UNESCO’s 2017 global report highlighting the barriers impeding girl’s and women’s engagement in and contributions to the STEM fields worldwide. This was built on the pioneering work in the Asia-Pacific region contained in the regional report ‘A Complex Formula: Girls and Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in Asia’, which looked at cases from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam. While these studies have provided valuable insights, there is a need to collect more relevant data to understand the depths and nature of the inequality in these fields.

Objectives

UNESCO Bangkok is looking to gather research from across Asia-Pacific on girls and women in STEM to be published in an edited volume of research in early 2020. As a follow up to the previous two studies, this collection of research aims to update and expand our knowledge base on the state of girls and women in STEM education across the Asia-Pacific in order to inform policy. As previous studies have highlighted, much of the disparity arises from social, cultural and psychological barriers. This collection of research will help to identify and isolate these factors, so that specific contexts can build policies and measures to reduce inequalities.

As part of this project, UNESCO Bangkok aims to host an expert meeting in late 2019 following the collection of research. This meeting will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the research and what member states can do to enhance the relevance of STEM education for females. UNESCO will engage various organizations and institutes to attend, laying the groundwork for building a potential network of STEM education experts from across Asia-Pacific, that could lead policy discussions and impact change across all levels (international, national and local).
Research

This regional research is open to explore a broad range of topics and areas under STEM education, with the focus on female performance, disengagement and motivation in STEM. The research will review and update the current situation of girls and women in STEM education subjects/fields in a regional context (i.e. within Asia-Pacific), including the following aspects:

- Identify and analyse factors that are hindering or facilitating girls and women in STEM subjects or fields;
- Exploring the sociocultural and psychological issues related to STEM education for girls, including but not limited to, perceptions, motivations, interests, perceived ability, stigma, cultural value attributes to STEM and economic incentives;
- Innovative or promising projects, programmes and interventions that are addressing gender inequality in STEM, particularly related to girls and women.

Research can fall under the following two categories:

1. **Research study on Girls/Women in STEM education/careers**

   - Research already published in an Asia-Pacific language other than English,
   - Research already completed or currently underway (in English or another language) and looking for publication opportunity,
   - Research soon to get underway or not yet underway (*note: see suggested timeline below*),
   - Submission can be individual research or in association with other institutes, and/or a summarized version of larger research project,
   - Length: max 30 pages/7500 words,
   - Content should include:
     - introduction and background,
     - research methodology,
     - research findings, outcomes,
     - conclusions and policy recommendations,
     - annexes (data tables, charts, etc. if necessary).

2. **Innovative projects/practices that highlight efforts to improve Girls/Women in STEM**

   - This can be a project that has been completed, currently underway or in process,
   - Submission can be in association with other institutes, and/or a summarized version of larger project,
   - Length: max 30 pages/7500 words,
   - Content should include:
     - background information on the project/practices, initial development, broader project/programme initiatives,
     - analysis of the implementation, impacts, monitoring, and project outcomes,
     - challenges and benefits (e.g. is the project able to be replicated in other contexts/areas?),
     - policy recommendations or impact.
UNESCO will review all research and provide technical and expert feedback. Researchers will need to be available via email to communicate with UNESCO Bangkok regularly in order to revise and edit submitted research documents throughout the course of the project.

All work shall be completed by **31 December 2019** at the latest. In line with UNESCO’s overall gender mainstreaming strategy, the research is expected to integrate a gender perspective and apply gender analysis and mainstreaming concepts whenever feasible.

**Selection Criteria**

UNESCO will select a limited number of research studies/papers to be included in the final volume. The research should fall under the objectives stated above, and directly answer or discuss some of the research aspects. For example:

- Does the research focus on STEM education?
- Does the research focus on gender equality?
- Does it examine factors that limit or facilitate girls/women in STEM? And comparing boys/men participation in STEM?
- Does it examine sociocultural, psychological aspects that influence young peoples’ interests in STEM?
- Does it provide examples of a project or practice that promotes girls/women in STEM?
- Does it provide policy recommendations for education stakeholders on how to reduce inequality in STEM fields?

**How to submit your research**

Interested parties should submit the following documents in English:

- The research submission template (**max 3 pages**) ([download here](https://forms.gle/aWhakeyB3fGogc9z7))
  - A cover letter describing relevant professional experience and research objective;
  - An introduction to/background of applicant’s organization/institute;
  - Synopsis of the research, including: methodology, key findings and recommendations;
- An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV).

Please submit your documents and request through the online submission form: [https://forms.gle/aWhakeyB3fGogc9z7](https://forms.gle/aWhakeyB3fGogc9z7)

The deadline for submissions is **Friday, 31 May 2019**.

Only shortlisted submissions will be contacted.

For more information, please contact Mark Manns, [m.manns@unesco.org](mailto:m.manns@unesco.org).