

Socio-cultural interpretation of the joint survey 2018 results

Jeni RAJBAMSHI

Wise, Nepal

“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” is one of the major SDGs that Nepal wants to achieve by the end of 2030. The country has made notable progress on legal and policy reforms to contain many positive provisions that seek to advance gender equality, social inclusion and women’s empowerment.

The joint survey 2018 indicates that gender barriers in STEM is not perceived at severe level by the youth respondents of Nepal. But the same survey also indicates that female respondents perceive more gender barrier than male. Working female experience more gender barrier due to continuous struggling in their career advancement. Deep-rooted patriarchal norms and stereotypes that discriminate against women remain entrenched in the social, cultural, religious, economic and political institutions and structures of the Nepalese society. Various forms of violence against women and girls still remain, despite significant and continuous improvement. Females who want to make their careers in STEM, in fact, are discouraged by such socio-cultural barriers.

The Nepalese responders have been found very much optimistic about the future career of female in STEM. Initiations of reflecting policies related to gender equality and women empowerment into plan of actions in the STEM sector such as 10% reservation for the female students in any programs of engineering courses, reserved quota for female in open competition by public service commission, are some encouraging factors that can make one optimistic about the career outlook of female in STEM.

The data from survey are new generation perspectives, so look positive and progressive. However, their understanding to the notion of gender equity is very poor. Continued efforts from all the sectors should be put together to sustainably translate the gender equality stated in laws and policies into reality and to transform our society into equitable one.