

Boost prospects for women scientists

Set to become the world's most populous nation, India has the potential to be a scientific powerhouse. To accelerate the process, it will need to develop more innovative solutions for advancing women's careers and participation in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM).

Despite commendable initiatives by government departments and science academies (see <http://go.nature.com/2jwpta9>), India so far has no comprehensive national programme to encourage institutions to undertake active gender-equality measures. It could learn from schemes elsewhere, such as the UK–Ireland Athena SWAN Charter (<http://go.nature.com/2jnbvt4>) and the government-supported Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) pilot initiative led by Australian science academies (<http://go.nature.com/2jz2wyk>). A workshop convened last year by the Australian, Indian and UK governments resulted in best-practice guidelines for achieving gender equality in STEMM (see <http://go.nature.com/2kg2hkt>). We hope that this will spur efforts by the scientific community and the government of India to implement the workshop's recommendations in cooperation with those elsewhere.

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