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Review Article

Women in Science and Veterinary Profession in India

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Abstract	Keywords
<p>This mini-review article summarizes the involvement or development of women in science and veterinary profession in India. Science and Technology have been an integral part of Indian civilization and culture. Women and men have been active in science from the inception of human civilization. Since independence, Indians have been promoting science and technology as one of the most important elements of national development. The scientific policy of 1958 and the technology policy statement of 1983 enunciated the principle on which growth of science and technology in India has been based over the past several decades. The major scientific revolutions of the last century have opened the doors to many remarkable technologies in the fields of health, agriculture, communication and energy. This article is aimed to review the contribution and developments of women in science and veterinary profession in India.</p>	<p>Women empowerment Science and technology Veterinary science</p>

Introduction

India is a traditional country where women are respected as MatriShakthi over the years and they have overcome the traditional mind sets and excelled in professions like teaching, medicine and pure sciences. Most myths and religions place the beginnings of agriculture, laws, civilization, mathematics, calendars, time keeping and medicine into the hands of women. The third world organization for women in science is officially launched in 1993 which is the first international forum to unite eminent women scientists and scientific institutions in the south with the objective of strengthening their role in the development

process and promoting their representation in scientific and technological leaderships (D'Souza, 2002).

Women in science and technology

Education is a basic human right and a reasonably good indicator of development. This is the basis of women's empowerment and has multiplier effects on the well-being of their families, communities and nations. Innovative use of technology, when built in with institutional arrangements and interventions can go a long way in creating enterprise

opportunities for women at the grass root level. With changing societal conditions, women are a great human resource and their role in science and technology is vital for its progress. If women have to be successful in science, we need to create support structures and positive attitude towards science as a career for them. Therefore, empowerment of women has been recognized as a central goal in the development process in India.

The Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) has been evolved by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for providing opportunities to women scientists and technologists between the age group of 30-50 years. Under this scheme, women scientists are being encouraged to pursue research in frontier areas of science and engineering.

National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) initiated a series of workshops on the "Role of women scientists and teachers in promotion and application of Science & Technology". The first of which was held in Allahabad on October 5-6, 2012. Professor Alok Dhawan organized the second workshop in the series under the convenorship of Dr. Ashis Jalote-Parmar in March, 2013. The workshop on "Women in Science and Technology: The path to an empowered India" was held at the Institute of Life Sciences, Ahmedabad University and coincided with the International Women's Day (Workshop Report, 2013).

Indian women have played a pivoted role in technology. Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams made India proud in the whole universe. Women are coming up with young and revolutionary ideas thereby dominating various aspects of science and technology. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is the research and development wing of Department of space, has 1163 women employees belonging to Scientific and Technical categories and 1259 women employees belonging to administrative categories and they represent 17.64% of personnel in this department. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Biotech Entrepreneur and CEO of Biocon India group, started Biocon during 1978 in collaboration with an Irish firm. In 1986, Dr. Indira Hinduja produced first scientifically documented test tube baby in India. Deb Agarwal a computer scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley

National Laboratory, an expert in the area of multicast communication (Sarita et al., 2012; Geetha, 2014).

Women in veterinary profession

First women veterinarians in India were Dr. Kalyani and Dr. Sakkubai P. Ramachandran, graduated in Madras Veterinary College in 1950's. Dr. Sakkubai P. Ramachandran assumed many prestigious posts and retired as scientist from IVRI, Bangalore in 1971. Women veterinarians of India formed Indian association of lady veterinarians in the year 1985 at Veterinary College, Thirissur with the intention of bringing all the women veterinarians serving in various sectors to exchange their views and ideas. In 1960's and 1970's female students were not much interested in veterinary profession. Since last decade, there has been more awareness among women in veterinary medicine. At present there has been an increase in number of girls preferring this profession. Today women are competing with the men and in some of the veterinary colleges have women to men ratio of 50:50 (Abdul Rahman, 2004; Veena and Rajeshwari, 2008).

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