Analysis of women representation in STEM in Africa

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Abstract

Girls and women have consistently been underrepresented in most Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) professions, necessitating research [1]. There is a need to define and execute measures and policies to help reduce this gap [2]. The Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (DSAIL), in collaboration with Gender Justice in STEM Research in Africa (GeJuSTA), is conducting studies to analyse

the representation of women in STEM in Africa. The study will be used to guide the development of policies and curricula aimed at bridging the gap of women representation in STEM. The methods used in this study are analysing the genders of members of staffs in STEM faculties from African universities; analysing the genders of STEM-papers' authors from African universities and; conducting literature review to evaluate existing measures that have been put in place to encourage and enable women to join STEM professions. Preliminary results show that women are underrepresented in STEM fields in Africa.

Keywords: STEM, gender representation.