

Paper Presentations

Room B

Session 1

Mrs A Ramguttty-Wong presented a study on the barriers, which prevent women from making progress in their careers in the service sector of Mauritius. Ethnographic interview data indicated that female staff was seemingly 'stagnant' during their career. Unfair appraisal system, inequitable remuneration, lack of opportunities, old-boys' network, and 'personal' type factors were some of the salient barriers.

Session 2

Dr Cecile Marsh talked on the enhancement of computer self-efficacy by teaching strategic use of computer applications. The experimental group of students have learned the strategies for using computer applications and could transfer this strategic knowledge across different applications.

Session 4

Mr H Beesoondyal talked on the Mauritian students' perceptions of mathematicians and mathematics. He discussed the imageries of the participants and the indicators used by them to analyse students' conceptions. These conceptions, which suggested negative attitudes of the students to mathematics influenced their achievement in the subject.

Session 5

Mrs U A Okon presented a paper on gender socialization practices of the Ibibios and the academic performance of the female students in Science and Technology. The rules, habits, customs, arrangements, inhibitions on girls, and sex roles of the Ibibios in Nigeria were elaborated.

Session 6

Dr J Dindyal discussed on the positivist and feminist perspectives on gender issues in mathematics. He analysed some theories, intervention models and recent thinking. Finally, he elaborated on the directions that should be followed.

Room D

Session 1

Dr Helen MADILL and Dr Margaret Ann ARMOUR stated that there is a decline in the number of women entering the SET programmes (Science, Engineering and Technology) and the number of women in decision-making positions in industry and academia has not been substantially increased. Different issues were also addressed such as the educational 'cascade effect', factors shaping career choices, development of a framework for career commitment and the plan for developing a resource network. Finally some students' profiles were distributed among the participants and some concluding questions were raised.

Session 2

Dr Ejale discussed an environment friendly study, which was carried out to provide a cheaper means for controlling *C. gloeosporioides*, a pathogen affecting some wild plants and cultivated crops including Para rubber. The bark extracts of 32 tropical trees were evaluated for antimycotic activity against the pathogen; but extract from *T. ivorensis* showed the highest inhibition of mycelial growth. The inhibition may be related to the presence of some active principles, which need to be investigated.

Session 3

Olubunmi OMONIYI studied the effects of constructivism-based teaching strategy on male and female students misconceptions on selected concepts in chemistry. Two instruments were developed along the guidelines set out by Piaget inspired studies and were used to test the reasoning ability (TORA) and test of practical skills (TOPS). It was found that the learning cycle brings together the social constructivists and pedagogical dimensions of science teaching and provides an emerging context for training teachers for effectiveness in the science classroom.