

# GENDER EQUALITY IN STEM



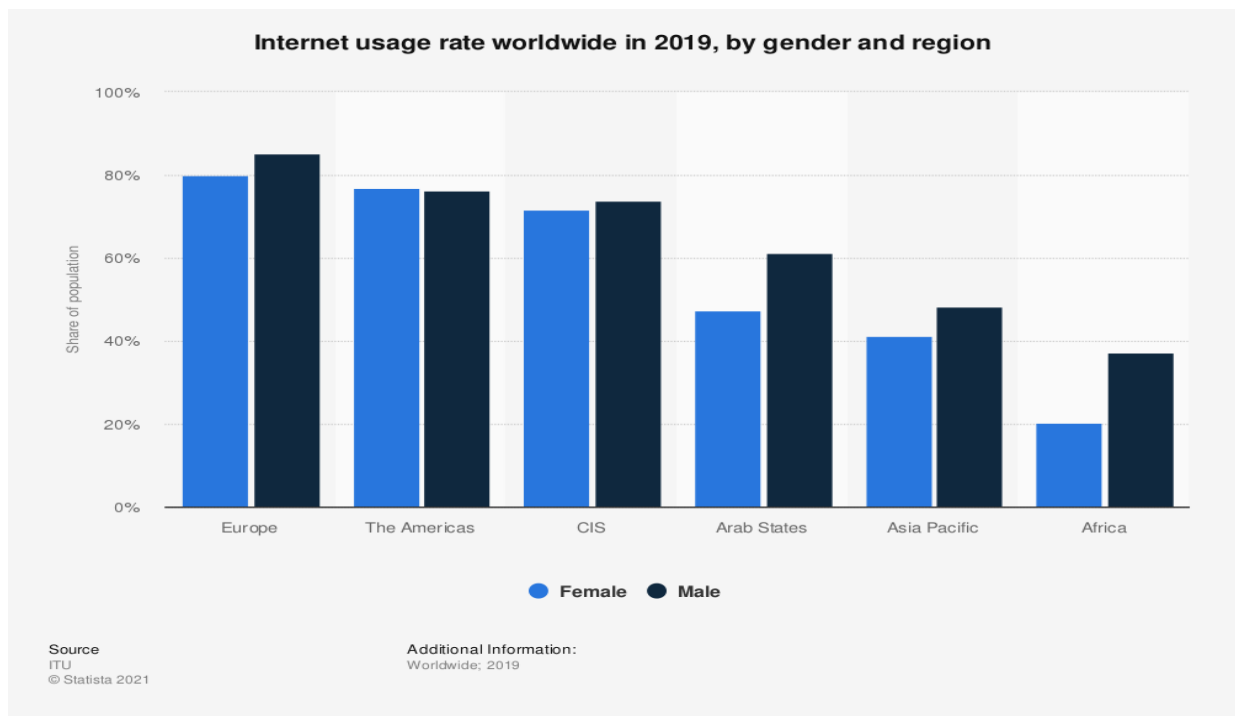
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Topic: My family thinks I should be a secretary

It is common, for parents who usually were raised before the prime of the internet and telecommunications in general, to urge their daughters to be playing with toys “made for girls” (dolls, fake kitchens etc.). Whereas boys are directed to toys that simulate war, vehicle races, video games etc. This phenomenon brings us thoughts about equal opportunities, for males and females to work in STEM related jobs.



Above we can see a statistic research about the usage of technology between men and women in 2019 at different regions. It is obvious that men use technology more than women. In common sense that results in less opportunities for women who want to work in STEM.

The lack of role models for women in STEM results in fewer females desiring to study or work in STEM, the toxic “bro culture” in the field, parent pressure, lack of technology experience, lack of promotion chances and the sexist peer pressuring are some of the main reasons women do not choose the field of STEM.

Let’s begin the story of Emily. Emily is a post-graduate high school student who is interested in applying for IT studies at a prestigious university at her region. She aspires to become the head IT of Amazon one of the largest tech companies globally, but something is stopping her from having that moment, that opportunity to seize everything she ever wanted. The thought of never achieving that place at Amazon due to a similar incident at Uber in the past (Travis Kalanick who was forced to step down as chief executive of the ride-sharing company, accused of creating a sexist work culture that discriminated against female employees.) and the lack of a role model makes her hesitate about that decision.

Her family urges her to become a secretary because they believe that she will be facing unemployment and poverty in the near future if she follows the path of her aspiration. They advise her to compromise and renew her aspirations to becoming the secretary of a large company's CEO so as to have a high paying desk job. Emily's fear of the future makes her go with her relatives advice and become a secretary. Emily now lives with thoughts about what would happen if she chose the path she really wanted. Would she become the head IT of Amazon or would she be doomed to live in poverty and pay off student loans? No one knows and no one will ever know.

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