

SEPTEMBER 2022

A woman's face is the central focus, wearing a glowing blue visor that obscures her eyes. The visor has the word "Addis" written on it. Below the visor, the word "POWERHOUSE" is written in large, white, outlined letters. The letter "O" in "POWERHOUSE" is replaced by a white female symbol (♀). In the bottom right corner, there is Amharic text: "የክብር ጽሑፍ".

Addis POWERHOUSE

A feminist knowledge production platform

ISSUE NO. 21

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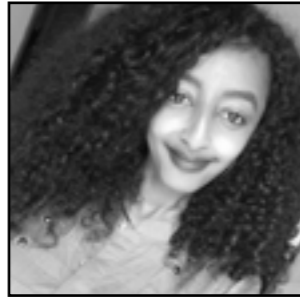
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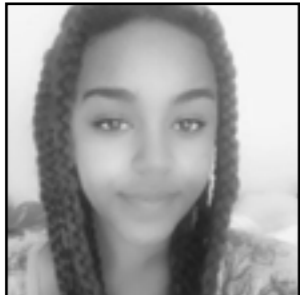
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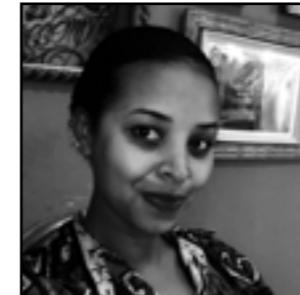
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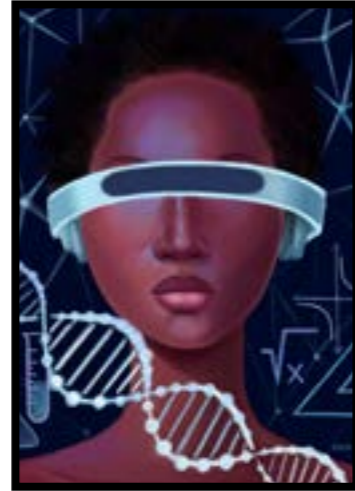


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Photo from - African energy week/African Business

“ WOMEN IN STEM ”



It's that time of the year again, a new beginning. We would like to start our September Issue by wishing you a happy Ethiopian New Year and welcoming you to 2015.

It is time to look back on the past 12 months to see just how far you've come and look ahead to the next 12 to figure out what else you would like to do. And if you are even slightly influenced by Western culture, don't worry - you will get the chance to revise these plans in just 5 months for the year 2023. But let's not think about that just yet, not while the rest of the year looks bright and your dreams are still possible. Instead, think about what you want to achieve in the coming year, what are the habits you want to start and the ones you would like to keep, how are you planning to design your life? During this process, you might find yourself doubting your ability to achieve most of the goals on your list - and that is where the habit and system development will come in handy, as not only will you have a general dream, now you are designing the means to achieve it.

Our yearly plans at Addis Powerhouse are rarely delivered exactly as we plan for them on paper. In many instances, we would be forced to change both minor and major details on the ground - which can get in the way of the big picture we had forecasted or the timeline we would be able to achieve it in. However, the habits we develop as a team, our values and mission, and above all - our framework of the way we do what we do as a feminist knowledge production platform in Ethiopia are how we keep going forward.

As we design our resolution for the Year 2015, we would also like to keep in mind how far we have come as the first feminist media in the country, as a team primarily based on volunteership, and as a sisterhood that has surpassed so many challenges.

Thank you for beginning the new year with us! As always, we hope you enjoy this edition of our Powerhouse and leave us your comments [here](#).

BACK STORY

Today, women make up just 27% of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce globally. This is not a random statistical outcome, but one that is influenced by generational and systemic exclusion of girls and women from education, particularly in STEM fields. In many societies, it is believed that women are simply not designed for STEM - influencing girls' interest, study choice, and career track from an early age. Such biases are also institutionalized within the education system from primary education to University levels, whereby girls are encouraged to excel in and pursue non-STEM fields. The resulting scarcity of female scientists, engineers or mathematicians also means there are less female role models in STEM for young girls to look up to, further widening the gender gap in the field. But why does it matter if women are disproportionately represented in STEM fields?

STEM fields are some of the fastest growing and most demanded sectors in our world, particularly as they provide the means to tackle problems that are escalating over time (e.g., climate change). However, despite this and the fact that they make up half of the world's population, women's needs are rarely taken into account in STEM innovations. In other words, the world has been primarily designed by men for men. Women in STEM bring a new perspective that men don't have, and improve the quality of life and safety for both genders through inclusive innovations. Therefore, more women in STEM would not only help overcome the shortage of STEM professionals, but also imprint on the design of a gender equal future.

From an economic point of view, research shows that increasing the number of women in STEM can equate to an additional \$12 trillion in the global GMP by the year 2025. Therefore, we need more women in STEM not only for social and moral reasons or to fill the surplus of jobs, but also to ensure our progress as a species. To this end, we have a responsibility to overcome the variety of barriers that contribute to the gender disparity in STEM. Above all, leaders can help bring more women into these vital fields by rethinking how they talk about these roles — and who they imply belongs in them — across their internal and external communications.

Back Story

To play their part in crafting a gender equal future, education institutions also need to create an inclusive learning environment that no longer sources its foundation from societal biases that deem women less capable of becoming successful in STEM fields. Moreover, when crafting job descriptions for technical positions, organizations can remove language that assumes these roles require masculine-coded traits such as brilliance, replace stereotypically masculine words such as “competitive” and “dominant” with more gender neutral terms, and emphasize how these positions will be an opportunity to improve society and help others, as research has shown that communal goals tend to resonate more with women.

In addition, assessing applicants based on job-relevant education and experience rather than penalizing them for unrelated factors such as career breaks can lessen bias against women returning to the workforce after maternity or caregiving leaves. At Addis Powerhouse, we acknowledge the role we play as a feminist knowledge production in promoting education for all, and particularly encouraging young and innovative girls into STEM fields. One of the ways we plan to do that in this Issue is by featuring Afrah Hussein, a young electrical engineering student and a STEM innovator. Afrah has made a wheelchair for staircases, one that is particularly designed to aid persons living with disabilities and wheelchair users. If you are looking to get into STEM or you are generally inspired by young women of excellence, enjoy the contents of this month’s Issue and our interview with Afrah.



STEMinist

A STEMinist is by definition an advocate for increasing the presence of women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. There are three major cornerstone understandings for STEMinism. Primarily, as technology becomes increasingly powerful, it should not exclude half of humankind. Secondly, we have lived too long in a world designed for - and by- men, which has real life (and death) consequences for half of humankind, if not more people.

Third and finally, men and women are only different biologically when it comes to their reproductive organs (and in the way they are treated by society). Their ability to learn, lead and create is the same, and it depends on precisely what they learn from a young age whether they can do those things later on. In this Issue of Addis Powerhouse, we have chosen to introduce you to STEMinism, our chance to create a gender equal future.

President Sahlework Zewdie, Bethelhem Dessie and 5 more women made it to the African Doers Power List

The African Doers Power List is an annual publication launched in May 2016 by Tropics Magazine. Tropics Magazine takes pride in recognizing the impact of leaders propelling the Pan-African economy forward.

Tropic magazine selected more than 1500 influentials in different fields & categories, including business, politics, social entrepreneurship, academics, creatives, and beyond. The magazine then evaluates their influence in those major areas.

14 Ethiopians were selected and 7 were women.

1. Aida Muluneh (Founder and Director of the Addis Foto Fest (AFF), DESTA (Developing and Educating Society Through Art) for Africa Creative Consulting PLC (DFA))
2. Amrote Abdella (General Manager of AWS sub-Saharan Africa)
3. Betelhem Dessie(Founder and CEO of iCog- Anyone Can Code (ACC))
4. Bethlehem Tilahun(Founder and Executive Director of SoleRebels)
5. President Sahlework Zewde(Ethiopia's first female president)
6. Mimi Alemayehou(Executive Advisor and Chairperson of Blackstone Africa Infrastructure LP)
7. Rahel Getachew(Founder of Afrolehar Branding) [\[1\]](#)

Afghan women open library amid Taliban rule to help gain education

Afghan women's rights activists opened a library in Kabul, hoping to provide an oasis for women increasingly cut off from education and public life under the ruling Taliban.

Since taking over Afghanistan a year ago, Taliban have continuously abused women rights and even taken basic human rights like education and traveling without a male companionship away from women.

"We have opened the library with two purposes," Zhulia Parsi, one of the library's founders, said. "One for those girls who cannot go to school and second, for those women who lost their jobs and have nothing to do."

[\[2\]](#)

Finnish PM Sanna Marin apologized for leaked partying video

A video leaked caused headlines around the world that showed Sanna Marin, the prime minister of Finland dancing and partying with a group of friends and celebrities.

Her dancing in the video has been criticized by some as inappropriate behavior for a prime minister, while others have defended her right to enjoy a private event with friends.

Marin gave a forceful defense of her work record and her right to a private life after criticism.

"I am human. And I too sometimes long for joy, light and fun amidst these dark clouds," she said as she fought to hold back tears.

"It's private, it's joy, and it's life," she said. "But I haven't missed a single day of work." Marin adds "it's quite difficult".

[\[3\]](#)

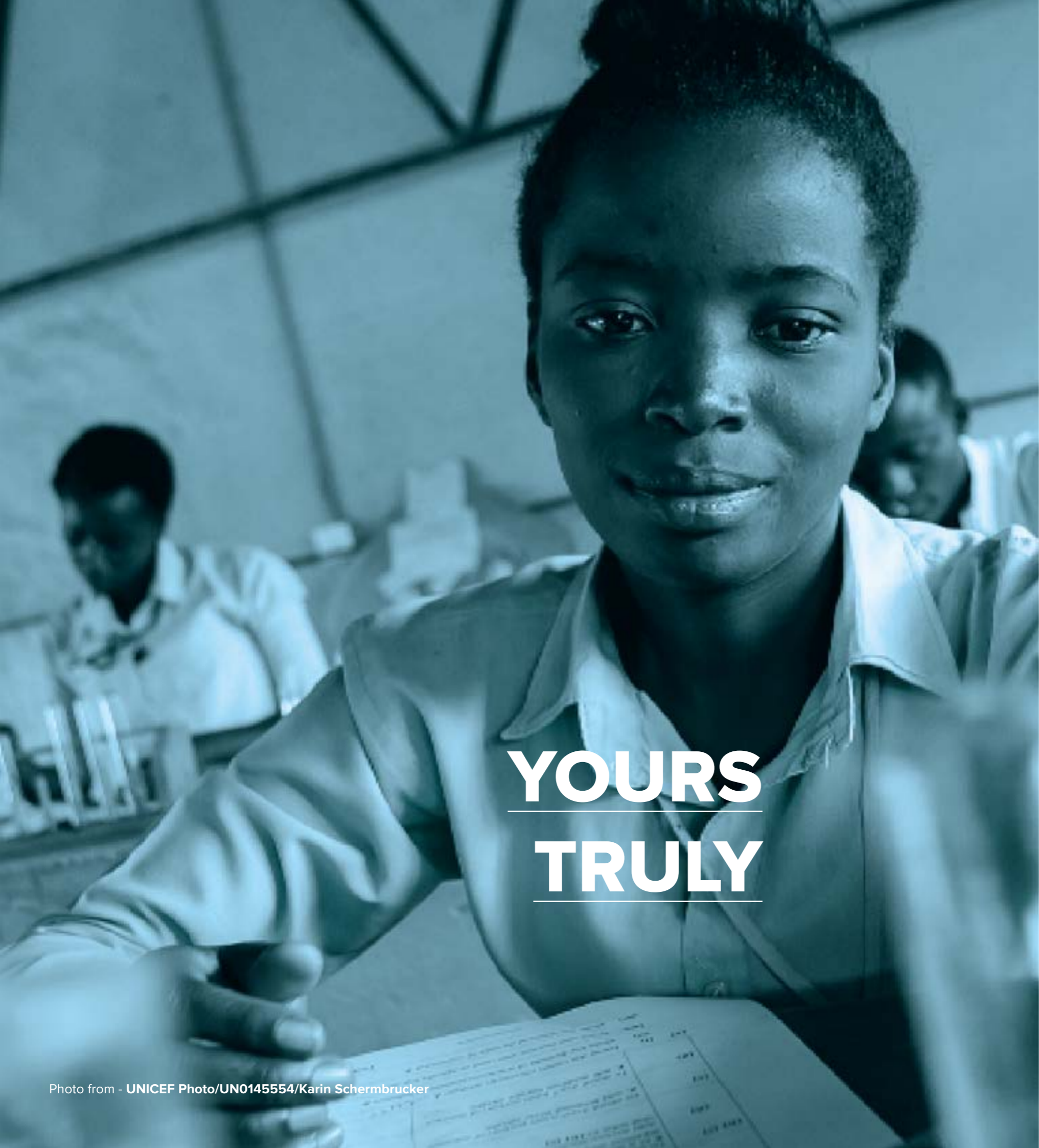
Liz Truss named as UK's third woman prime minister

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Britain's Conservative party Monday announced Liz Truss as its new leader to succeed Prime Minister Boris Johnson and confront Britain's deepest economic crisis in decades.

In a short victory speech at the announcement in a central London convention hall, Truss said it was an "honour" to be elected after undergoing "one of the longest job interviews in history". "I campaigned as a Conservative, and I will govern as a Conservative," she said, touting Tory values of low taxes and personal responsibility.

[\[4\]](#)



**YOURS
TRULY**

Yours truly

UNDERSTANDING ECOFEMINISM: AN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVATOR AS A MALE ALLY

PART 1

I have always been fascinated by the concept of feminism and climate change nexus. During my time as an Environmental Activator, I have witnessed a wide range of impacts in which climate change has been affecting different communities in Ethiopia and beyond. This has always made me wonder why there is a massive border between the movements of feminists and environmentalists, especially in Ethiopia.

For those who do not know me, my name is Jodahi Bezabih Petros. I am one of the founders of #Enfluencers, Farmboo Ethiopia (Silttawi Trading PLC), JAB Digitals, and Joda's E-nfluencer. I have been involved in the crowd of environmentalists for more than seven years, but I was always a Naturalist by heart! All the above initiatives and organizations are the ones I am currently active on. In all the experiences I have had at this young age, despite concerns of both environmental protection and women's rights being highly relevant, they continue to be addressed separately and incohesively.

This takes me back to when I went to Setaweet for a quick training organized to address Her sustainability concerns. And in my presentation, I added a unique concept I wanted to address in that specific presentation, which was eco-feminism (I thought I was slick trying to slide that in). Little did I know, I was presenting something I did not deep dive into and understood. BIG MISTAKE! So, in the middle of my presentation, I said, "...I think Eco-Feminism is great because we think our Earth is like our mother, and She needs to be taken care of...". (For those of you, who are cringing, I would like to apologize and continue by stating that the concept of Eco-feminism is a fantastic idea, which needs to have proper research and work in the future.) I remember one face visibly distressed by

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what I said. I approached her to ask if what I had said might have offended her after my presentation - to which she explained the flaw in my assumption of Earth as a female and how it is mandated for her to be a mother. Yup, you are right...I froze, but then I asked her more questions to understand what I must have said and what I should focus on. And when I tell you, I was pleased to discuss with that lady the things I have never thought about at all. The reason I am writing about that incident is because it has helped me begin approaching things from an even wider lens. I believe a feminist lens in environmental activism has been the major missing element in most rooms and interactions. All in all, the country we live in also needs to make a wholesome solution to solve the wide range of intersecting problems we have. I will personally vow as an ally to do my part in advocating for the representation and protection of women in climate justice work, and to promote gender sensitivity as an Environmental Activator.

By:- Jodahi B. Petros

YOURS TRULY



ASK A FEMINIST AFRAH HUSSEIN

አፍሪካ ሁሉን የአዲስ አበባ ሳይንስ እና ቴክኖሎጂ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሶስተኛ ዓመት ተማሪ ናት። የ11ኛ ክፍል ተማሪ እያለች አቅመ ደካሞች እና ተሽከርካሪ ወንበር/Wheelchair ተጠቃሚ ለሆኑ ግለሰቦች ደረጃን ያለምንም ችግር መውጣት እና መውረድ የሚያስችል ዌልፎር ሰርታላች። አፍሪካ የተለያዩ የርቀት፣ የከፍተኛ የፍጥነት መቆጣጠሪያ ሴንሰር የተገጠመለት ፈጠራዋን፣ ተጠቃሚዎቿን ከአደጋ እና መሰል ጉዳዮች የሚጠብቅ ነው ትላለች። በዚህ ፈጠራዋ በ2012 ዓ.ም ስቴምፓውር እና ትምህርት ሚኒስቴር በአዘጋጀው የፈጠራ ሥራ ውድድር ላይ በመሳተፍ አሸናፊ መሆን እንደቻለችም ይታወሳል። እስከ ከአፍሪካ ጋር በፈጠራው ዙሪያ እና በስቴም ፈጠራዎች ላይ ሴቶችን በማሳተፍ ረገድ ያደረግነው አጭር ቆይታ አንብቡት።

1. አፍሪካ ለዚህ ቃለ-መጠይቅ ፍቃደኛ በመሆንሽ በጣም እናመሰግናለን። እስከ ስለራሰሽ እና እስካሁን ስለነበረሽ ፈጠራዎች ትንሽ ንገራን።

አፍሪካ ሁሉን አባላለው። የሶስተኛ ዓመት የአዲስ አበባ ሳይንስ እና ቴክኖሎጂ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የኤሌክትሮኒክስ እና ኢንጂነሪንግ ተማሪ ነች። ከትምህርቱ ጎን ለጎን የፈጠራ ስራዎች እሰራለው። አብዛኛውን ጊዜን ተፈጥሮ የሰጠኝን ተሰጦ በማዳበር ነው ማሳደፈው። ከሃይስጡል ጀምሮ የተለያዩ የፈጠራ ስራዎችን ስሰራ ነበር። አንዳንዶቹን ለመጥቀስ ያህል ለሌላ መቆጣጠርያ

የሚሆን ጊቢ ውስጥ የሚዘረጋ ሲስተም፣ ICU አሲስታንስ ሲስተም፣ ደረጃ የሚወጣ ዌልፎርን ማንሳት እችላለው።

2. የኤሌክትሮኒክስ ኢንጂነሪንግ ትምህርትን ለምን መረጥሽው? በአሁን ሰዓት ስለሰራሽ ስራዎች ያሉ ፕሮጀክቶች አሉ?

ማህበረሰብን የሚጠቅሙ የተለያዩ አሲስቲቭ ወይንም ረዳት ዲቫይዥን ማምረት እና AI ኤክስፐርት መሆን ፈልጋለሁ ለዚህም ይረዳኛል ብዬ ያሰብኩት የትምህርት ዲፓርትመንት የኤሌክትሮኒክስ እና ኮምፒውተር ኢንጂነሪንግ ፊልድ ነው። ተስጦቹን ከአላማዬ ጋር የበለጠ ያመጋግብዋል ብዬ ስላሰብኩም ነው ይህን ፊልድ የመረጥኩት። በአሁኑ ሰዓት ፕሮጀክቶቼን ወደ ፕሮዳክት በመለወጥ ሂደት ላይ ነኝ። ለወደፊት የሚመጣውን አንድላይ የምናይ ይሆናል።

3. እንደ ኤሌክትሮኒክስ ኢንጂነሪንግ ያሉ የስቴም (STEM) ማለትም የሳይንስ፣ የኢንጂነሪንግ፣ የቴክኖሎጂ፣ እና የማህተም ፊልዶች ውስጥ የሴቶች ቁጥር በጣም ዝቅተኛ እንደሆነ ይታወቃል። ባንቺ አስተያየት ይህ ነገር ለምን የሆነ ይመስላል? ይህ መቀየር አለበት ወይም የሴቶች ቁጥር በእነዚህ ፊልዶች ውስጥ መጨመር አለበት ብለሽ ታስቢያለሽ? ከሆነ ደግሞ፣ የሴቶች ተሳትፎን በስቴም ፊልዶች ውስጥ መጨመር ምን ጥቅም ይኖረዋል? የሴቶች ቁጥር በእነዚህ ፊልዶች ውስጥ ለመጨመር ምን

አይነት ስራዎች መሰራት አለባቸው ትያለሽ?

የሴቶች ቁጥር ከወንዶች አንፃር ሲታይ በእኛ ወይም በሌሎች ስቴም ፊልዶች ውስጥ አነስተኛ ነው ። ምክንያቱን አላቅም ግን አብዛኛውን ግዜ ሴቶች ወደ ሕክምና እና የማህበራዊ ፊልዶች ስያዘነብሉ ነው የማየው። የሴቶች ተሳትፎ ግዴታ መጨመር አለበት ወይም የለበት ማለት ባልችልም፣ ሁሉም ሴት ተማሪዎች ፍላጎታቸው ወደሚያዘነብልበት የትምህርት አይነት ገብተው የመማር መብት እንዳላቸው አረዳለው። ይህም ሴቶችን በመረጡት ፊልድ ስኬታማ እንደምናረጋቸው ስለማምን ነው። በተጨማሪም ፈልገው እና ዝንባሌ ኖሯቸው ወደ ስቴም ፊልዶች የሚገቡ ሴቶችን እንዲቀጥሉ የሚያስፈልጋቸውን እገዛ ቢደረግላቸው አላለው። ለምሳሌ የተለያዩ ስልጠናዎችን በማመቻቸት የሴቶችን የፈጠራ ክህሎት ማደባደብ ይቻላል።

4. አፍሪካ ለነበረን ቆይታ በጣም እናመሰግናለን። በመጨረሻ እንዳንቺ ከልጅነት እድሜ ጀምረው በፈጠራ ስራዎች ላይ ፍላጎትን የሚያሳዩ ወጣቶችን ከራሳሽ ተሞክሮ ተነስተሽ ምን ምክር ልትሰጫቸው ትችያለሽ?

እኔም አመሰግናለው። ለወጣቶችና ለሴቶች ከእኔ ተምክሮ ተነስቼ የምመክራቸው የጀመሩትን መንገድ ጠንክረው እንዲይዙት እና ለዝንባሌያቸው ተመጋጋቢ የሆኑ ነገሮችን አካቢያቸው ላይ መፍጠር እንደሚችሉ እንዲረዱት ነው።

STAY TUNED

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