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**FEMALE UNDERREPRESENTATION IN SPACE SCIENCE:
A CASE STUDY OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL CENTER FOR SPACE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

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For the United Nation Office for Outer Space Affairs

Female Underrepresentation In Space Science

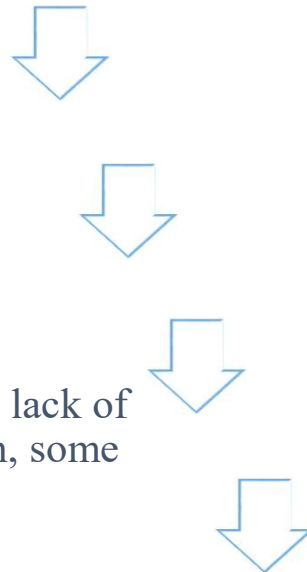
Student research for the Regional Academy on the United Nations and UNOOSA

Research question: Why are there so few women in space science? A case study of ARCSTE-E

Methods: interviews and survey

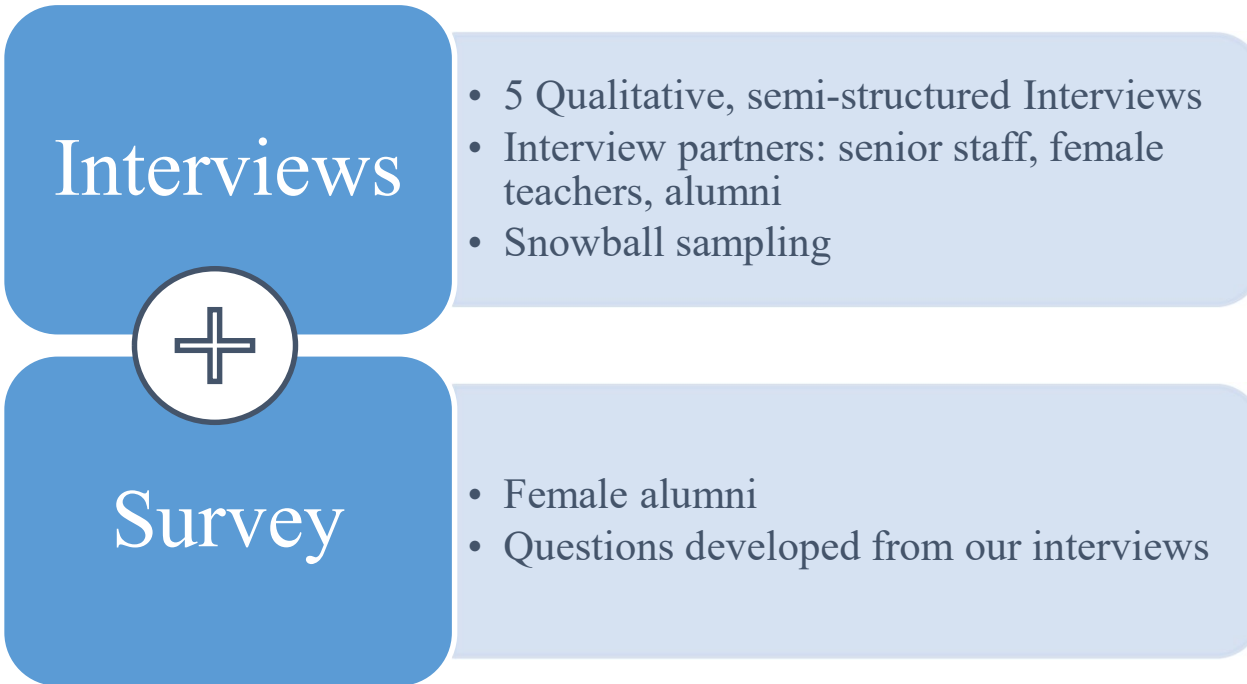
Results: lack of female applicants, lack of role models, gender discrimination, some existing programmes

Recommendations



Our Team (left to right):
Tamara Pataki – Free University Berlin
Irene Marcora – Bocconi University
Ursula Emmanuilidis - LUISS and Salzburg University

Methods



Results I: The Gender Gap among Students and Staff

Gender Gap

- ▬ 14-40% women among total student body at ARCSSTE-E
- ▬ 20% of the total staff are female
- ▬ Women in senior members' positions: rather the exception, not the norm
- + Upward trend in female participation



Results II: Applications and Admissions

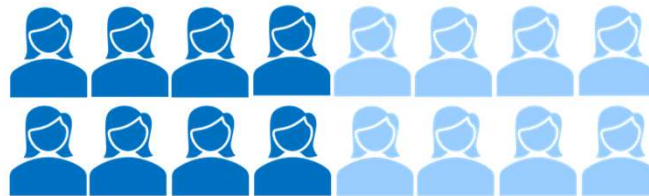
Applications

- ▬ ARCSSTE-E receives a lower amount of female applications, in comparison
 - Different reasons:
 - little interest
 - pressure by family and environment,
 - ‘a global phenomenon’
 - Problem: different perception by actors

Results III: Lack of Female Role Models

“During the summer camp in Abuja, I once told a young girl how to draw a rocket, how to make a satellite. We did a lot of things. And I told them, *you can do these things*, and, in fact, the mothers that came were so surprised.” (female teacher)

Half of our respondents were inspired by a role model

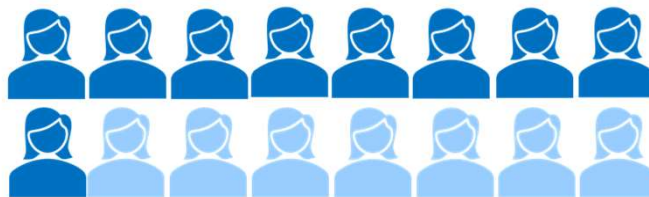


Results IV: Issues of discrimination

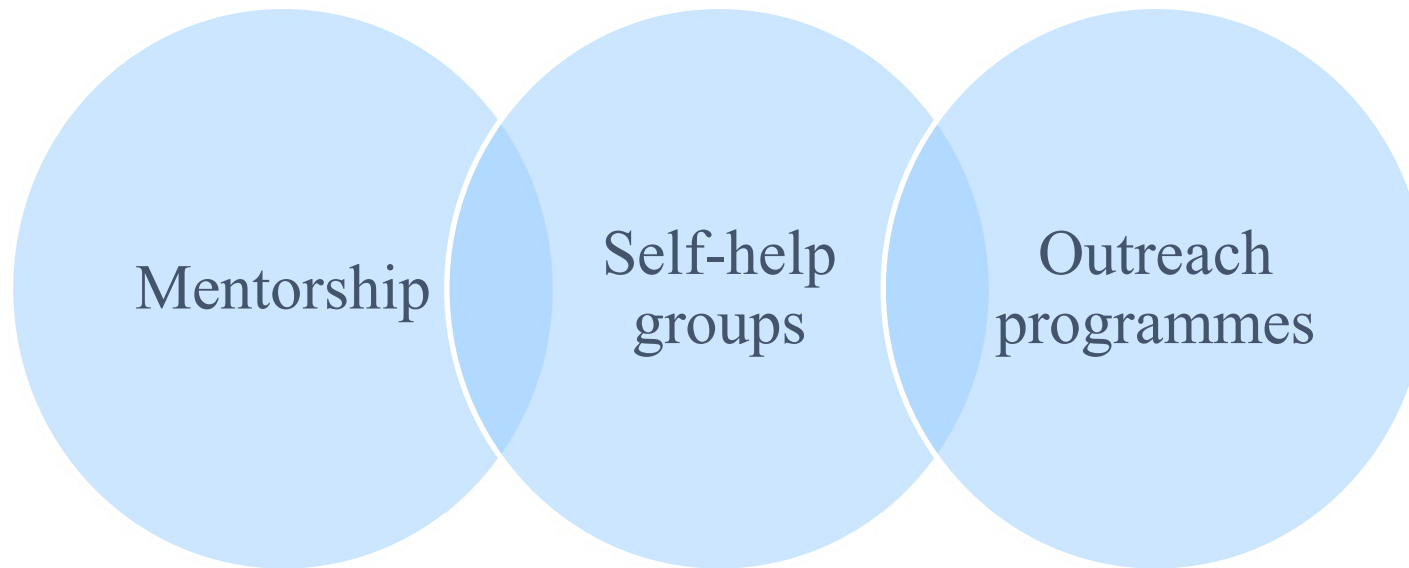
“The male students, they think they are superior and that they have superior brains” (female teacher)

“In Nigeria and Africa at large [discrimination] is a very serious problem. We have this mindset that a girl and a boy are not supposed to work together and knowing that engineering and science at large is a man’s cause, so it has always made them to believe that[it] is not for girls.” (female alumni)

9 respondents reported experiences of day-to-day discrimination based on their gender



Results V. Existing projects



Results VI. Lack of awareness

“

If you are good, you are good. If you are wise, there are no limits for you. If

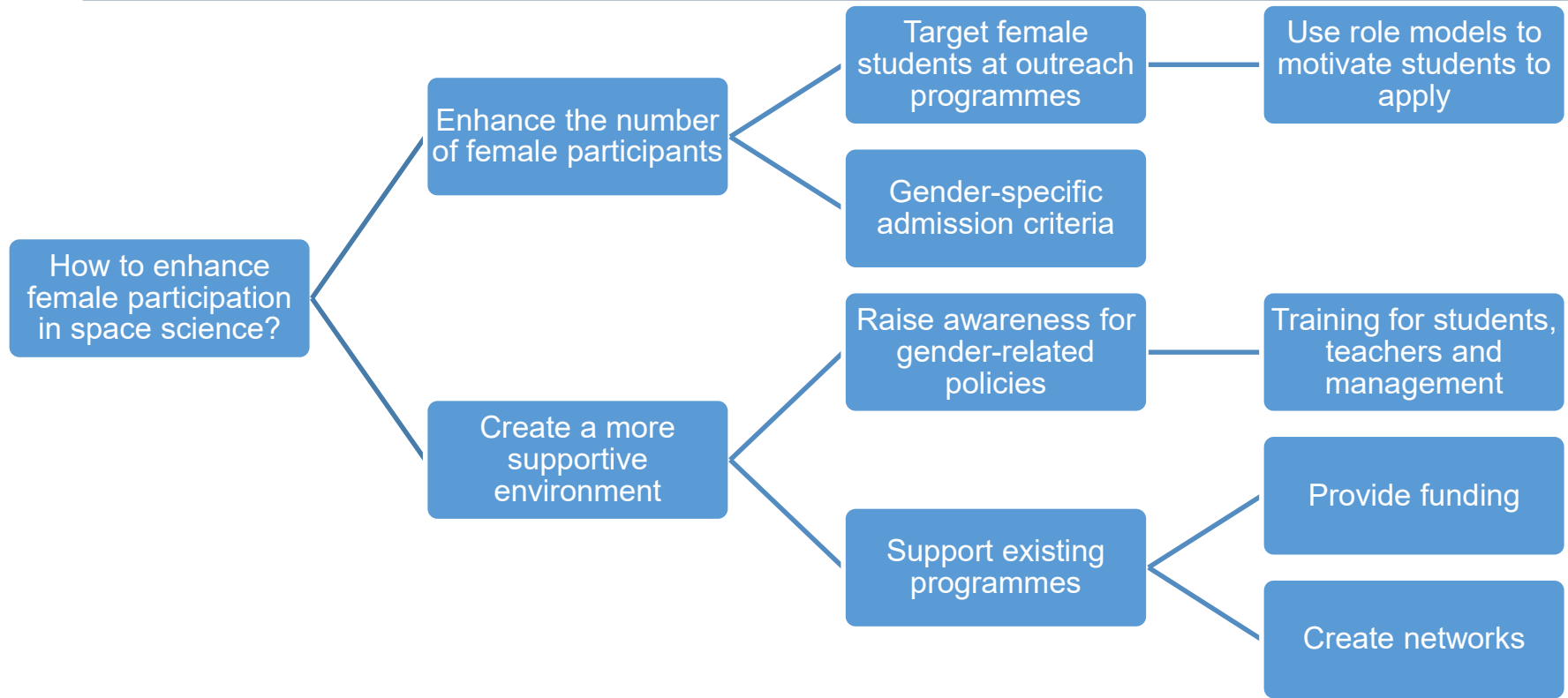
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you are a lady - women have the same opportunities.

(male respondent)

Recommendations

+ Further research is needed



THANK YOU!

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