



Causes Behind Low Female Enrollment in Computer, Technical and Science Streams

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Overview

- Educational choices made by females in surrounding high schools (Madhi, Mandvi, and Vankal) and their causes
- Educational choices made by females at Kadod High School and their causes
- Suggestions for closing the gap between female and male enrollment in the computer, technical and science streams



Madhi High School

- Computer class is mandatory for standards 5 through 11 and optional in 12th standard
- Only general studies stream available
 - Must attend KHS for studies in specific streams such as computers, technical or science



Mandvi High School

- Computer classes are mandatory for standards 1 through 9 and 11
 - Students in 8th standard and above are required to pay a fee of Rs 20 per month
 - Funds available from government if student cannot afford the computer fee due to high STSC population (approximately 85%)
- Only general stream available for secondary school



Mandvi High School

- Higher secondary students matriculate into arts, commerce or science streams
 - Each class has a 50/50 boy to girl ratio

	Arts	Commerce	Science
11th Standard	300	115	45
12th Standard	300	115	97
Total	600	230	142



Vankal High School

- Computer classes are mandatory for standards 1 through 10
 - Annual fee of Rs 240
- Computer classes are optional for higher secondary students
 - Annual fee of Rs 300
- Only general studies stream available to secondary school



Vankal High School

- Higher secondary students can matriculate into arts, commerce or science streams
 - Each class has approximately a 50/50 boy to girl ratio

	Arts	Commerce	Science
11th Standard	250	120	115
12th Standard	284	125	91
Total	534	245	206



Kadod High School

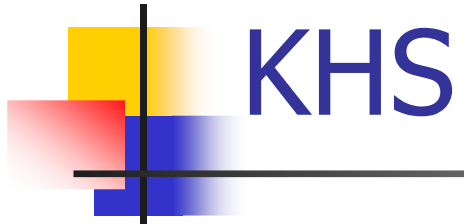
- Home Science Stream

8 th Standard	59
9 th Standard	61
10 th Standard	2
Total	122



KHS - Home Science

- Girls who cannot pay the monthly Rs 25 fee matriculate into the home science stream
- Sudden drop in number of 10th standard girls
 - Explained by increase of Physical Training classes to gain more marks



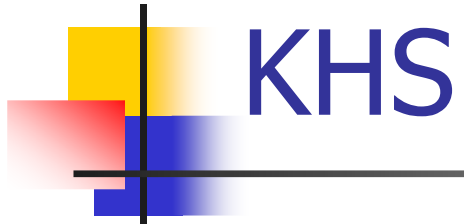
- Computer Stream

	Boys	Girls
8 th Standard	203	116
9 th Standard	155	146
10 th Standard	113	112
Total	471	374



KHS - Computers

- Monthly fee of Rs 25 for students in 8th standard and above
- Students who have low socioeconomic status are granted a 50% decrease in computer fees
 - Those who cannot pay the decreased fee matriculate into Home Science or Dairy Science
- Parental bias plays a small part in decreased numbers of girls
 - Marriage after 12th standard



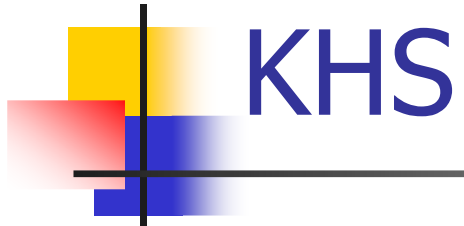
- Technical Stream

	Boys	Girls
8 th Standard	42	12
9 th Standard	39	8
10 th Standard	41	9
Total	122	29



KHS - Technical

- Lack of girls due to amount of hard physical labor required in this stream
- After 10th standard:
 - Matriculate into science stream for higher secondary education
 - Pursue an Industrial Training Institute diploma



- Science Stream

	Boys	Girls
11 th Standard	34	17
12 th Standard	50	23
Total	84	40



KHS - Science

- Higher secondary stream is mainly decided by the student's exam scores in 10th standard
- Can be slightly influenced by parental preference for a specific stream
 - Willingness to pay for computer fees and tuition



KHS - College Plans

- Approximately 90% of the students in 12th standard continue their education in college programs
 - Approximately 50% of these students are female
 - Students who score well in mathematics, science and English matriculate into Management, Technology and Science programs
 - Those who do not score well matriculate into Arts programs and Primary Teacher Training Courses
- Plans are affected by exam scores in 12th standard as well as some parental bias



Conclusion

- Disparity between female and male enrollment in computer, technical and science streams are due to:
 - Lack of funds to pay for the monthly computer fee
 - Hard physical labor associated with the technical stream
 - Poor exam scores in 7th and 10th standards



Suggestions

- Provide scholarships for students who cannot pay the monthly computer fee
 - Total cost of \$157 or Rs 6,250 for 50 students for 1 year
- Provide free tuition before and after school to seventh standard female students in English
 - Classes led by NEF's full-time teachers
- Hold sessions with seventh standard and tenth standard females to encourage enrollment in technical/science/computer streams