UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

SDG REPORT 2024/2025

5
GENDER EQUALITY

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SDG 5: Gender Equality

How the University of Mauritius supported women's access and progress, and contributed research and consultancy on gender equality.

Overview

Women made up 56% of the University of Mauritius' full-time staff as at 30 June 2025 and 67.5% of the students who completed their programmes in 2024/2025.

The Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research (CBBR) has a workforce of 80% women scientists, and boosting inclusiveness in science and technology is a key priority. UoM staff lead funded projects for women and girls in STEM, and the University carried out consultancy projects for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

Highlights 2024/2025

1. 487 of 874 full-time staff (56%) were women as at 30 June 2025, including 120 of 254 academic staff (47%).
2. 1,511 of the 2,239 students who completed their programme (67.5%) were women, including 61.8% of higher degree completers.
3. Rs 290,000 in external funding for three projects for women and girls in STEM.
4. Two gender consultancy projects worth Rs 2.7 million for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.
5. 80% of the CBBR workforce are women scientists.

Research on gender equality

UoM researchers studied gender-based violence, women's empowerment, female migration and the gender gap in STEM and trade, and carried out consultancy for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

Research and consultancy projects

Project	Lead	Value (Rs)	Funder / client
Street Harassment: A 'Silent' Form of Gender-based Violence in Mauritius and South Africa	Assoc Prof R Ramtohul and team (FSSH)	753,816	UoM Research Funding
Impact of cultural beliefs, norms and practices on gender roles, gender equality and gender-based violence	FSSH	2,195,000	Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
National Review of Beijing Platform for Action	FSSH	500,000	Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

- **International partners.** A Research Collaborative Agreement with the University of Oslo and the University of Pretoria on the street harassment project, with meetings in Pretoria and Oslo, 2–8 May 2025.

MPhil/PhD research

Researcher	Title	Faculty
Mahuni K	Socio-economic drivers and impacts of irregular female labour migration from Zimbabwe to South Africa	Social Sciences and Humanities
Taka A	Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation: Micro Evidence for Sub Saharan Africa	Social Sciences and Humanities
Saddul P R	Wellbeing of women in Mauritius: Investigating the role of sociodemographic characteristics and gender-based violence on wellbeing	Social Sciences and Humanities

Publications and projects

- **Trade and gender.** Seetanah B – "Digital Trade And Financial Inclusion For MSMES In Mauritius: Bridging The Gender Gap", Research Handbook on Trade Law and Development, Edward Elgar, 2025.
- **Women in STEM.** Fauzel S B – "STEM Interest, Learning and Enrolment at Higher Education Levels in Mauritius: Mind the Gender Gap", SEACE2025, Kuala Lumpur, February 2025.
- **Female entrepreneurs.** Pilot testing of MAP's Academy – "Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Academy for female Entrepreneurs in Africa", Nairobi, April 2025.
- **Women in science diplomacy.** Prof B M F Driver contributed to the NASAC-led project "Enhancing the role of African women scientists in Global Science Diplomacy" and its book (March 2025).
- **Gender studies graduates.** 16 students graduated in BSc (Hons) Sociology with specialisation in Gender Studies at the June and October 2024 ceremonies.
- **Government.** The Vice-Chancellor held a courtesy meeting with the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare. Dr F Grant attended the International Symposium on Action for Women's Rights, Equality and Empowerment in the Western Indian Ocean (2025).

Student access measures

UoM ran funded programmes to encourage girls and women into science, technology and entrepreneurship.

Project	Lead	Value (Rs)	Funder
Empowering Women and Girls in STEM (EWGS) Initiative	Assoc Prof P Nunkoo-Gonpot, Assoc Prof M R Lollchund (Faculty of Science)	180,000	Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research (SADC WISETO)

Project	Lead	Value (Rs)	Funder
Support Women Academics at the University of Mauritius – Moving from STEM to STEAM and SHAPE	Assoc Prof K V Tandrayen-Ragoobur (FSSH)	60,000	Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK
Breaking Boundaries: Women Innovators in Science & Engineering	Prof A Bhaw-Luximon (CBBR)	50,000	Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research (SADC WISETO)

- **EWGS.** Hands-on workshops, laboratory sessions, mentoring and outreach on STEM pathways for secondary school girls. The initiative was launched on 9 June 2025.
- **Women in science events.** A Global Women's Breakfast on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (12 February 2025), the International Workshop on the Role of Women in Science, Technology & Innovation in the Global South (17 April 2025), and Dr A Mudhoo's participation in the UNESCO For Women in Science Sub-Saharan Africa Regional program (April–June 2025).
- **Women entrepreneurs.** Faculty of Agriculture staff ran training, certificate courses and workshops for women entrepreneurs with the National Women Entrepreneur Council and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare. Students attended the NIC Group's Entrepreneurial Empowerment Programme for women entrepreneurs on 24 April 2025.

Women's progress measures

Events at UoM raised awareness of equal opportunities, women in leadership and violence against women.

- **Equal opportunities.** The Equal Opportunities Commission held its second sensitisation campaign at UoM on 4 April 2025, as part of staff training.
- **Support for women academics.** A workshop, "Support Women Academics at the University of Mauritius", Réduit, 14–15 January 2025.

- **Women in leadership.** For International Women's Day, the Public Relations Office dedicated its March 2025 edition to "Women in leadership positions at UoM".
- **Gender equality in ICT.** UoM hosted a roundtable, organised by POWA, on the future of gender equality for women in the digitalisation and ICT sectors in Mauritius, 27 March 2025.
- **Violence against women.** The Rotaract Club of Quatre-Bornes held a workshop for UoM students on women's empowerment and combating violence against women, 8 March 2025.