



DEBUNKING FEMALE EMPLOYMENT MYTHS ♀

MYTH #1

Men are fundamentally better in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields than women.



FACT

Men and women are equally able to learn the skills that will help them succeed in STEM careers.

Ethiopian Doctor, Wuleta Lemma, developed an e-health system to improve healthcare operations in her country. It is currently being used in over 3000 facilities.

Carloine Nafula developed two successful applications – one is an online directory for street vendors in her native Kenya while the other is an e-cards website.

MYTH #2

Computer programming is not a career option for women in the Middle East and Africa.



FACT

More and more women in the Middle East and Africa are gaining recognition for their coding abilities.

In Northern Nigeria, Sarah Osikhuemhe works with Abo Coders to train young women in advanced tech skills as a pathway to sustainable livelihoods.

Kenyan-born Juliana Rotich is the co-founder and executive director of a web-based reporting system that uses crowdsourced data, mobile phones and web reporting to formulate real-time visual maps during crises.

MYTH #3

Young women are not interested in STEM subjects at university.



FACT

Globally, women make up 35 percent of students studying STEM.

In the Middle East and North Africa, women now earn more science degrees on a percentage basis than women in the United States. In Saudi Arabia alone, women earn half of all science degrees.

At the University of Jordan, the country's largest university, women outnumber men by a ratio of two-to-one—and earn higher grades in math, engineering, computer-information systems, and more. In Algeria, 41 percent of college graduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering,

MYTH #4

STEM careers are anti-social and do not appeal to girls.



FACT

STEM jobs are varied and do not necessarily confine employees to labs, factories and other stereotypical areas.

Marième Jamme from Senegal is the co-founder of an exciting global platform that brings together entrepreneurs and experts to exchange ideas about Africa's development.

Sayu Abend from Nigeria is the CEO and founder of a company called Spacepointe, which is a retail technology company that aims to bridge the gap between SMEs and their target market through technology-based business management.