

Saturday Vision

SEVEN DAYS ONE PAPER

Support girls to excel in sciences

The Primary Leaving Examinations results released on Thursday show that girls are still failing sciences.

Much as they excelled in English, they performed poorly in mathematics and science.

There is a common misconception that female students are less mathematically capable than male students. Classroom studies show this belief is in place by the time children get into primary schooling. As early as the kindergarten stage, some parents expect girls to do better at verbal tasks and boys to do better at math.

But this is a misconceived perception. Girls start failing sciences as early as Primary Seven. A good number struggle doing sciences at the secondary schools level, and a handful of them take it on in higher institutions of learning.

Unfortunately, the Government allocates most of the Government sponsorship slots to science courses. This indirectly means that girls have, for years, been missing out on most of the Government sponsorship slots in public universities. The trend is gradually affecting the gender equity in the country and also affects the country's development capacity.

We must encourage and support girls to take up sciences. It should start in our homes and societies. The Government should also supplement the effort of parents with better policies, services or offers, which encourage girls to do sciences.

As more girls are empowered, parents and teachers will notice that more females are capable of performing well in sciences. This will lead to more parental and academic support, further enhancing the ability of females. In this way, the cycle may be broken.


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