Qeios

Peer Review

Review of: "Academia and Industry: Challenges Faced by Women in STEM in the Global South vs the Global North"

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1. Independent researcher

This is an interesting article that is more descriptive rather than 'meta driven' as claimed. The authors need to clarify what data sources were used and the inclusion-exclusion criteria. The time frame of data/literature is also too wide and needs to be clearly specified and explained. Thus, there is a singular vagueness in methodology. If it's purely descriptive and qualitative, then that needs to be clearly stated too.

While concepts of postcolonial patriarchy and gender inequality are mentioned, anchoring it in feminist theory or postcolonial feminism or intersectionality would provide greater academic strength. Further, there is no attempt to delineate a criteria for systematic comparison of GN and GS. This can be done through causal mechanisms (how the existing structure—society, culture, educational profile, norms, etc.—produces specific outcomes in gender access) or by quantifying from published data, using differentiated indicators. At present, the paper reads as a narrative referring to random data, rather than a thorough analysis. It is suggested that country-, region-, or sector-specific examples can be used to enhance evidence-based conclusions.

The necessity of introducing COVID-19 impacts seems random as it is not clearly linked to earlier contexts and seems like an afterthought. Explain why such epidemics/health issues/force majeure matter to gender structures and how they impact wider contexts. While reference to SDG5 is made, it seems ambiguous without any evaluation frameworks and limitations to its applications across GN and GS.

There is a long list of women who have made a STEM contribution, which can be streamlined and tabulated for better empirical interpretation (Page 32, Mathilda effect).

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While the title and broader concept are interesting and have considerable potential, the article can be enhanced through conciseness, empirical data analysis, and causal interpretations within specific timelines.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.