

Engineering Minds

GIRLS' IMPACT ON ENGINEERING **A pilot project in the Royal Borough of Greenwich**

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

Women remain severely underrepresented in engineering, as just 12% of those working in engineering are female, compared with 47% of the overall UK workforce.

Existing studies suggest the low participation of girls in engineering is generated by girls' understanding of and interest in the profession, as well as their perceptions of self-efficacy and identity.

The UK and the wider world are facing a shortage of engineers and scientists, and an even greater shortage of female engineers. Engineering Minds and GreenSTEM Festival are committed to informing young people, especially girls, about what a career in engineering can bring to their lives, as well as to improve the image of this profession, emphasising the impact of engineers on green sustainability.

There are social justice reasons for encouraging greater gender parity in engineering, but also a more representative and diverse workforce creates greater creativity and innovation and will certainly improve the performance of any green engineering project.

"GIRLS' IMPACT ON ENGINEERING" – A PILOT PROJECT

With the support of UK Research and Innovation and UK Science Festivals Network, we have now launched a pilot project in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, that aims to stimulate the interest for a career in engineering for girls from under-represented groups, while identifying possible careers and addressing them.

The project will bring together a team of 10 ethnically diverse female engineers or students who based on relevant research will develop and deliver a curriculum aiming at increasing girls' interest for engineering and maths during Key Stage 3 years.

Our work starts with recruiting a diverse team of females engineers/ engineering students, who based on research into under representation of females in engineering will create a set of 10 activities to engage girls and stimulate their interest for exploring engineering.

"Girls' Impact on Engineering" will be the new curriculum developed and tested by the Ambassadors and researchers on a group of 15 local girls from KS3 who would initially express a low interest for engineering.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

As we intend to engage with girls from a BAME background, our community partners for the pilot project are Muslim, African and Nepalese organisations from Greenwich and South-East London. We hope these organisations will support us to reach out to BAME girls of KS3 ages, as the project will offer an unique learning and developing opportunity and a valuable experience to their young people.

We aim to continue working with the target audience of this project after December 2021, as all our work is designed to support under-represented groups to engage with engineering and technology in meaningful ways.

TIME-LINE

July – September 2021: Based on existing research, design a set of 10 activities to enhance girls interest for engineering

October – November 2021: Test the activities on a group of 15 BAME girls aged 11-14.

WORK WITH US

If you are interested in being part of our project, as an Engineer Ambassador or as an organisation representing BAME girls aged 11-14, please get in touch with us at info@engineeringminds.org.uk or on 07927 527099.

We would love to hear from you and work together.



**UK Research
and Innovation**



UK
Science
Festivals
Network