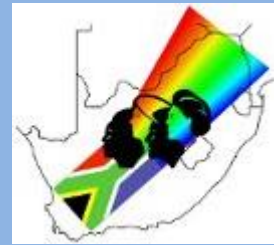


THE JOURNEY: WOMEN IN PHYSICS IN SOUTH AFRICA



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ABSTRACT

The progress from 2005 to now is evident. The journey has been a slow uphill with numbers increasing in the country. Different universities have graduated a woman in physics PhD while there are women professors in different institutions. Government structures have recognized the importance of women in science that the department of science and technology have acknowledged the success of women in Physics in South Africa (WiPiSA) by continuous funding. The president of the institute of physics in South Africa is a woman, the second woman to be president of the organization since its existence more than 55 years ago. Some few women have taken the positions of head of physics department with the other small increase becoming top researchers with their own funding. We call this the journey to a brighter future for more women in physics in South Africa.

WiPiSA LUNCH



Figure 4: Women in Physics at the University of FortHare and University of Cape Town during WiPiSA departmental lunch

WOMEN PHYSICISTS IN SOME SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS

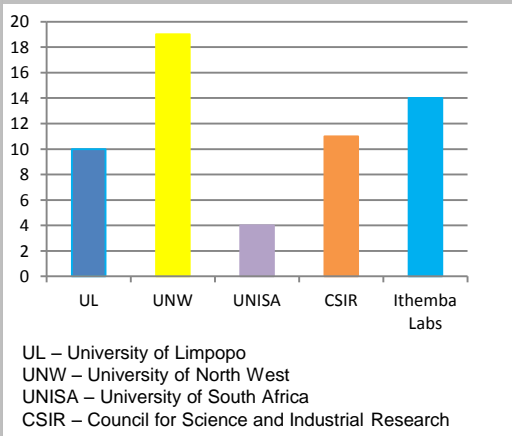


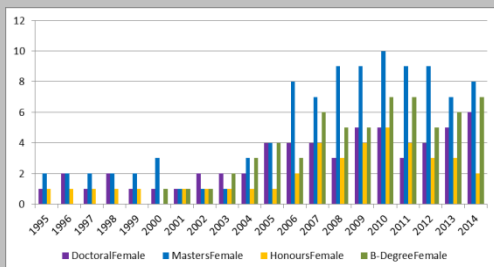
Figure 1: Number of women at different institutions in South Africa

AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Outreach activity and women in physics at Bathokwa High School in Mkopane.

WOMEN IN PHYSICS AT CSIR



37% of the women hold Doctorates in 2014; this has risen from 24% in 2010.

50% of the women hold Master's degrees. This is comparable to 48% in 2010.

Figure 2: Representation of women physicists at CSIR

SUCCESS STORIES OF WOMEN

- SAIP woman president
- SAIP plenary speaker
- Invited speakers, national and international.
- National award, Maphungubwe
- Young physics professor

SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY PROJECT

The SA has won SKA bid
More women physicists are being trained in projects related to SKA
SKA project will contribute in increasing the number of women in Physics.



GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The South African Department of Science and Technology has

- WiPiSA Departmental Lunches
- WiPiSA Projects
- Awareness and Outreach
- Plenary speaker invited by WiPiSA during SAIP Annual conference
- Regional projects
- Entrepreneurship for Physicists
- Physical Science Teacher Development Project
- Review of Undergraduate Physics Training

CONCLUSION

There have been an increase in numbers
There is a significant number of PhD graduates and women in senior positions,
There is a tremendous support for women in Physics from the government and SAIP.
WiPiSA aim to strengthen the link between Physics and Astronomy due to SKA's high demand of Physics and astronomy physics graduate.

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