

BNM Institute of Technology

An Autonomous Institution under VTU



Vidyayya Amrutham Ashnatho

Report on Panel discussion on Innovate, Inspire and Impact: Women in STEM 25.03.2026

Innovate, Inspire & Impact: Women in STEM

A panel discussion on the theme “**Innovate, Inspire and Impact: Women in STEM**” was successfully organized at **BNM Institute of Technology** on **25.03.2026**. The event aimed to highlight the contributions, challenges, and opportunities for women in various fields. The session brought together a distinguished panel of experts from diverse backgrounds who shared their valuable experiences, insights, and perspectives. The discussion was moderated by **Dr. Beena G, Registrar (Evaluation), REVA University**, who skillfully guided the conversation across multiple relevant themes. The esteemed panel comprised:

- **Dr. M. Muniyamma**, Former Vice Chancellor, Gulbarga University
- **Dr. Beena G**, Registrar (Evaluation), REVA University
- **Mrs. Nandini Nair**, Director, Universal Education
- **Dr. Jyothi R. Munavalli**, Head – ED Cell, BNMIT
- **Dr. Bindu S**, Head – R&D, BNMIT

The discussion covered a wide range of significant topics, each addressing critical aspects of women’s growth and participation in STEM. The panelists highlighted various initiatives aimed at the upliftment of rural women, emphasizing the need for increased awareness, access to quality education, skill development programs, and government-supported schemes that enable women from rural backgrounds to pursue careers in science and technology. They stressed that bridging the urban–rural divide is essential for inclusive progress.

The importance of maintaining a healthy work–life balance was another key area of focus. The panelists shared practical strategies such as effective time management, setting clear priorities, seeking support systems, and fostering flexible work environments. They underscored that achieving balance is not only vital for personal well-being but also for sustained professional success.

Further, the discussion delved into the essential skill sets required for professional growth in various fields. The speakers emphasized the need for continuous learning, adaptability, problem-solving abilities, leadership qualities, and strong communication skills. They also highlighted the growing importance of interdisciplinary knowledge and digital competence in today’s rapidly evolving technological landscape.

The panel also provided valuable insights into research funding opportunities and grants available specifically for women. The panelists encouraged aspiring researchers to actively explore funding agencies, government initiatives, and institutional support systems, while also guiding them on proposal writing, networking, and collaboration as key factors in securing research grants.

Additionally, the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs were discussed in depth, including limited access to funding, societal expectations, and lack of financial literacy and mentorship. The panelists shed light on the increasing availability of entrepreneurial opportunities, support networks, incubation centres, and policy initiatives that are helping women overcome these barriers. They emphasized resilience, innovation, and strategic planning as essential qualities for becoming successful entrepreneurs.

In addition, the panelists shared their personal journeys, highlighting the challenges they encountered and the strategies they adopted to overcome them. The session also featured an engaging audience interaction segment, where participants actively interacted with the panelists, making the discussion insightful and impactful.



