5.3.4 Women's Applications in Underrepresented Subjects

The Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (WUAJ&K), Bagh, is **committed to encouraging female students** to pursue higher education and professional careers in scientific, technical and research-oriented disciplines **where women have traditionally been underrepresented**. The university promotes women's participation through STEM education, departmental initiatives, research activities, community outreach and sustainability-related programmes. These initiatives aim to improve scientific awareness, strengthen practical skills and motivate female students to explore diverse academic and professional opportunities.

The university promotes women's participation through the following faculty-led initiatives:

1. STEM Education – Physics

Dr. M. Naeem participated in STEM training in UK and later through cascading of this training, promoted female participation in Physics and other science and technology disciplines. Students are encouraged to develop an interest in scientific experimentation, research, nanotechnology, material sciences and emerging technological fields. These activities help female students understand the career opportunities available in STEM disciplines and build confidence to pursue scientific education and research. (Annex. I)

2. Zoology and Biological Sciences

The Department of Zoology encourages female students to pursue academic and professional opportunities in biological sciences and related interdisciplinary fields. Students are introduced to research areas such as microbiology, biotechnology, wildlife conservation, fisheries, biodiversity and environmental biology through outreach activities in different schools and colleges. (Annex. II)

3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) – Dr. Sadia Nazer

Dr. Sadia Nazer promotes community awareness and educational engagement through WASH-related initiatives. These activities focus on safe drinking water, sanitation, personal hygiene, water conservation and public health. Female students are encouraged to participate in awareness campaigns and community-based learning, enabling them to apply scientific knowledge to real-life environmental and public health challenges, and motivate them toward biological sciences departments. (Annex. III)

Annex I



Annex II



Annex III

