Global Indian Organization International Women's Day Conference - March 26, 2023
Presentation by Nicole Bissessa, PhD

International Women's Day 2023: "DigitALL: Innovation And Technology For Gender Equality"

A Presentation for the
Global Indian Organization on
March 26, 2023

By Dr. Nicole Bissessar
Economist, New York, USA
Contact me via WhatsApp: +1 (617) 417-3397
and/or nbissessar@gmail.com

About the Theme “DigitALL: Innovation And Technology For Gender Equality”

PLAY

- **Priority theme:** Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls
- **Review theme:** Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls

This Theme Is Aligned With The Priority Theme For The Upcoming 67th Session Of The CSW67 Commission On The Status of Women

Women's Exclusion Costs LDCs and MDCs US$1 Trillion

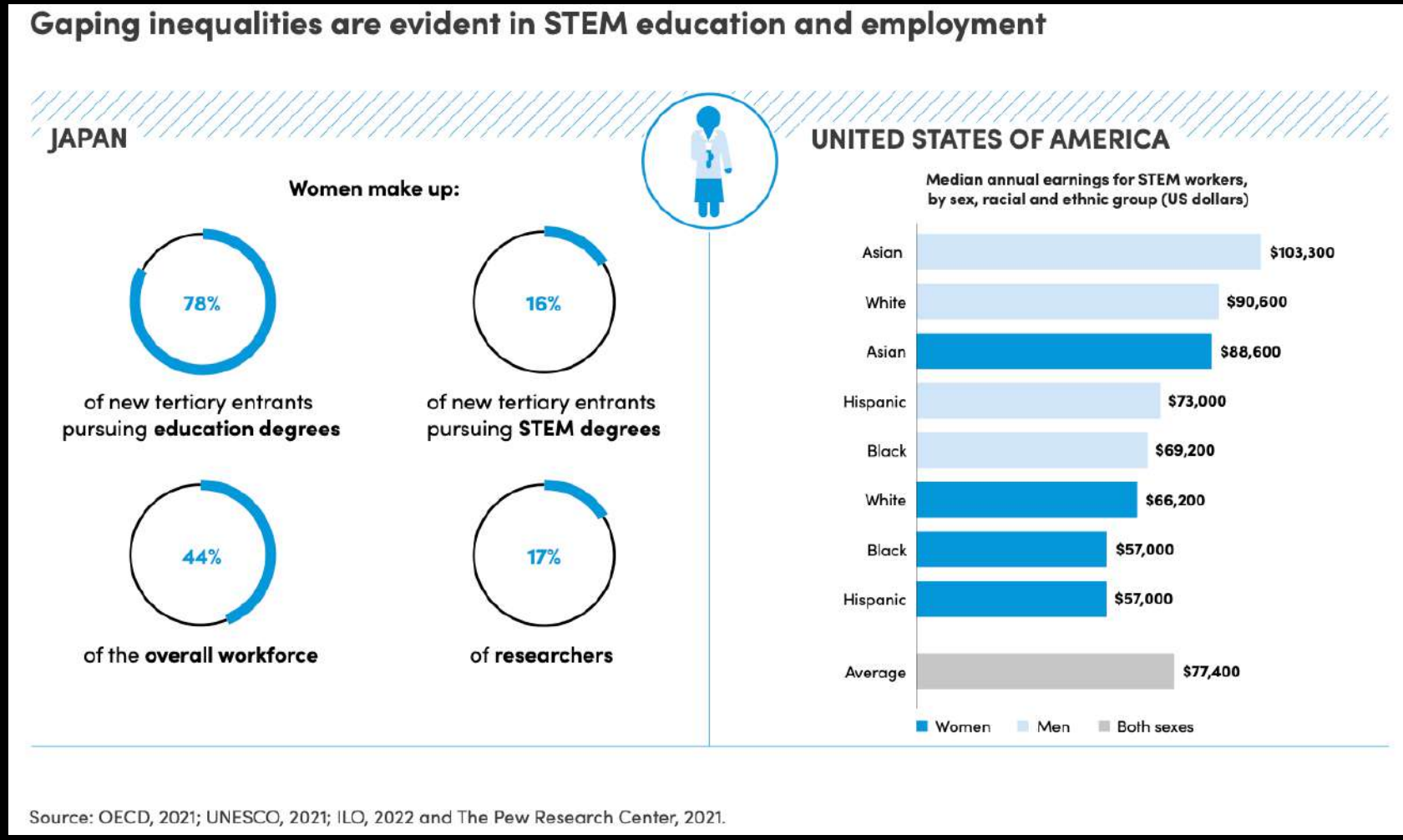
- Bringing women and other marginalized groups into technology results in more creative solutions and has greater potential for innovations that meet women's needs and promote gender equality.
- Women's exclusion from the digital world has shaved $1 trillion from the gross domestic product of low- and middle-income countries in the last decade—a loss that will grow to $1.5 trillion by 2025 without action.
- **IMF predicts a loss of 35% of GDP (IMF, 2020)**
- Reversing this trend will require tackling the problem of online violence, which a study of 51 countries revealed 38% of women had personally experienced. (UN Women 2022)

Women Progress on Sustainable Development Goals, UN2022 Snapshot

Global Statistics

- 380 million women and girls are in extreme poverty (less than $1.90/day)
- Staying with how things are will take 286 years to close the gender gap
- 1 in 10 W&G aged 14-49 victims of sexual & physical violence by someone close
- Women hold 2 of 10 jobs in science, technology, information and communication technology
- Only 26% of countries track gender-budget allocations
- In 2021 4,475 communities declared elimination of female genital mutilation
- Women hold over $^1/_3$ of seats in local decision-making bodies (UN Women. 2022)

STEM Disparities and Learning Stereotypes



Biased gender norms and stereotypes, embedded in curricula, textbooks, and teaching and learning practices, derail girls' choices of what to study in school, and ultimately, their careers and employment opportunities as adults.

Globally, young women outnumber young men in tertiary education.

Yet women are a minority of students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education, at only 35%, and in information and communication technology studies, at just 3%. (OECD 2012 -2021)

Striking shortfalls remain in sexual and reproductive health; the pandemic worsened women's chances for a healthy life

Access to **SAFE ABORTION** remains out of reach.

Globally, over

1.2 billion

WOMEN AND GIRLS of reproductive age (15–49) live in countries with some restrictions on safe abortion.

102 million live in countries where abortion is prohibited altogether.

ADOLESCENT BIRTHS remain high in the least developed countries (LDCs).

In LDCs, the rate is **94** adolescent births per 1,000.

More than

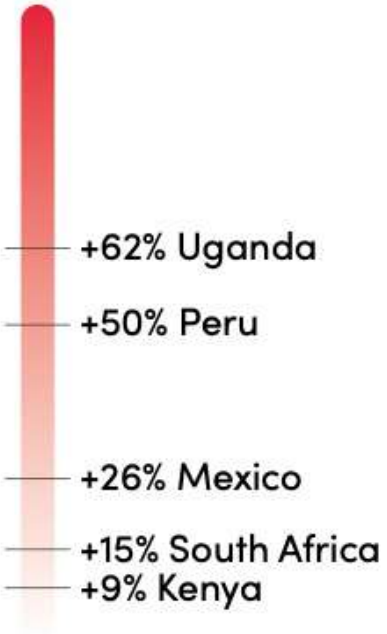
2X

the global average of

42

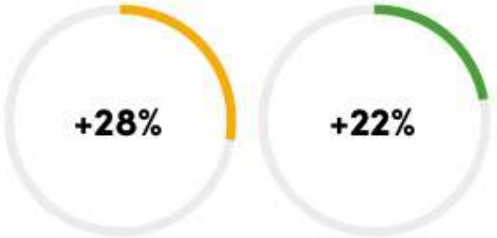
births per 1,000.

MATERNAL MORTALITY increased as a result of the pandemic



The **pandemic** impacted **women's MENTAL HEALTH** more than men's.

Prevalence of anxiety



Major depressive disorders

Women Men

WOMEN'S LIFE EXPECTANCY shortened by

1.6 YEARS

in 2021 compared to 2019.

In **SOUTH AFRICA**

-4.1 YEARS

In **OMAN**

-4.3 YEARS

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated health systems, disrupted essential health services and medical supply chains, and strained financial and human resources. Its direct and indirect effects on women's sexual and reproductive health are undeniable, particularly among those least likely to receive adequate care before the pandemic. (IMF, 2022)

How to Close Gender Gaps & Grow the Global Economy

Capturing the dividends from women's economic equity.
Too many women are locked out of economic opportunities, which is not only unfair but also harms growth and resilience for all.

1. First, Step Up Investment In Women's Human Capital
    1. Early in the pandemic, Brazil Introduced An Emergency Aid Cash which Doubles Benefits To Women-lead Households. Their poverty levels in these homes fell from 11% to 8%.
    2. Egypt recently expanded cash assistance to Mothers.
    3. Togo has mobile technology to benefit women. (IMF, 2022)
2. The second confirmed solution is enabling women to work outside the home or start their businesses

Reforms to taxation, public spending, financial infrastructure and regulations, as well as labor markets can help . Providing access to quality and affordable childcare frees up more women to work and also creates jobs directly.

3. A third area to tackle is biases
4. Fourth, increasing the representation of women in leadership positions is also critical

धन्यवाद:

Swami Dayanand Saraswati, who founded Arya Samaj in 1875 **strongly advocated education for girls**. In his publication Satyarth Prakash, first published in 1875, he stated that to improve the status of women by eradicating social evils, education was a must.

Over time, gender-sensitive macroeconomic and financial policies will result in higher growth, greater economic stability and resilience, and lower income inequality—a dividend not just for women, but for everyone.

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Nicole Bissessar, PhD

104 Oak Street, Deer Park, NY 11729
Phone: (617) 417-3397 ● Email: nbissessar@gmail.com

SUMMARY

Engaging and student-centered higher education faculty member and subject matter expert (SME) with 10+ years of experience teaching and developing online and traditional courses in the fields of finance, macro- and microeconomics, econometrics and quantitative studies, and global studies. In-depth knowledge of technology-driven teaching platforms, learning management systems (LMSs), and student success tools.

EDUCATION

Clark University Worcester, MA
Doctor of Philosophy, Economics 2008
Dissertation: Corruption: Its Persistence, Causes and Consequences
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Attiat F. Ott
Fields of Specialization: Econometrics and Sub-Saharan African Studies
Master of Arts, Economics 2005
Fields of Specialization: International Trade and Finance, Macroeconomics

The University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago
Master of Science, Economics 2001
Fields of Specialization: Labor Economics, Money & Banking, International Macroeconomics
Bachelor of Science, Economics 1999

FINANCIAL CERTIFICATION AND LICENSES

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority 2014— Present
Central Registration Depository, CRD# **6265023** States: NY, OH, MA, FL

Series 6 – Investment Company and Variable Contracts Products Representative Exam
Series 63 – Uniform Securities Agent State Law Exam
Series 65 – Uniform Investment Adviser Law Exam

New York State Department of Financial Services 2013— Present
Life and Annuities States: NY, OH
Life Assured, LA# **1307790**

HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Tusculum University Tusculum, TN
Economics Instructor (Remote) August 2022— Present

- Course taught:
  - BUSN 201 Principles of Macroeconomics
  - BUSN 202 Principles of Microeconomics
  - MBA 545 Managerial Economics and Finance
- Utilize Canvas (LMS) for online teaching
- Employ innovative teaching strategies and technologies for online learning and other technology tools to meet the learning needs of a diverse student population

William & Mary Williamsburg, VA
Economics Instructor (Remote) June 2022— Present

- Course taught:
  - BUAD 5947 Global Managerial Economics
- Utilize Canvas (LMS) for online teaching
- Work weekly in a collaborative environment, utilizing the expertise of the other Online MBA instructors and Master Teacher to ensure consistency in course delivery for students.

Southern New Hampshire University Manchester, NH
Economics Faculty (Remote) January 2018— Present

- Courses taught:
  - ECO 201, Microeconomics
  - ECO 202, Macroeconomics
  - ECO 306, Money and Banking
- Utilize BrightSpace (LMS) and MOBLAB and HBR (simulations) for online teaching
- Annual SNHU Faculty Professional Development and publisher-provided training develops my skills to lead engaging online classes that create meaningful, highly connected learning experiences.

Kent State University Kent, OH
Assistant Professor, Economics August 2009— March 2018

- Courses taught: See Kent State Catalog page
  - ECON 22060, Principles of Microeconomics
  - ECON 22061, Principles of Macroeconomics
  - ECON 32025, Money, Credit, and Banking
  - ECON 32041, Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory and Policy
  - ECON 32082, Introduction to Managerial Economics
  - ECON 42076/ECON 52076, Economic Development
  - ECON 42299, Senior Project
- Served as a technical editor on The Association for the University Regional Campuses of Ohio
- Summer Facilitator and Leader in the Kent Success Program to help freshmen feel connected and maximize first-generation and minority student success

Rutgers University, International & Global Affairs — New Brunswick Campus, NJ
Professional Consultant, China — June 2017— December 2018

- Researched materials and methods that will enhance global business strategies
- Facilitated training for staff and employees from the Shandong Lucion & Anhui corporations
- Communicated macroeconomic concepts and principles in an approachable manner

The College of Wooster, — Wooster, OH
Visiting Professor, Econometrics — September 2008— August 2009

- Courses taught: See The College of Wooster Catalog page
  - ECON 10100, Principles of Economics
  - ECON 20200, Intermediate Macro Economic Theory
  - ECON 21000, Econometrics
  - ECON 40100, Independent Study
  - ECON 45100/45200, Independent Study Thesis
- Designed and conducted statistical labs in EViews, MATLAB, Mathematica, SAS, SPSS, and Stata
- Advised and reviewed Senior Capstone Projects

Assumption College (now, Assumption University) — Worcester, MA
Adjunct Instructor — August 2005— September 2007

- Courses taught: See course descriptions here
  - MBA 603, Financial Decision Analysis
  - MBA 725, Managerial Economics
- Taught hybrid and traditional graduate Master of Business Administration program courses as part of The Colleges of Worcester Consortium.

Clark University — Worcester, MA
Graduate Assistant — August 2003— September 2008

- Managed and coordinated The Institute for Economic Studies (IEPS) Sub-Sahara African Programs
- Wrote reports and/or presentations summarizing data findings and analyses
- Supported existing projects to ensure their productivity and sustainability

The University of The West Indies, St. Augustine — Trinidad and Tobago
Research Assistant — August 2000— August 2005

- Coordinated and led project kickoff meetings to ensure all involved parties understand project specifications, client needs, timelines, and responsibilities for the following units:
  - UWI Sustainable Economic Development Unit
  - UWI Health Economic Unit
  - International Labor Organization in The Caribbean
- Managed end-to-end projects including bidding, project set up, overseeing study progress, problem resolution, managing costs and project deliverables
- Maintained close contact throughout the project life cycle and provided ongoing consultative updates and ensure satisfactory project outcomes

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PFS Investments Duluth, GA
Financial Advisor (Remote) September 2013—Present

- Deliver financial advice to clients, proposing strategies to provide short- and long-term objectives in accordance with the Department of Labor Rule
- Ensure maximum client satisfaction by providing exceptional and personalized service to each client, enhancing client satisfaction ratings above 93%
- Act as a fiduciary, place the best interest of clients first under Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation Best Interest (Reg BI)

Allen Machine Products Inc. Hauppauge, NY
Project Manager June 2018— February 2022

- Integrated and synthesized data to ensure the highest quality deliverables in allotted time frames
- Led multiple work streams, reviewed, and executed new/ existing projects
- Collaborated cross-functional teams and customer building to solve problems

The Ministry of Panning & Development Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
Statistician, National Income September 2000— September 2003

- Applied statistical techniques of logistic regression and generalized risk models
- Prepared comprehensive reports for the IMF on the nation's finance and insurance industries
- Provided technical advice to peers and senior managers within and outside of the organization on statistical methods and techniques

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

Ott, A. F., & **Bissessar, N.** (2020). The nation state in the global economy. *Athens Journal of Business & Economics*, *6*(1), 9-20. https://www.athensjournals.gr/business/2020-6-1-1-Ott.pdf

Bissessar, N. (2018) The integration, development and mature experience of industrial parks and modern service industries and National strategy for science and technology development. *Conference Papers, Rutgers Professional Training Program, Wuhan East Lake High-Tech Development Zone*.

Bissessar, N. (2017). Protection of overseas legal policy system and The means and effects of global financial market resource. *Conference Papers, Rutgers Professional Training Program, Shandong Lucion Group.*

Henry, L., & **Bissessar, N.** (2017). Trouble in paradise: The impact of the global financial crisis on the Caribbean. *Global Development Studies, 6(1-2).*

Owoye, O., & **Bissessar, N.** (2014). Corruption in African countries: A symptom of leadership and institutional failure. In G. Mudacumura & G. Morçöl (Eds.), *Challenges to democratic governance in developing countries* (Public Administration, Governance and Globalization, Vol 11). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-03143-9_15.

Henry, L., & **Bissessar, N.** (2013). The challenges facing the Caribbean's financial sector in the 21st century. *Conference Paper, 38th Caribbean Studies Association Conference.*

Bissessar, N. (2013). Bad governance and corruption in Africa: The role of military regimes. *Conference Paper, 39th Eastern Economic Association Conference.*

Bissessar, N. (2013). Diversity: transcending borders to the classroom. *Conference Paper, The Association for University Regional Campuses.*

Bissessar, N. (2013). Militarization: its effects on governance and corruption in Africa and Fiscal Policy and business expenditures on R&D. *Conference Papers, 77th Midwest Economic Association Conference.*

Bissessar, N. (2013). Causes of corruption in Sub Saharan Africa and Bad governance and corruption in Africa: Symptoms of leadership and institutional failure. *Conference Papers, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, International Conference on Democratic Governance: Challenges in Africa and Asia.*

Bissessar, N. (2012). Locating gender in economics. *Conference Paper, Kent State University, Pan-African Studies.*

Flores, O., Styles, M., & **Bissessar, N.** (2011). Can labor markets with expansive job opportunities affect U.S. university retention rates? *Conference Paper, 72nd International Atlantic Economic Conference.*

Bissessar, N. (2011). Can advanced countries stimulate growth by following emerging and developing economies? and The economic impact of the global financial crisis on low-income economies. *Conference Papers, 71st International Atlantic Economic Conference*.

Bissessar, N. (2011). Have growth patterns reversed in favor of emerging and developing countries as a result of the subprime crash? *Conference Paper, 37th Eastern Economic Association Conference.*

Bissessar, N. (2010). The global diffusion of markets and democracy by Beth A. Simmons; Frank Dobbin; Geoffrey Garrett. *Eastern Economic Journal*, *36*(3), 413-415.

Bissessar, N. (2010). Eight centuries of financial folly. *Conference Paper, 69th International Atlantic Economic Conference.*

Bissessar, N. (2009). Does corruption persist in Sub-Saharan Africa? *International Advances in Economic Research, 15*(3), 336-350. DOI: 10.1007/s11294-009-9210-

Bissessar, N. (2008). An economic union for Africa: effectiveness of regional membership. *Conference Paper, 68th International Atlantic Economic Conference.*

Bissessar, N. (2008). Corruption: persistence, causes and consequences in Sub Saharan Africa. *Conference Paper, Institute for Economic Policy Studies Conference in Gaborone, Botswana.*

INTERVIEWS AND EXPERT CITATIONS

Bissessar, N (June 10, 2022) The unemployment rate: A key health indicator for a country's economy. *Southern New Hampshire University, Subject Matter Expert Interviewed by* Personal Finance fellow *Paul Kim.* https://www.businessinsider.com/personal-finance/unemployment-rate

Bissessar, N. (March 10, 2022). Hassan, Pappas Silent as Inflation Hits 40-Year High. *Southern New Hampshire University, Subject Matter Expert, NH Journal*. https://nhjournal.com/hassan-pappas-silent-as-inflation-hits-40-year-high/

Bissessar, N. (March 7, 2022). How the invasion of Ukraine is impacting the U.S. and global economy. *Southern New Hampshire University, Subject Matter Expert Views, Newsroom*. https://www.snhu.edu/about-us/newsroom/hot-topics

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- **Pearson Publishing** August 2009—Present
- **Wiley Publishing**
- **Bridgepoint Education**
- **Excelsior College**
- **The Association for University Regional Campuses of Ohio**, AURCOR

Key Responsibilities and Duties:

- Currently serve as technical editor and content developer for Pearson
- Established a system for unifying peer-to-peer reviews establishing a culture of academic respect with AURCOR
- Contributed to improving content marketing and metrics on Managerial Economics for Dummies, Managerial Economics and Econometrics for Dummies with Wiley Publishing, Excelsior College, and Bridgepoint Education

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Analytical Software	EViews, MATLAB, Mathematica, SAS, SPSS, Stata, WinRATS
Office Productivity	Access, Excel, Frontpage, Outlook, Power Point, Publisher, Word
Religious and Languages	Yajñá and Saṃskāra, Sanskrit (Grammar & Literature)

AWARDS

Who's Who in Business Academia
Who's Who in the Trinidad & Tobago Diaspora
Clark University: Graduate Student Scholarship
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine: Bank of Nova Scotia Scholarship and Internship

VOLUNTEERING AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Indian Association of Long Island, NY
Rotary Club, Jamaica & Hicksville, NY
Maharshi Dayananda Gurukula, NY & Guyana
Bike New York City, NY
Transportation Alternatives, NY
National Park Service, Cuyahoga Valley,OH