

Review Article

Educational Equality in the Digital Age: A Focus on Empowering Women through Technology

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A B S T R A C T

Our mobile application, which is focused on education, will be specifically designed to empower and support girls and women by providing them with targeted learning resources. Extensive research and surveys will be conducted to fully understand their unique educational needs, resulting in the development of a dedicated platform that enhances knowledge, skills, and personal growth. The application will offer a wide array of educational content, such as courses, tutorials, and informative articles, all tailored to address the interests and challenges faced by girls and women. Its primary objective will be to bridge educational gaps and empower users to pursue their academic and professional goals. Notable features of the application will include interactive lessons, webinars led by experts, mentorship opportunities, and a collaborative learning community. With a user-friendly interface and continuous feedback mechanisms, the application will strive to create a positive and enriching educational experience. Ensuring user privacy and data security will be of utmost importance, guaranteeing the protection of personal information. This application will serve as a valuable resource for girls and women seeking to broaden their horizons and achieve their educational aspirations. It will remain dedicated to fostering a culture of lifelong learning and personal development, making education accessible and empowering for everyone.

Keywords: Girl-Education, Survey, Review, Exploration Information, Education, Gender Studies, Gender Equality

Introduction

In a society where knowledge holds immense power, the empowerment of girls and women through education is not only a noble aspiration but an essential requirement. Our forthcoming mobile application, centered around education, will serve as a symbol of hope, a source of guidance, and a digital companion meticulously designed to illuminate the path of learning and personal development for females of all ages and backgrounds. Informed by extensive research and surveys, which will be conducted to comprehend the distinctive educational needs of this

demographic, this application will establish itself as a digital haven where users can embark on a journey of self-improvement, explore uncharted territories, and conquer educational obstacles with unwavering support.

Envision an application where knowledge transcends boundaries, and learning becomes a lifelong adventure realm where girls and women can access a vast array of educational resources, ranging from diverse courses and tutorials to enlightening articles, all thoughtfully curated to align with their interests and address their specific challenges.

Our application will surpass the mere dissemination of knowledge; it will bridge educational disparities, nurture intellectual curiosity, and empower users to dream big and achieve their academic and professional aspirations, acting as a compass to navigate the intricate landscape of education.

In the future, our app will offer interactive lessons designed to make learning engaging and enjoyable. We will also provide expert-led webinars that offer invaluable insights, mentorship opportunities for personalized guidance, and a collaborative learning community where users can exchange ideas and grow together.

Our goal is to create an educational experience that is enriching and accessible to all, with an intuitive and user-friendly interface. We will continuously gather feedback to ensure that the app meets the evolving needs of our community, while prioritizing user privacy and data security. Safeguarding personal information will be our top priority, allowing users to focus on their educational journey without any concerns. This app will go beyond being just a platform; it will represent a commitment.

A commitment to fostering a culture of lifelong learning and personal development, and to making education a beacon of hope and empowerment for girls and women. It will serve as a commitment to breaking barriers and inspiring change through knowledge. Join us on this educational journey, where the pursuit of knowledge knows no gender, and the right to education belongs to every girl and woman. Together, we will empower, inspire, and transform lives through the power of education, stepping into a future where possibilities are limitless and the pursuit of knowledge knows no bounds. Welcome to our education-centered app for girls and women.

System Overview

Existing System

The educational systems worldwide have made progress in achieving gender equality, but they still face ongoing obstacles in providing equal opportunities for girls and women. Despite improvements in access to education, concerns about safety, limited resources, and cultural norms continue to hinder their educational journey. In addition, gender-specific challenges and the lack of inclusive educational content and role models contribute to the existing disparities. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive solutions, including policy changes, increased allocation of resources, and a shift in societal attitudes towards gender roles. Developing innovative educational platforms specifically designed to address these challenges could play a crucial role in creating a more inclusive and supportive educational environment for girls and women across the globe.

Some existing application for girl and women:

Sheroes: SHEROES is a women's community platform that goes beyond education but offers a space for learning and career guidance. It provides information, resources, and a supportive community for women in various aspects of life, including education and career development.

Educate Girls Globally (World Bank Initiative): While not an app, the World Bank's initiative, "Educate Girls Globally," supports projects and partnerships in India focused on improving educational opportunities for girls. It's worth exploring associated resources and programs.

Girl Effect: TEGA (Technology Enabled Girl Ambassadors): TEGA, developed by the Girl Effect organization, empowers girls to become researchers using mobile technology. While not a traditional education app, it involves girls in research activities, contributing to their skills and knowledge.

Digital Beti: Digital Beti is an initiative that focuses on providing digital literacy and skills to girls and women. While it may not be a standalone app, it reflects the growing emphasis on empowering girls through digital education.

Rozgar Mela: The Rozgar Mela app, while not exclusively for girls, provides a platform for skill development and job opportunities. It can be valuable for girls seeking career-related resources and guidance.

In conclusion, the existing applications and initiatives discussed above demonstrate a commendable effort in leveraging technology to empower women in various spheres of life. From education and career development to digital literacy and skill-building, these platforms contribute significantly to fostering a supportive environment for women and girls. However, despite their positive impact, there are challenges and limitations that need to be addressed to further enhance the effectiveness of such initiatives.

Our proposed solution aims to overcome these challenges by incorporating a comprehensive approach that integrates elements of education, mentorship, and skill development within a single platform. Unlike some existing apps that focus on specific aspects of women's empowerment, our solution envisions a holistic ecosystem that caters to the diverse needs of women and girls. Through personalized learning paths, mentorship programs, and real-world skill application, our solution seeks to provide a more tailored and impactful experience.

Moreover, the integration of innovative technologies, such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality, will enhance the learning experience and bridge gaps in access to resources. By addressing issues related to scalability, inclusivity, and sustainability, our proposed solution aims to create a dynamic and evolving platform that adapts to the changing

needs of women across different regions and backgrounds.

While the existing applications have made significant strides in empowering women, our proposed solution strives to build upon these foundations and offer a more inclusive and personalized approach to women's empowerment through technology. Through collaboration with existing initiatives and leveraging cutting-edge technology, we believe our solution has the potential to make a substantial and lasting impact on the lives of women and girls worldwide.

Proposed System

The forthcoming educational system, designed with a fresh approach that prioritizes girls and women, aims to create a safe, flexible, and comprehensive learning environment. By tailoring the content to their individual requirements and interests, it will ensure a customized learning experience. With a strong focus on safety and convenience, the system will provide a wide range of resources while fostering a supportive community, ultimately empowering girls and women as they begin their educational endeavors. This forward-thinking endeavor is committed to breaking down barriers and playing a crucial part in cultivating a fairer and more empowering educational landscape for all individuals.

Objective

The educational system that has been proposed is specifically tailored for girls and women, with the goal of creating an inclusive, secure, and empowering learning environment. Its purpose is to address the unique obstacles faced by girls and women in education by providing personalized learning opportunities, fostering a sense of community, and ensuring access to a diverse range of educational resources. Ultimately, the main aim is to empower girls and women, breaking down barriers and playing a crucial role in shaping a fairer and more supportive educational landscape.

Problem Statement

Gender Disparities: The issue of gender disparities persists as a significant concern, as girls and women continue to face unequal access to educational opportunities compared to their male counterparts. This ongoing discrepancy not only perpetuates gaps in learning outcomes but also limits their educational potential.^{3,4,5,6}

Safety Concerns: The presence of safety concerns, including incidents of harassment and discrimination, acts as formidable barriers that discourage girls and women from pursuing education. These issues not only hinder their access to learning but also have a negative impact on their overall educational experiences.^{1,2}

Limited Resources: The inadequate availability of essential resources, such as textbooks, qualified educators, and safe learning infrastructure, significantly compromises the

quality of education accessible to girls. Insufficient resources contribute to the educational disparities they encounter.

Inclusive Learning Environments: The existing educational content often lacks gender sensitivity and inclusivity, resulting in knowledge and skills gaps for girls and women. Furthermore, the absence of female role models in various fields further restricts their aspirations and potential for diverse career opportunities.

Cultural and Societal Norms: Deep-rooted cultural and societal norms continue to exert influence over educational opportunities, limiting the choices available to girls and reinforcing pervasive gender stereotypes. These norms further exacerbate gender disparities in education.

Empowerment and Personal Growth: The cumulative impact of these challenges collectively hampers the personal and academic growth of girls and women. Consequently, it restricts their potential for achieving economic independence and advancing in various career opportunities. Addressing these challenges is crucial for fostering gender equality in education and society.¹⁵

Literature Review

Globally, the safety of women is a critical concern, marked by prevalent threats such as violence and harassment. Shocking statistics, as revealed by organizations like ActionAid UK, underscore the urgency to implement comprehensive measures. These efforts are vital to mitigate challenges faced by women worldwide, ensuring their safety and fostering an environment conducive to education.¹

WHO's findings underscore a sobering reality: globally, one in three women faces the pervasive issue of violence. This alarming statistic highlights the urgent need for initiatives that not only address health concerns but also prioritize education to empower women and foster a safer, more equitable world.²

The Global Gender Gap Report highlights alarming rates of violence against women, with one in five women experiencing such incidents globally. This pervasive issue extends beyond public spaces to workplaces and homes, impacting women throughout the day. Addressing women's safety concerns is crucial for promoting a conducive environment for their education and well-being.^{3,4,5,6}

Promoting gender equality in education is a key focus of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Education empowers women by providing them with skills, increasing workforce opportunities, reducing economic dependency, and fostering overall national development. Emphasizing women's education in engineering and technology further enhances their empowerment by equipping them with essential knowledge in science and technology, reflecting the commitment to academic inclusion.⁷

Before 1960, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church played a key role in reducing illiteracy, but cultural pressures led to low female school enrollment. Despite affirmative action policies since the 1990s, women's participation in education and employment has increased, yet challenges persist, especially in fields like engineering and technology.⁸

Women's representation in certain professions remains significantly low across various countries globally, exemplified by a decline to only 11% in undergraduate STEM education programs in Colombia, as noted by Casallas et al. This underrepresentation is a prevalent issue in universities worldwide, prompting collaborative efforts and networks to delve into its causes and develop future mitigation strategies.⁹

The educational journey of women in engineering is closely tied to their career aspirations. Instances reveal that women students often participate less in technical aspects during group work or practical's, focusing more on supportive activities like group organization and documentation.^{10,11,12,13}

Negative classroom experiences can demotivate women in engineering, reinforcing gender stereotypes and potentially diminishing their interest in the field. Fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments is crucial to overcoming these challenges and promoting women's sustained engagement and success in engineering education.¹⁴

UNESCO emphasizes that active involvement and participation of women in science significantly enhance a country's capacity to address poverty-related challenges, underlining the pivotal role of women's education in advancing societal progress.¹⁵

The 2013/2014 annual report from the Engineering Council of South Africa reveals that only 4% of registered professional engineers are women, with a mere 12.5% new registrations in 2014. These stark statistics underscore the persistent challenge of low representation for women entering the professional engineering sector.¹⁴

Recognizing the gender disparity in the field of science, the organization acknowledges the challenge

of the underrepresentation of women, both in developed and developing nations. Emphasizing the importance of attracting and retaining women in engineering fields, it is integral for the sustainability of the sector and the enhancement of economic opportunities.¹⁴⁻¹⁹

It was crafted to empower women by contextualizing IEEE in diverse regions, amplifying the voices of women worldwide in a field where their representation remains proportionally small.

The goal is to provide alternative pathways for young professionals to connect with leaders, fostering a more inclusive and accessible environment for women in education.²⁰

Methodology

The insights gathered from the Literature Review consistently point towards a singular solution: harnessing the power of a mobile application. Focused on advancing women's education, our primary goal is to explore and identify the most effective systems that contribute to achieving significantly improved accuracy rates.

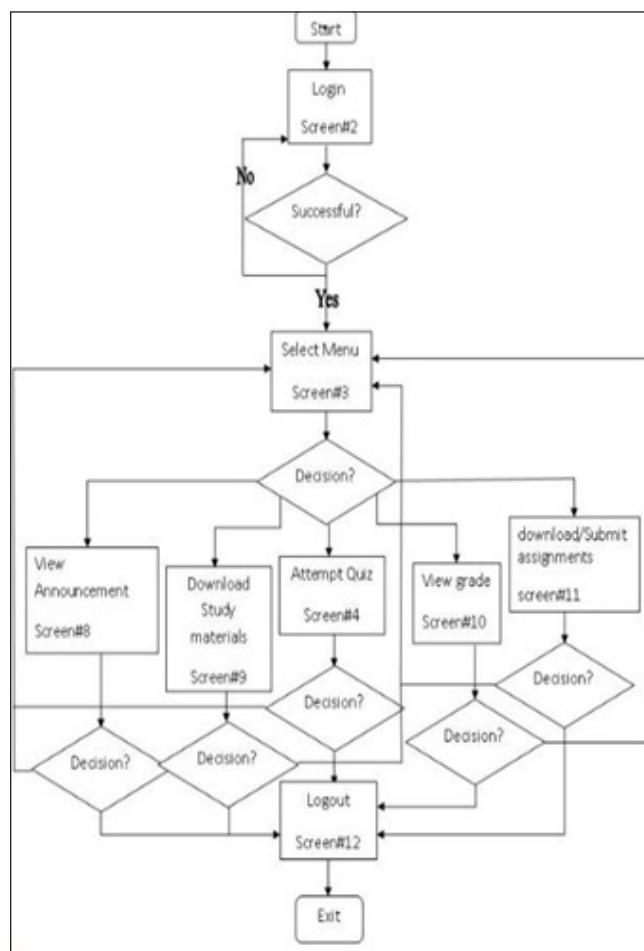


Figure 1. Flow Chart

Start: Users initiate their educational journey by launching the application, signaling the beginning of their exploration and engagement with the platform. **Login:** Users securely log in, creating personalized profiles that enable access to tailored educational content and features, ensuring a personalized and secure learning experience.

Select Menu: After logging in, users navigate through a user-friendly menu interface, granting them access to various sections, courses, and resources catered specifically to girls and women.

View Announcement: Within the selected menu, users can stay informed about important updates, announcements, and relevant information, fostering a sense of community and communication.

Download Study Materials: Users can access and download educational resources such as lectures, notes, and study materials, empowering them to engage with high-quality content at their convenience.

Attempt Quiz: The application offers interactive quizzes, enabling users to assess their understanding of the material, promoting active learning and reinforcing educational concepts.

View Grade: Users can easily track their academic progress by viewing grades and performance metrics, encouraging a sense of accomplishment and motivating ongoing learning.

Download/Submit Assignment: The platform facilitates the exchange of assignments, allowing users to download tasks for completion and submit their work digitally, fostering a seamless and efficient educational workflow.

Logout: Users can securely log out, ensuring data privacy and security while concluding their current session on the application.

Exit: The application provides a clear exit option for users

to close the app, offering a smooth transition out of the educational platform.

This flow chart outlines a user-centric journey within the application, emphasizing accessibility, engagement, and functionality tailored to the specific needs of girls and women in their pursuit of education.

UI/ UX of Application

Our user-friendly UI/UX design aims to empower girls and women by providing an inclusive and inspiring educational platform. With personalized learning at your fingertips, we strive to foster a supportive community and break down barriers to enhance opportunities.

Survey For The Research

Looking ahead, the potential impact of this application is immense, promising increased accessibility, relevance, and empowerment in education for girls and women worldwide. Serving as a beacon of hope and opportunity, it guides the educational landscape towards a more fair and comprehensive future for girls and women's education.

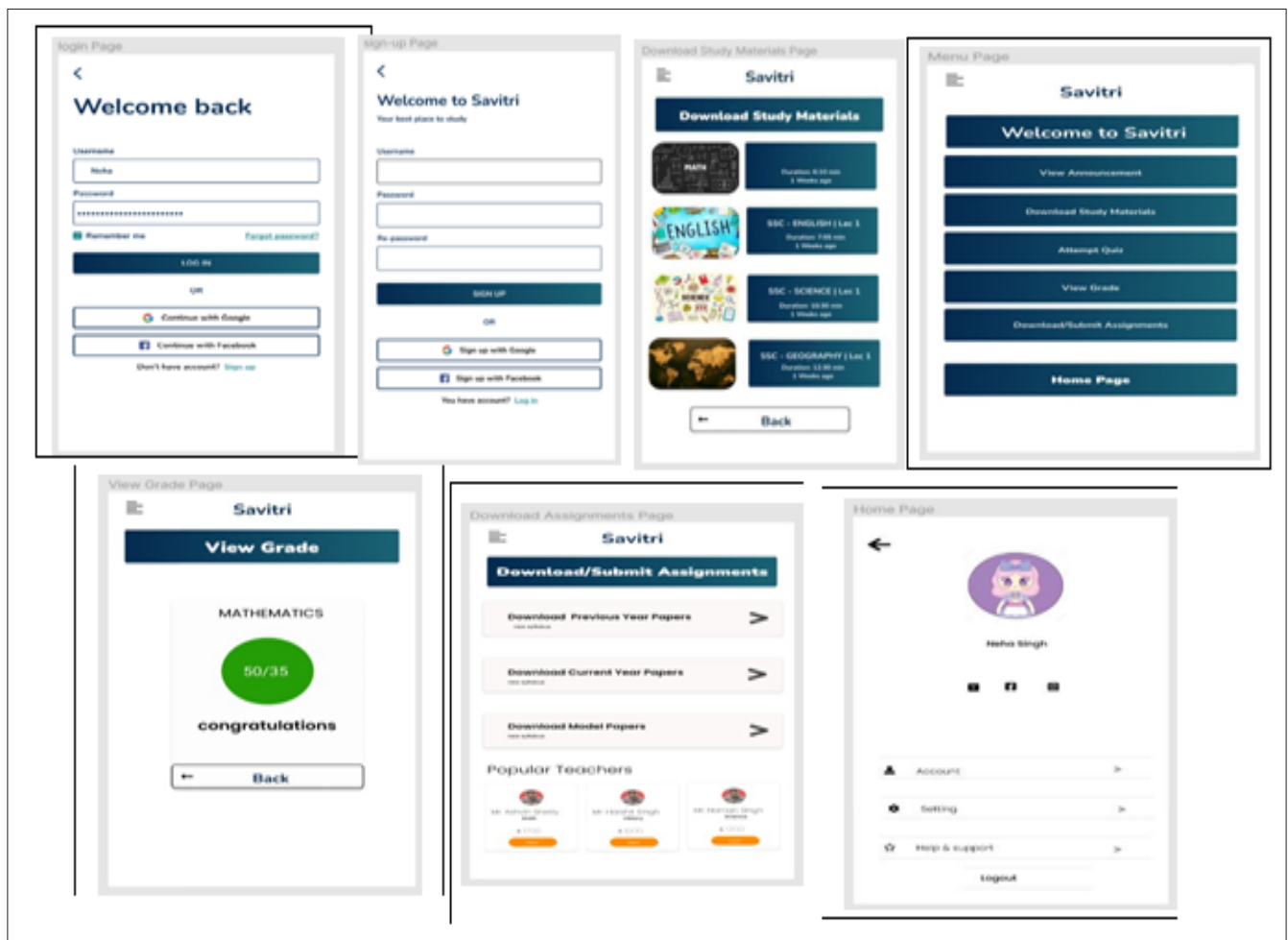


Figure 2. UI/ UX of Application

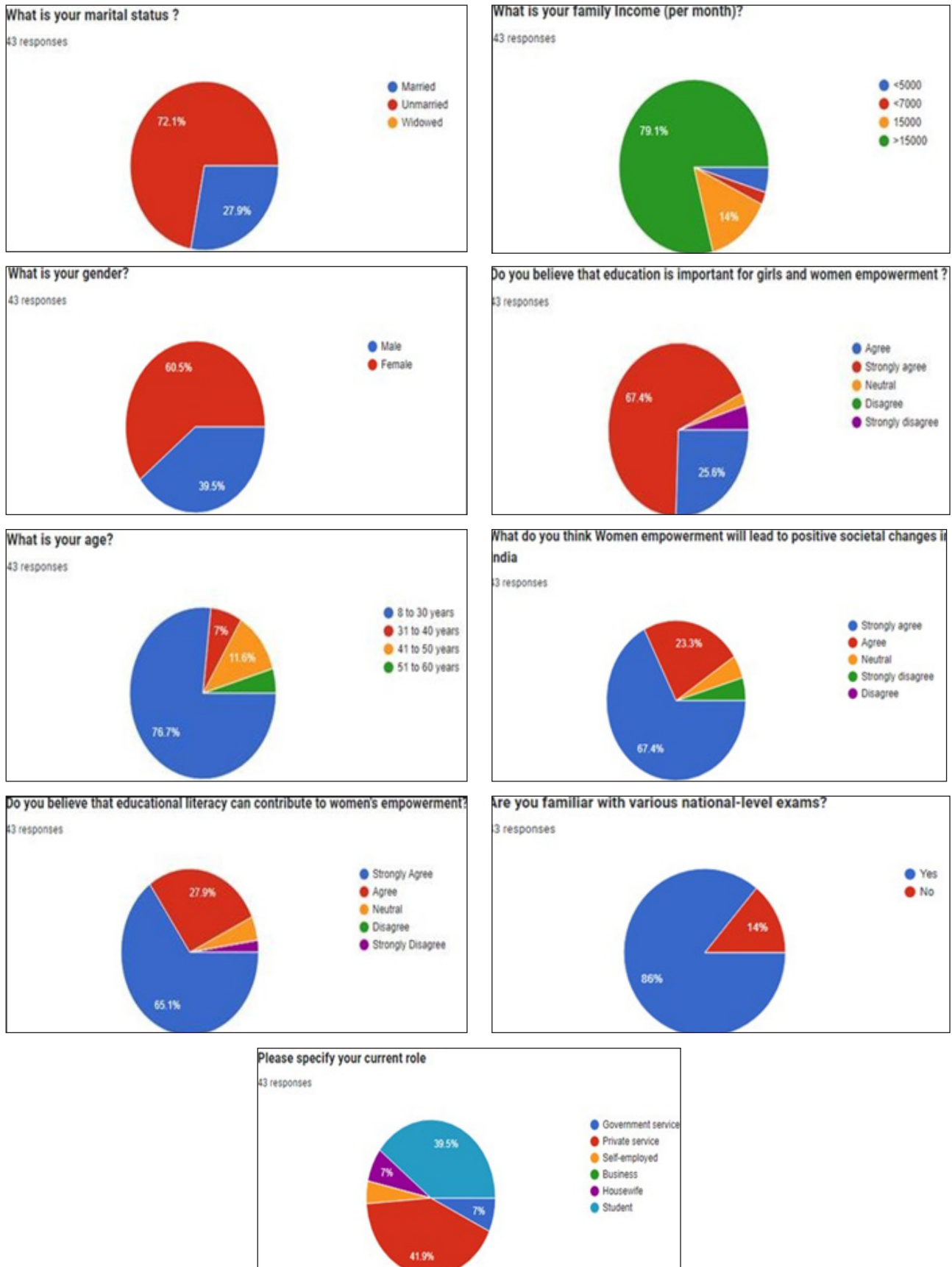


Figure 3.Survey For The Research

Future Scope

Our application's future prospects involve utilizing different APIs to aid in the identification and management of diseases. By incorporating a user-friendly interface, girls and women can easily input their symptoms or diseases, allowing the app to effectively identify potential ailments and offer guidance on resolving them. The integration of various APIs will enhance the app's capabilities, ensuring prompt and accurate disease identification, as well as providing comprehensive solutions for managing the identified ailments. This approach aims to optimize the user experience by delivering fast and dependable healthcare guidance that is specifically tailored for girls and women, ultimately promoting better health outcomes and overall well-being.

Conclusion of Survey

This survey report highlights the challenges and barriers faced by women in accessing quality education, entrepreneurial opportunities. By addressing these issues through targeted interventions and support, we can empower women to overcome these challenges and unlock their full potential.

Future Scope and Conclusion

The Utilization of Information Technology (IT)

plays a crucial role in the transformation of education, specifically for girls and women. Traditional educational systems frequently result in inefficiencies and obstacles, which restrict the availability of high-quality learning. Through the integration of IT into educational platforms, we can optimize resources, minimize wastage, and improve the accessibility of quality education. This approach fosters a more sustainable and inclusive educational environment, guaranteeing a wider range of learning opportunities for girls and women.

Conclusion

The creation of this educational application designed specifically for girls and women represents a significant step forward in promoting empowerment and equality in education. It embodies a firm commitment to change, progress, and inclusivity, directly addressing the unique educational needs and challenges faced by this particular group. In addition to facilitating personal and professional growth, this application aims to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment, fostering a strong sense of community and empowerment. It actively advocates for gender equality in education, ensuring that every girl and woman can pursue their educational goals.

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