Understanding the gender gaps in access to online and digital technology and services including STEM

GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

90% Jobs have a digital component

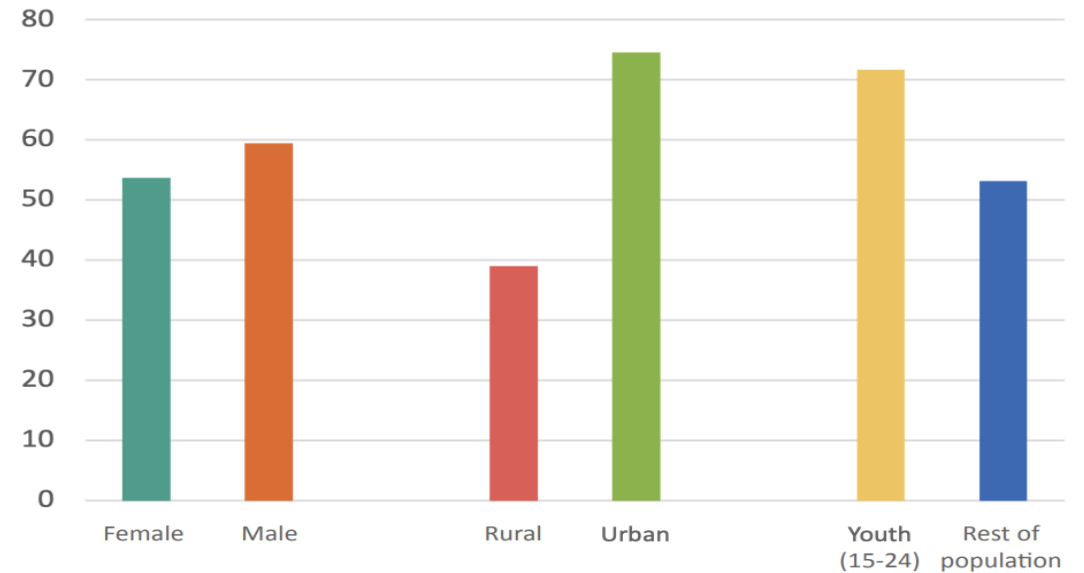**52% Girls** **28% Boys** Borrow mobile phones if they want digital access

54% Women **59% Men** Internet usage in Asia and the Pacific

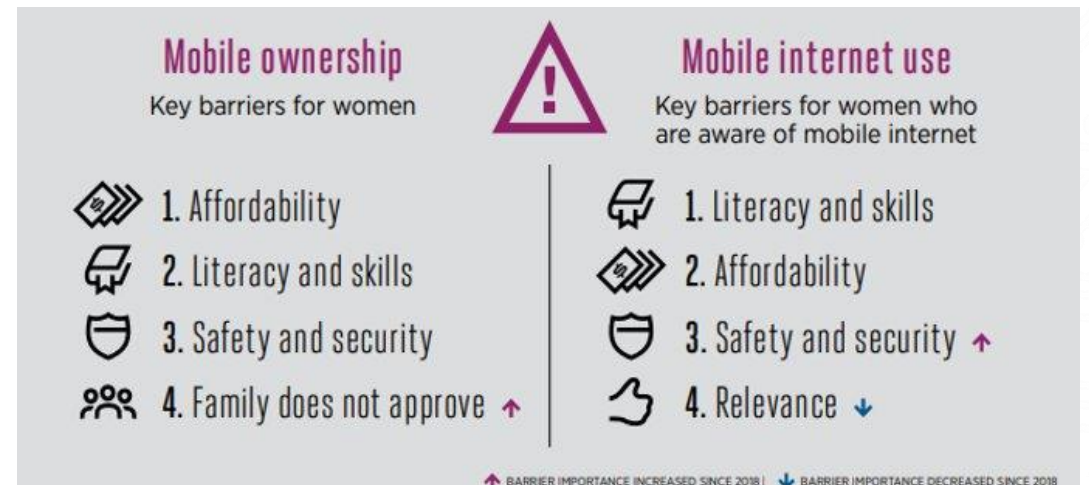**1.5 >** Boys are 1.5 times more likely than girls to own a mobile phone

6x Girls with secondary education are six times more likely to be online than those with only primary education or less

1.6x Female users are 1.6 times more likely than men to report lack of skills as a barrier to internet use
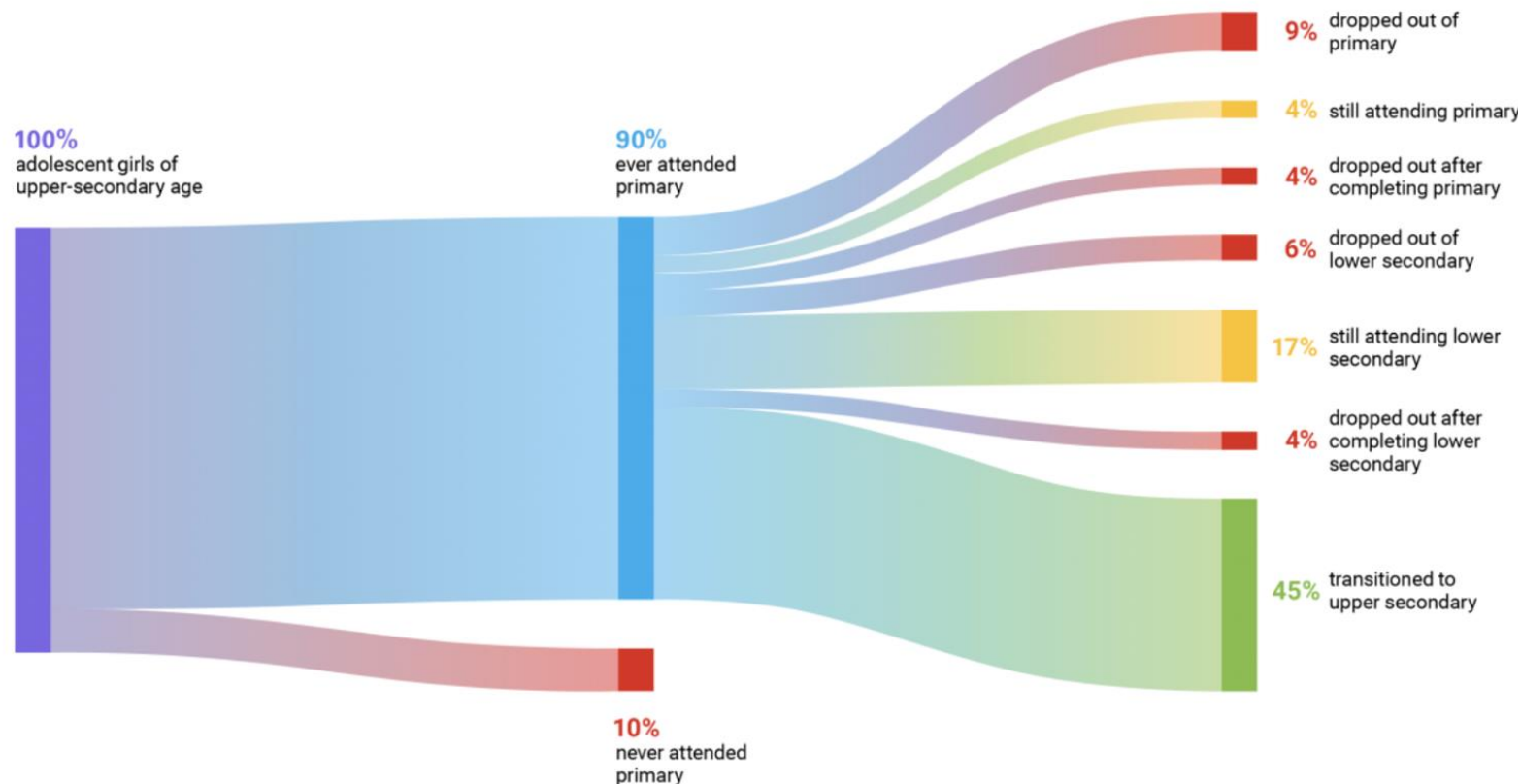
Figure 2. Percentage of individuals using the Internet in the Asia Pacific Region, 2020

Source: ITU (2021), Measuring Digital Development, Key ICT Indicators.

Mobile ownership
Key barriers for women

⚠

Mobile internet use
Key barriers for women who are aware of mobile internet

1. Affordability
2. Literacy and skills
3. Safety and security
4. Family does not approve ↑

1. Literacy and skills
2. Affordability
3. Safety and security ↑
4. Relevance ↓

▲ BARRIER IMPORTANCE INCREASED SINCE 2018 | ▼ BARRIER IMPORTANCE DECREASED SINCE 2018

Gender gaps in STEAM education and careers

100%
adolescent girls of upper-secondary age

90% ever attended primary

9% dropped out of primary

4% still attending primary

4% dropped out after completing primary

6% dropped out of lower secondary

17% still attending lower secondary

4% dropped out after completing lower secondary

45% transitioned to upper secondary

10% never attended primary

- Women make up only 28% of the workforce in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and men vastly outnumber women majoring in most STEM fields in college

Reasons for the gaps

Lack of training opportunities

Fewer role models

Male-Dominated Cultures

Role as primary provider of care services in the home

Cyber bullying

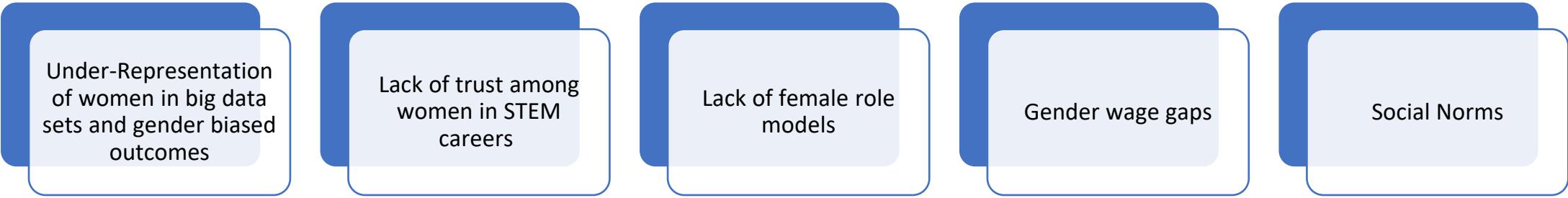Access to Internet and Devices

Poverty

Gender norms

Unequal Division of Work

Lack of early introduction to digital literacy

"Internet is not a safe space"

Impact of gender gaps – fewer women and girls in STEM careers and education, and designing technological solutions then includes less options for women and girls

| Under-Representation of women in big data sets and gender biased outcomes | Lack of trust among women in STEM careers | Lack of female role models | Gender wage gaps | Social Norms |

# Approaches to Closing the Gender Digital Divide

1 **Improving access** to and use of digital technologies and the internet **4 Girls (Incl expand use of Apps &other techs in the region**)

2 **Developing the skills** needed for girls to use digital technologies and to participate in their design and production

3 **Partnership women/girl-led CSOs** for embracing Digital as programming tool for Girls

Collaboration with **private sector** and **non-traditional partnerships** (individual and collective gadgets 4girls)

4 Working on **SBC with communities**, as **cultural and social perceptions to girls accessing tech tend to be negative and discouraging.**

Digital literacy

Access

Online Safety
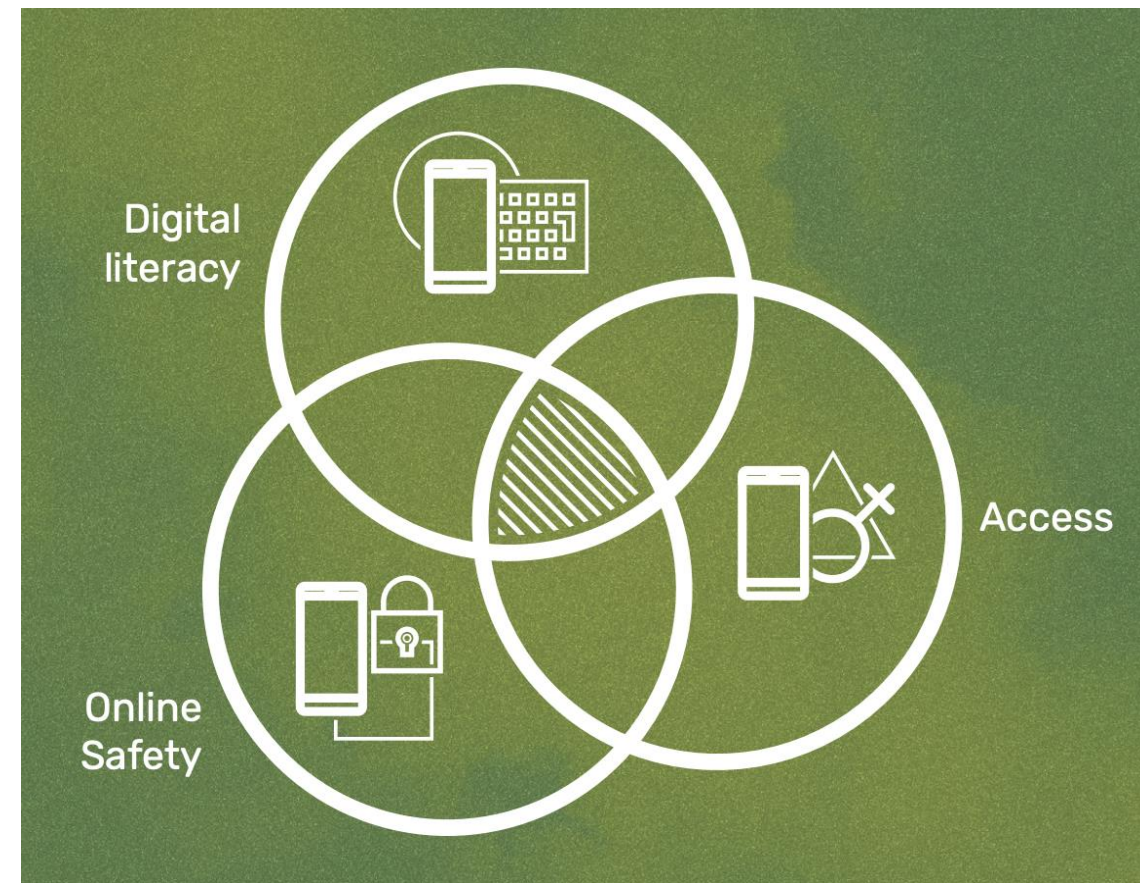
Moving forward, it is crucial to address the digital divide by:

1

Addressing the structural factors that cause it such as affordability, literacy digital skills and safety/secutiry concerns

2

Utilising deisgn interventions that remove cultural and practical barries and make technology useful for women

3

Involving women in the design, development, roll out and management of digital products and services

Watch here: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zB3__uD6Yhg