# Understanding the gender gaps in access to online and digital technology and services including STEM
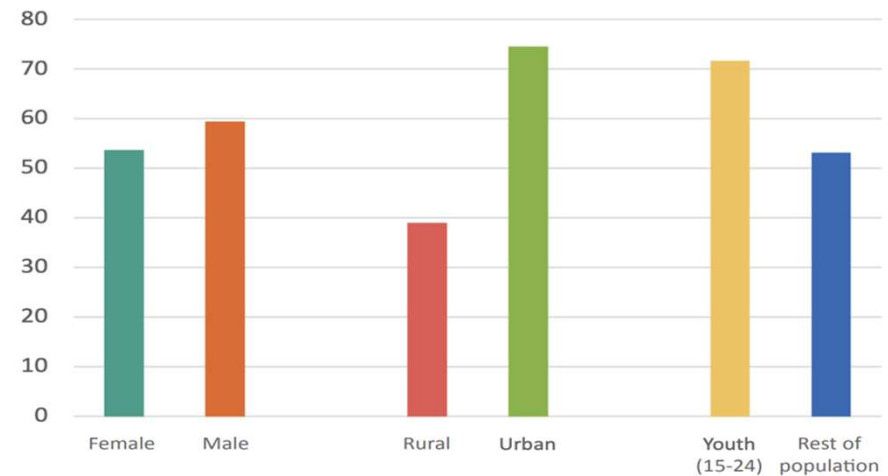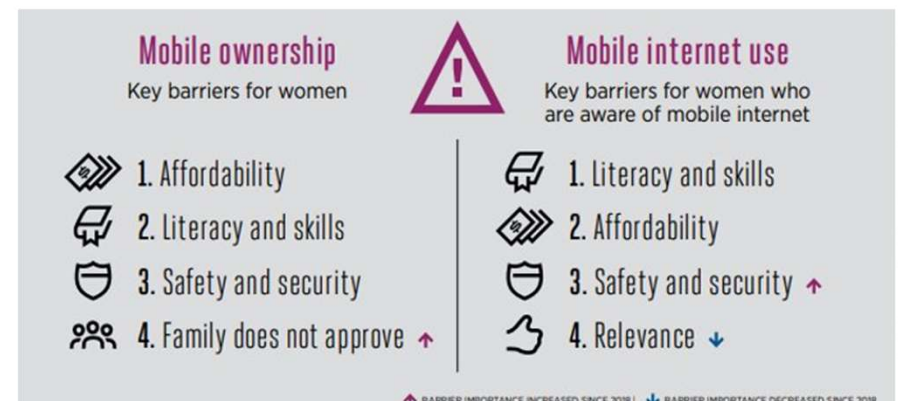
# GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**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
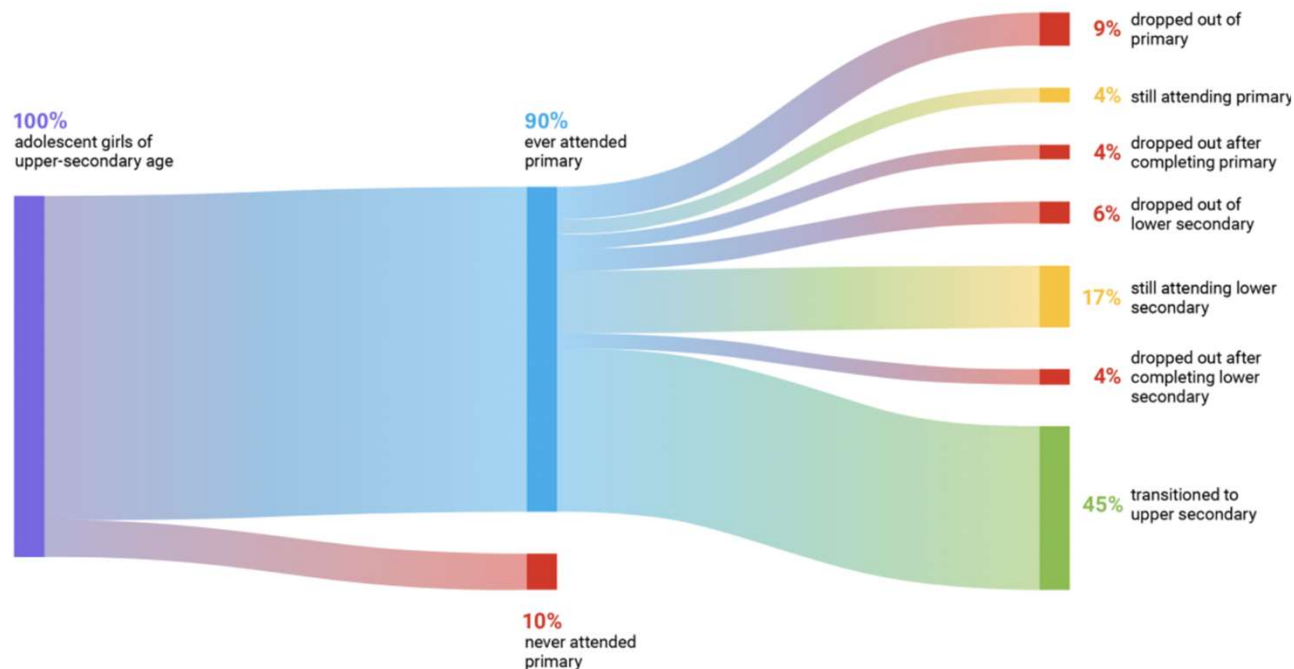
**Figure 2.** Percentage of individuals using the Internet in the Asia Pacific Region, 2020



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



Mobile ownership
Key barriers for women
1. Affordability
2. Literacy and skills
3. Safety and security
4. Family does not approve ↑

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



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

100% adolescent girls of upper-secondary age

90% ever attended primary

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

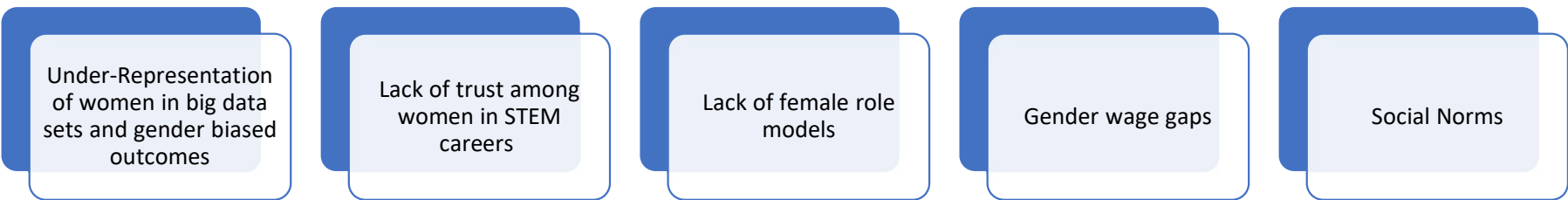| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lack of training opportunities | Fewer role models | Male-Dominated Cultures | Role as primary provider of care services in the home |
| Cyber bullying | Access to Internet and Devices | Poverty | Gender norms |
| Unequal Division of Work | Lack of early introduction to 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.**
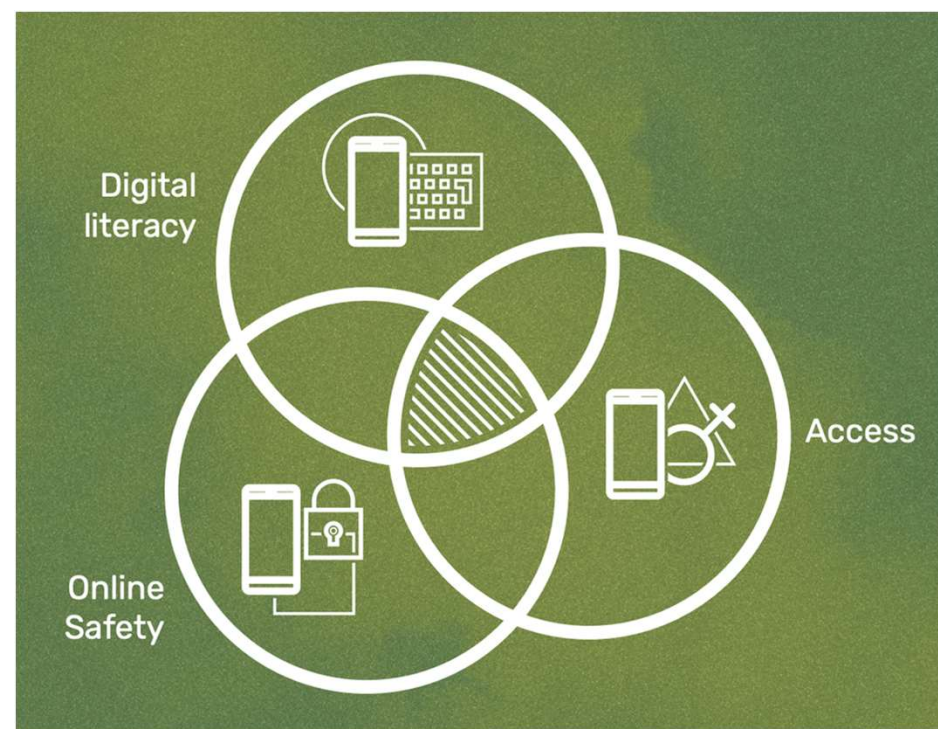
# Moving forward, it is crucial to address the digital divide by:

**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

Other families say,
"A girl is learning to work.