



శ్రీ వేపచేదు విద్యా పీఠము

VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

మన సంస్కృతి

Mana Sanskriti (Our Culture)

Chief Editor: Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu, Esq.

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Issue: 229

Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu¹

WHAT'S IN A NAME? MEASURING AND QUANTIFYING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

On November 23, WIPO released its annual World Intellectual Property Indicators 2016 report (WIPI)². The report includes around 170 indicators covering data for 150 IP offices around the world, and covers filing, registration, and renewal data for patents, utility models, trademarks, industrial designs, microorganisms and plant variety protection. It also includes an analysis of participation by women inventors in international patenting. According to WIPO statistics³, less than a third of all PCT International Applications in 2015 included women. The share of PCT applications with women inventors increased from 17% (7,780 women) in 1995 to 29% (81,316 women) in 2015.

Measuring and quantifying the participation of women in science, technology, and innovation activity have attracted considerable attention over the past two decades by using information available in patent documents and scientific publications⁴. However, attributing gender to a name is not an exact science because many names are used by both genders, for example, **Krishna** is a given name for both genders and also used as a family name. Gender is also attributed to a given name on a country-by-country basis, for example, the name Andrea can refer to a male in Italy but to a female in Spain⁵. In some linguistic nationalities, the given name is the last name and surname is the first name, e.g., China, Mongolia, Telangana, Andhra, Kannada, etc., and in some nationalities like Tamil, father's given name is the first name of the child, adding to the difficulty of deciphering the gender.

In addition, it is not customary for inventors or authors to provide information regarding their gender. Based on the language used in the old literature, it is assumed that the inventor or scientist is always a man, with a few exceptions. For example, PCT uses "he" in most of its documents⁶. Against this patriarchal backdrop, the two most common methods are 1) to conduct surveys of inventors and authors, and 2) to use name dictionaries to infer women's participation in patenting and publications⁷. There is no guarantee that gender has been attributed correctly, and so the gender attributed to a given name should be treated as the most likely gender associated with that name.

WIPO has developed a World Gender-Name Dictionary (WGND) containing given names used in 182 countries - the most comprehensive gender attribution exercise for patent documents undertaken so far. The closest most recent work has been done by UKIPO (2016). Using this dictionary, gender was attributed to 96% of the 8.8 million names of individuals recorded in PCT applications.

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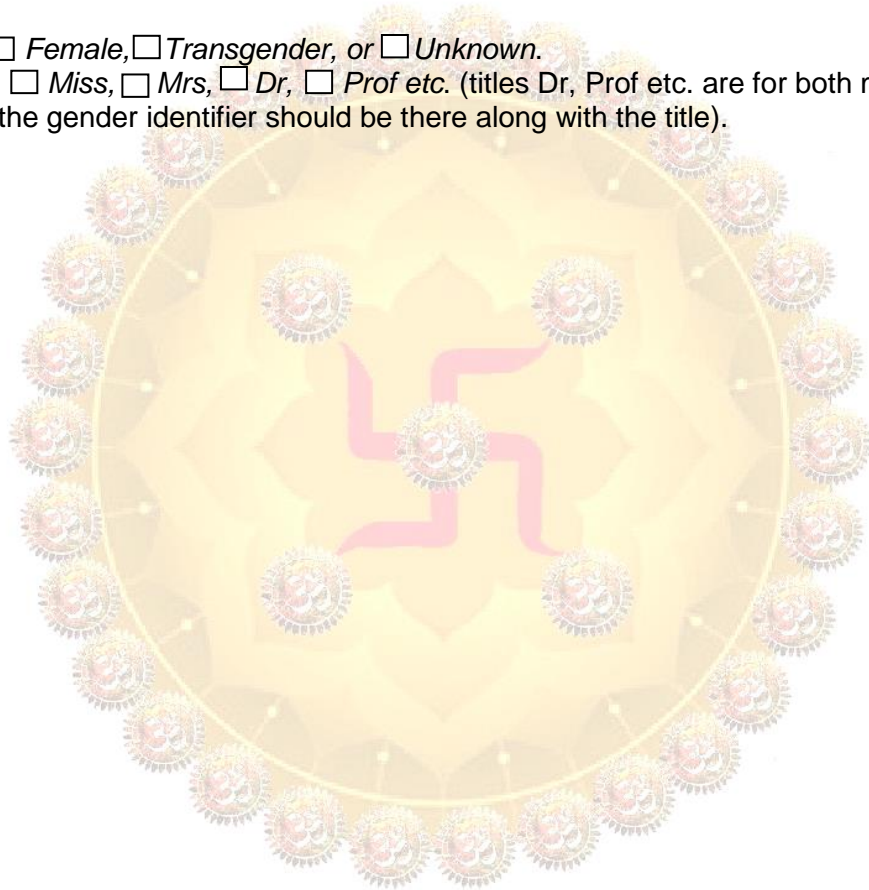
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To create an account with WIPO you are asked to provide the First Name and the Last Name⁸. When a Telugu, Tamil or Mongolian fills in the form, invariably the given name is confused, where the last name is the given name, and because there is no option to write given name and family name. None of the patent offices requires gender identification in any applications. A simple addition of a gender identifier in the forms for all publications and IP applications would help.

Gender: Male, Female, Transgender, or Unknown.

Title: Mr, Ms, Miss, Mrs, Dr, Prof etc. (titles Dr, Prof etc. are for both male and female. Therefore, the gender identifier should be there along with the title).



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NOTES AND REFERENCES⁹

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² World Intellectual Property Indicators 2016: http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_941_2016.pdf

³ Identifying the gender of PCT inventors, Economic Research Working Paper No. 33: <http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4125>

⁴ Frietsch et al., 2009; Naldi and Parenti, 2002; Sugimoto et al., 2015; UKIPO, 2016

⁵ www.wipo.int/econ_stat/en/economics.

⁶ PCT Applicant's Guide - International Phase, CHAPTER 4: USEFULNESS OF THE PCT FOR APPLICANTS: 4.003. The saving arises primarily from the fact that, under the PCT, the applicant files one application – the international application – in one place, in one language and pays one initial set of fees, and that this international application has the effect of a national or regional application, which, without the PCT, **he would have to file** separately for each country or region. <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/appguide/ipindex.jsp#TopOfPage>

⁷ UKIPO (2016) as an example of the dictionary approach and Walsh and Nagaoka (2009) as an example of the survey approach.

⁸ ePCT User Guide, page 10 (June 9, 2016)

http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/pct/en/epct/pdf/pct_wipo_accounts_user_guide.pdf

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⁹ In addition to the primary sources cited above, additional references include:

New York Times, Washington Post, Mercury News, Bayarea.com, Deccan Chronicle, the Hindu, Hindustan Times, Times of India, AP, Reuters, AFP, The Guardian, Pravda, Spiegel, Connexion, etc.

Disclaimer: All information is intended for your general knowledge only and is not a substitute for medical advice or treatment for special medical conditions or any specific health issues or starting a new fitness regimen, political or economic policy.

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, Where knowledge is free, Where the world has not been broken up into fragments, By narrow domestic walls." -- Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), Gitanjali, 1912.

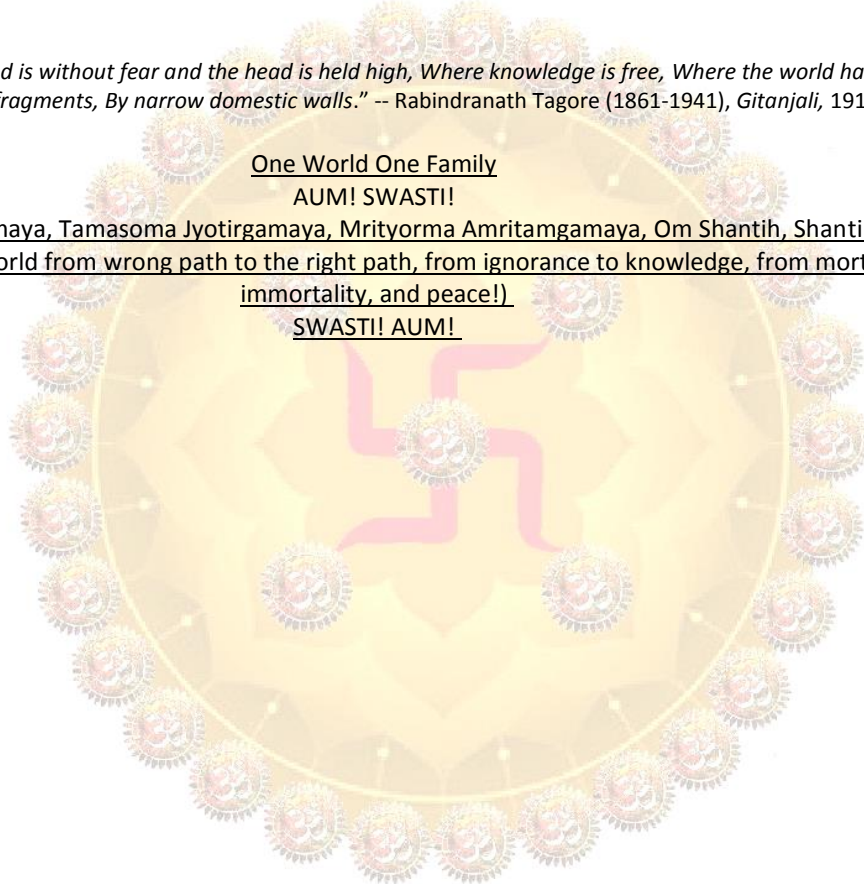
One World One Family

AUM! SWASTI!

Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih!

(Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!)

SWASTI! AUM!



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