Women examine prejudice

I t seems to be reasoned some how that a larger percentage of women than men drop out of graduate school. This is not the case however, as 82% of the women who enter graduate school fields, compared with 85% of the men.

The following is the distribution of women graduate students among the schools at MIT:

- Science: 39% (Women: 58%) (Men: 39%)
- Architecture: 22% (Women: 22%) (Men: 22%)
- Humanities: 16% (Women: 17%) (Men: 16%)
- Sloan School: 6% (Women: 6%) (Men: 6%)

The financial aid aspect of admissions was also examined. This is particularly important in graduate school, where students depend heavily on fellowships and assistanichips. Assistantships are given out by the individual departments, Dean Brown did not know the relative percentages, however, he did have the figures for fellowships:

- Women Men
- Science: 58% 39%
- Engineering: 17% 22%
- Humanities: 77% 67%
- Sloan School: 11% 17%

The questions were primarily from women wanting to know what is being done to urge more girls to apply to MIT, and to make high school guidance counselors and teachers aware of the fact that MIT is a good school. Prof. Greely replied that there had been efforts made to prepare a booklet about women at MIT in honor of the 100th anniversary of coeds, but that for many reasons, including a lack of funds, the project fell through.

Greely and Cynthia Bloomquist '70, Assistant Director of Admissions, replied that the Admissions Office is trying to encourage women to apply to MIT, but that there is no definite recruitment program, like that for minority students. When he was asked why there were not more pictures in the catalogue of women students in lab and classroom situations, rather than simply sitting around on the grass as if they were students' girlfriends, Greely replied jokingly, "We wouldn't want any girls in our catalogue who couldn't be someone's girlfriend."

Overall, all the speakers expressed optimism regarding the growth of the number of women students in lab and class-rooms. Sloan School, Engineering and the Center for Advanced Engineering Studies have only one each. Overall, there are 3250 graduate students, of which 260, or eight percent, are women.

The number of graduate women students at MIT has increased sharply in the last decade, from 350 in 1960, to 1700 in 1969, to 2400 in 1970, to 3500 in 1971, and to 3900 in 1972. Women make up 17.5%, whereas MIT, it is 3.2%.

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