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# ProDev Hour

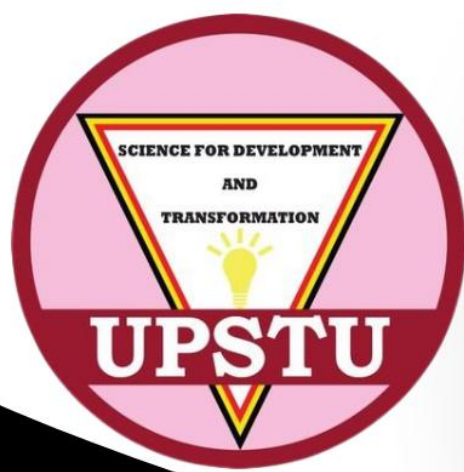
- CPD.
- Rights, Safety, Policies & Dialogue
- Innovation & Skill Development
- Social & Economic Empowerment
- Updates on Union Programs and Activities

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Uganda Professional Science Teachers Union

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# Today's Topic: "2025 UACE Results: Analyzing the Gains in Teaching Sciences"

19<sup>TH</sup> / MAR /  
2026

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Hour**

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✓CPD ✓ Empowerment ✓ Union Updates

**SPEAKER:**

**Tugume Benison**

**VICE NATIONAL**

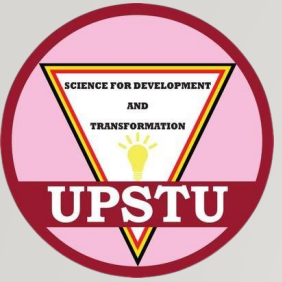
**CHAIRPERSON, UPSTU**

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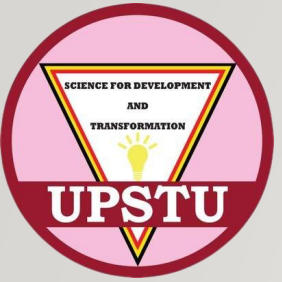
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# Session Objectives

- This session will analyze the key highlights from the 2025 UACE results, with emphasis on science subjects and performance trends.
- It will examine the growth in science subject uptake and the improving performance of girls in STEM.
- The session will also explore the role of teachers, policy, and professional development, and propose strategies for sustaining progress.

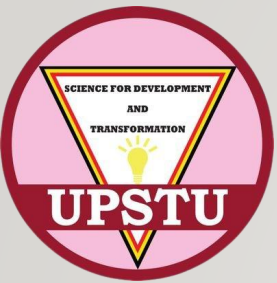




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# Growth in Science Subject Uptake in the Last 5 Years

- Enrollment in Mathematics increased from 35,725 to 70,132, showing a strong rise in participation in core science subjects. Chemistry and Biology entries more than doubled over the same period, indicating growing interest in life and physical sciences. Although Physics fluctuates slightly, the overall trend shows a consistent increase in science subject uptake.

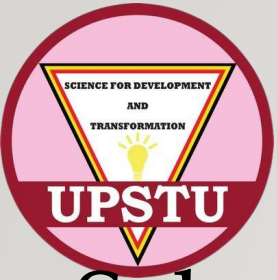
## Entries for Mathematics and Sciences

Table 6 below shows the number of candidates registering and sitting for the examination over the last five years.

**Table 6: Entries for Mathematics and Sciences in the last five years**

SUBJECT	YEARS				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2020
Mathematics	70,132	58,495	45,414	38,776	35,725
Physics	21,302	23,679	17,106	12,994	13,473
Chemistry	37,134	29,283	21,779	20,229	17,349
Biology	35,660	24,853	19,934	17,994	15,058

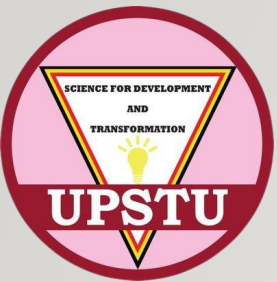




# Impact of Salary Enhancement

- Salary enhancement has increased teacher motivation, leading to improved commitment to lesson preparation and delivery.
- It has also improved teacher retention, ensuring continuity and stability in science teaching.
- These factors have contributed directly to improved student performance and increased science subject enrollment.





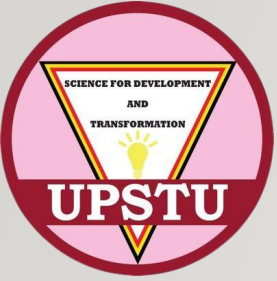
# Girls' Participation in Science Subjects

- Female candidates made up 43.7% of the total candidature, showing gradual progress toward gender balance in education.
- The number of girls enrolling in Mathematics, Biology, and Chemistry has increased steadily over the last five years.
- This trend reflects growing confidence among girls and improved access to STEM learning opportunities.

**Table 7: Performance of Female and Male Candidates in Large Entry Principal Level Subjects, General Paper, Subsidiary Mathematics and Subsidiary ICT**

SUBJECT	FEMALES			MALES		
	No. of Cands	A (%)	A-E (%)	No. of Cands	A (%)	A-E (%)
General Paper	72,370	3.2	86.8	92,784	3.7	85.8
History	16,887	7.1	85.0	14,544	5.9	80.8
Christ. Rel. Educ	19,274	5.0	75.4	12,020	3.0	62.3
Lit in English	6,989	10.8	90.3	2,017	8.7	79.3
Mathematics	25,002	10.7	66.5	45,130	14.1	63.8
Physics	4,689	1.5	57.4	16,613	4.1	55.2
Agriculture	10,733	0.6	54.9	20,689	0.7	57.1
Chemistry	14,488	3.7	53.7	22,646	6.4	57.9
Biology	14,698	3.8	62.6	20,962	7.4	65.7
Sub Mathematics	14,615	0.8	48.0	21,776	0.5	29.8
Sub ICT	57,745	4.2	68.4	70,974	6.7	71.1





# Emerging Success of Girls in STEM



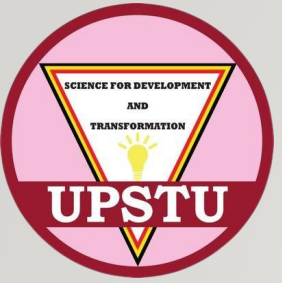
- The success of girls in STEM is driven by gender-responsive teaching practices and increased mentorship from female teachers.
- Advocacy programs and awareness campaigns have encouraged more girls to take up science subjects confidently.
- These efforts are gradually closing the gender gap and promoting equity in science education.

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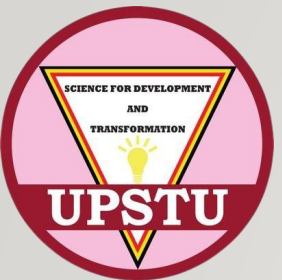
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# Role of Professional Development

- Continuous professional development helps teachers stay updated with modern teaching approaches and methodologies.
- CPD programs provide opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and peer learning.
- Digital and innovation-focused training has enhanced teachers' ability to deliver engaging science lessons.



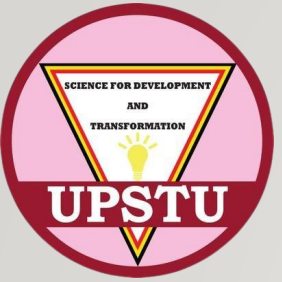


# Persistent Challenges

In the Sciences, the general problems of **inadequate practical exposure** continue to impact performance. Wrong interpretation of **experimental procedures**, leading to **wrong data**, failure to interpret the data obtained, or present the information graphically, sometimes as a result of using non-uniform scales on the Y and X axes, making deductions from observations, and writing correct chemical equations.

The problem of **not relating Science concepts to real-life** situations continues to be observed. Teachers also appear to be skipping certain topics, e.g. in Physical Chemistry.

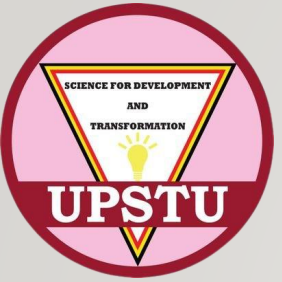




# Strategic Actions – Way Forward

- There is a need to strengthen practical science teaching by investing in laboratories, equipment, and hands-on learning.
- Expanding continuous professional development programs will help teachers improve their instructional practices.
- Targeted interventions should continue to support girls in STEM and promote inclusive participation.



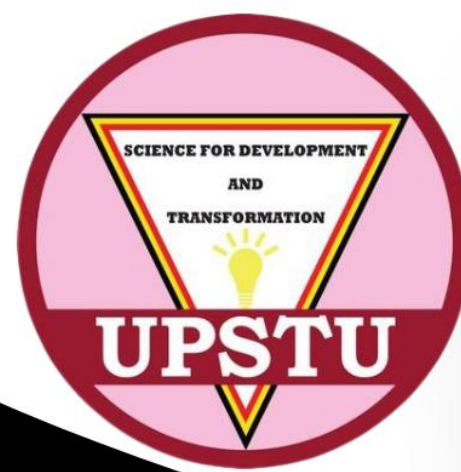


# Discussion Questions

- What key factors do you think have contributed most to the growth in science subject enrollment?
- How can teachers further support girls to succeed in STEM subjects?
- What practical actions can be implemented immediately to improve science teaching in our schools?



# Thank You!



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