

### **Source #9: 'Women's work' in science, 1880-1910 summary**

In "Women's Work in Science, 1880-1910", by Rossiter, a historian at Cornell, a new perspective is provided into what it was like for women to work in this period. During this period, a rising number of women were seeking employment due to the number of female college graduates increasing. Along with this, the thought that women had unique talents in specific fields was gaining traction.

Rossiter proposes that during this time, women had to persevere through struggles while staying loyal to their jobs. Women had to persevere because they had practically no chance of being promoted. Men felt threatened if they did receive a promotion, therefore, women were trapped in tedious jobs for decades. The author, however, states that although today this is seen as a bad thing, women were pivotal in making discoveries in multiple fields, including astrology and education. Their contributions were crucial and discoveries in these fields most likely would not have been accomplished without them, due to their precision and attention to detail. Rossiter also points out that during this time, the women's movement was gaining attention. As a result, more women felt they could explore opportunities, instead of being trapped in a house.

Rossiter views this time from more of a historical perspective. Rather than bashing sexism and how men acted at the time, she understands that historical context is crucial in understanding why many women were not in more prestigious jobs. This is relevant because it brings up the question of if time is just as important as gender. Would we have an equal amount of representation between men and women 30 years in the future if we just wait for the industry to accept change, or should we be proactive and push the world to change now? These are just some of the important thoughts that Rossiter evokes in her article.

### **Source #9: 'Women's work' in science, 1880-1910 analysis**

Unlike my other sources that provide thoughts and perspectives on the present and future, this source looks back into the past. This is significant because I believe that historical context and time are critical in helping determine the level of female representation within various sectors, including STEM. By providing some context into what the world was like 100+ years ago, we can see how much progress has occurred with female representation. The progress already made helps give hope for the future and having proper female representation in STEM. The industry is bound to change at some point, so hopefully, that change occurs soon.

This source adds value by using a historical perspective. The source also goes a step further in giving the thoughts that female pioneers had during this time. Without them working as hard as they had or advocating for change, we would not be where we are today. I would use this article to acknowledge the progress that society has made in the past 100 years and understand that maybe in the next 100 years, there will be equal representation of women in the workforce, in all industries. Whether it be in computer science, finance, engineering, women provide a unique view of the world. There is a huge opportunity to take advantage of their unique experiences, as a result.

Rossiter, Margaret W. "'Women's Work' in Science, 1880-1910." *Isis*, vol. 71, no. 3, 1980, pp. 381–398. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/230118](http://www.jstor.org/stable/230118). Accessed 28 July 2021.