

Women's Education: Investment for Change



**ASIAN UNIVERSITY
FOR WOMEN**

Executive Summary

- **AUW is the premier women's educational institution in Asia.**
- **Higher education for women generates major benefits for society with immediate and sustainable impact**
- **AUW is a unique institution with a differentiated strategy, committed to graduating highly skilled, innovative, service-minded women leaders for the region**
- **AUW students are promising young women from diverse cultural, religious, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds across Asia, bonded by their courage, commitment and talents to form the next generation of women leaders.**
- **AUW's diverse set of educational programs offers HOPE & Opportunity for CHANGE**



AUW needs the support of organizations and individuals from around the world to accomplish its mission.

Asian University for Women (“AUW”) is the premier institution of higher learning for women in Asia

Mission: AUW seeks to bring about social and economic progress in Asia through higher education for women

- AUW aims to educate and create the next generation of women leaders in Asia through a combination of liberal arts and science education that strengthens critical thinking, creativity, and leadership skills.
- AUW students are being educated to be skilled, innovative, and service-oriented individuals who will return to their communities and help break the endemic cycles of poverty and social exclusion.
- AUW graduates will be drivers of change for their families, their communities, and for generations of women to come.
- The emerging powerful network of AUW graduates will have an enormous impact on human and economic development in the region.



Education for women generates major benefits for society

“Girls’ education yields some of the highest returns of all development investments, yielding both private and social benefits that accrue to individuals, families and society at large.” (World Bank)

Social Impact:

- Reduced mortality and better public health
 - Each additional year of schooling is associated with 5-10 % decline in child deaths. (*UN Population Fund*)
 - Educated women have better nutrition and diets, safer sanitation practices and higher chance of being immunized. (*Care: Women’s Empowerment*)
- Lower Fertility
 - Women with secondary or higher education generally defer marriages, produce fewer children and control the spacing of birth order, which also leads to better health for both mother and child.
 - Some studies correlate each additional year of education with a 10% drop in fertility. (*Care: Womens’ Empowerment*)
- Higher educational prospects for future generations
 - Educated women are more likely to send their own children to school

Economic Impact:

- Higher Wages
 - Each additional year of schooling for girls has shown to increase future wages by as much as 10-20%, whereas for boys it is only about 5-10%. (Psacharopoulos et al 2004)
- Better quality jobs
 - Educated women move away from domestic- and informal-sector work to more white collar and public sector jobs.
 - In Bangladesh, between 1999 and 2003, women’s employment grew more than twice that of men in various sectors
- Greater household disposable income
 - Micro-credit programs in developing countries have shown that female borrowing has much bigger impact than male borrowing on household consumption, budgeting and savings.
 - Among a group based credit program in Bangladesh, annual per capital household expenditure increased by as much as 7% - 11%

...and Tertiary education has an immediate and sustainable impact

- Tertiary and higher education for women has a number of benefits relative to primary and secondary education, which has historically received the bulk of the attention in women's education.
 - **builds skills that are overlooked in primary and secondary education such as business skills and policy making**
 - **important for acquiring new knowledge and new technologies**
- At this level of educational attainment, it has the greatest impact on women to continue to work and close the gender inequality.
 - Women's labor-force participation rates are almost on par with men's, especially in cities, as noted below.

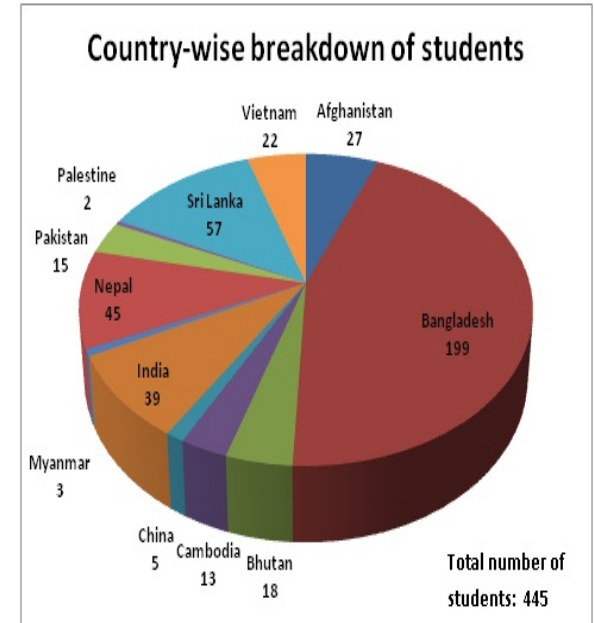
% annual returns	Men	Women
Primary Education	20.1	12.8
Secondary Education	13.9	18.4
Higher Education	11.0	10.8
Overall	8.7	9.8

(Source: Psacharopoulos & Patrinos 2004)

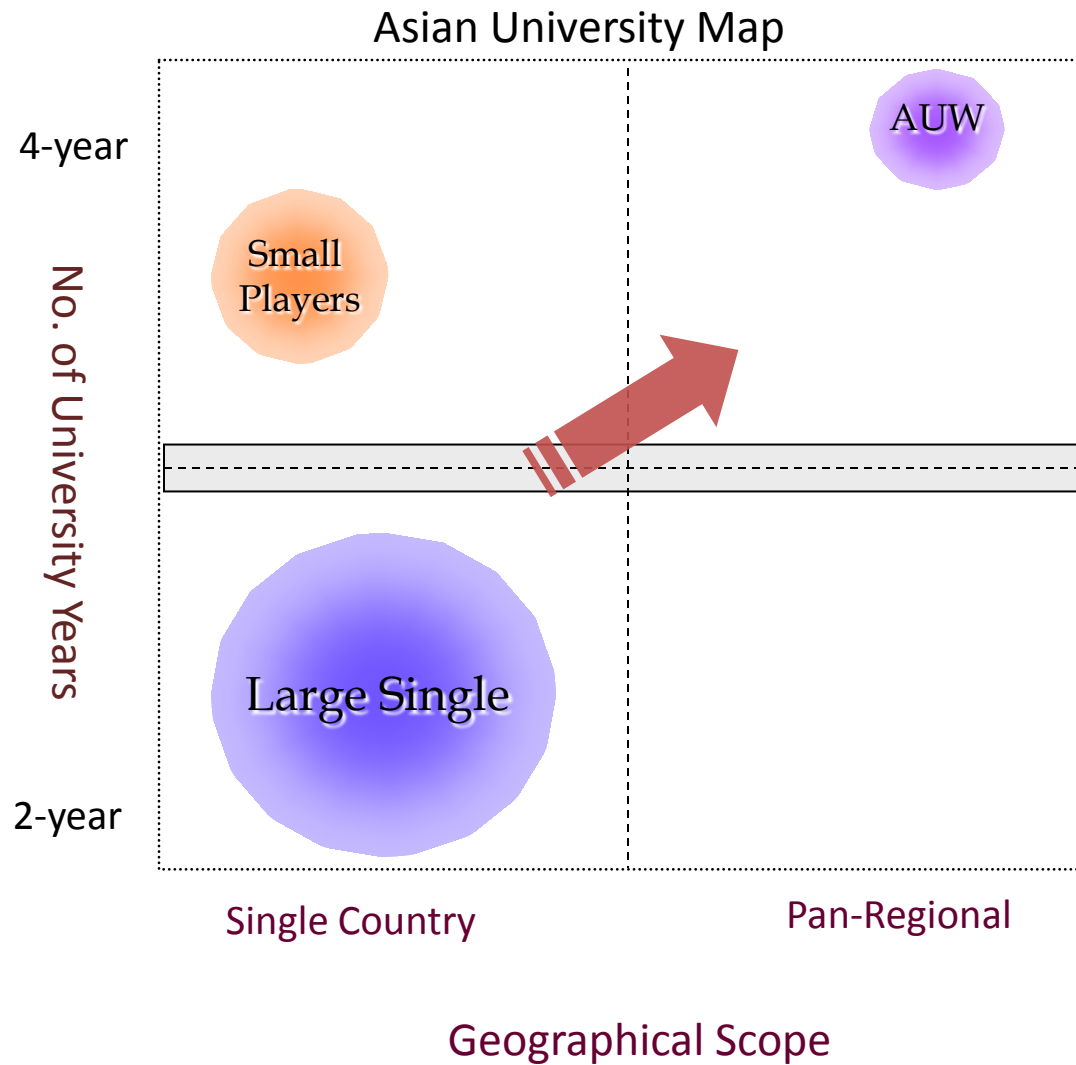
- Some studies estimate that women's education has contributed as much as 1.4-1.9 % of annual growth in GDP in East Asia, and 1.1-1.8 % in Southeast Asia between 1965-1990
 - **In fact, the World Bank argues that the combination of declining fertility and mortality together with increases in the population pool of working age women has a "direct influence on national productivity"**
- Moreover, successful, educated graduate women become role models, inspiring and supporting other women

AUW at a Glance

- Opened in 2008
- Today, enrollment is nearly 450 students from more than 12 different countries.
 - All students live and study on campus to promote cross-cultural understanding
- AUW offers a unique 1 + 4 + (2) education model that includes several programs:
 - 12-18 months long pre-collegiate preparatory program,
 - 4-year undergraduate liberal arts and science degree program,
 - Future 2- year graduate professional training program.
- AUW's 40+ diverse faculty members, recruited from all over the world, are distinguished in their field of academic expertise
 - many with degrees from eminent universities such as Harvard, Oxford, Trinity, India Institute of Technology, Dhaka Medical College, others
- AUW has been granted a 130 acre site outside of Chittagong, Bangladesh for its future campus.
 - The master plan, designed by Moshe Safdie & Associates includes a Campus Center that will house over 180,000 sq. feet of classrooms, seminar rooms, laboratories, a library, an arts center, a cafeteria, faculty and administrative offices, a health center, and athletic facilities
 - Currently, AUW is housed in a leased, modern complex in downtown Chittagong complete with academic, residential and dining facilities; a fitness center, a library; and study and recreational areas.
- Approximately 95% of the students are on full or nearly full scholarship. The total cost for a student is US\$12,000 per year. This includes tuition, accommodation and healthcare costs.
- AUW annual operating budget is \$10 million per year
 - Not including capital programs
- AUW is funded through a combination of private and public sources.
 - Funding is international in scope with many foundations as major supporters



AUW occupies a unique position in the Asian higher education landscape



AUW is a unique and differentiated institution

- A wholly international, independent organization.
 - Benefits from total institutional autonomy and a guarantee of full academic freedom by its Charter, approved and ratified by Bangladeshi Parliament in 2006
 - The privileges and rights of the Charter are similar to those of UN agencies.
- A private, regional institution of the highest quality dedicated solely to women's education and leadership development.
- Offers tertiary education that combines world-class liberal arts programs with additional graduate and professional training.
- Open to all promising women from Asia and the Middle East regardless of cultural, religious, ethnic or socio-economic backgrounds, but acceptance is highly selective and based upon demonstrated potential of each student.
- Attracts top-notch international faculty members who are supportive mentors, committed to helping the students both inside and outside the class room.
- Partnerships with corporations, non-governmental organizations, schools and public agencies through-out Asia to provide real-world learning experience.
- Provides a vibrant, diverse residential community that will promote social, religious, cultural and intellectual pluralism.
 - Over 33 different languages are spoken in the hallways, making AUW a truly international community.



AUW offers a unique set of educational programs

Access Academy

- Pre-collegiate “bridge” program that prepares students for a rigorous university education. The program trains young women who are often first in their families to pursue higher education and may require stronger foundational skills before pursuing university education.
- Helps students not only in academic preparation but also in social and cultural adjustment.

Undergraduate Program

- The 4-year liberal arts and sciences program leads to Bachelor of Arts and/or Science degrees with a concentration in one or more of 5 majors:
 - 1) Asian Studies, 2) Biology, 3) Environment Sciences, 4) Politics, Philosophy Economics, 5) Public Health Studies
- The Program draws upon the best practices of Asian and Western education models, emphasizing critical thinking and reasoning skills, problem solving ,and ethical leadership
- The program is designed to stem the “brain-drain” syndrome, whereby bright and motivated students often go overseas for education and then opt to remain aboard, depriving their home communities of their talent and contribution.

Internships & summer programs

- Forms an integral part of the students’ education by exposing them to professional fields of interest in order to advance their studies.
- Students are encouraged to participate in 3 distinct educational experiences: 1) summer internship; 2) summer applied research projects; 3) summer study programs outside the university.
 - Examples of participating organizations are internship at BRAC, HSBC, World Bank etc.

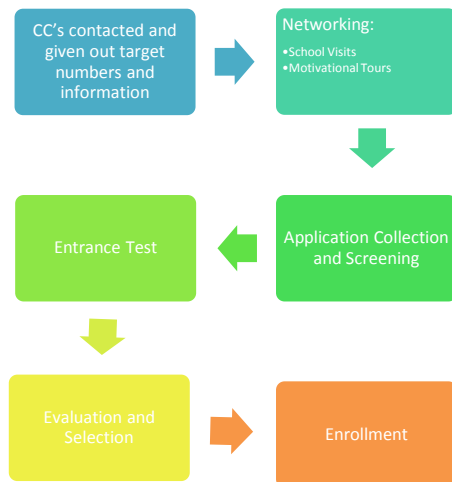
Graduate Program

- Two master’s programs are planned for later date: Entrepreneurship & Management, and Environment Engineering..
- Focus will be on areas relevant to developing regions: clean water and sanitation, water & waste management, industrial pollution, sustainable development

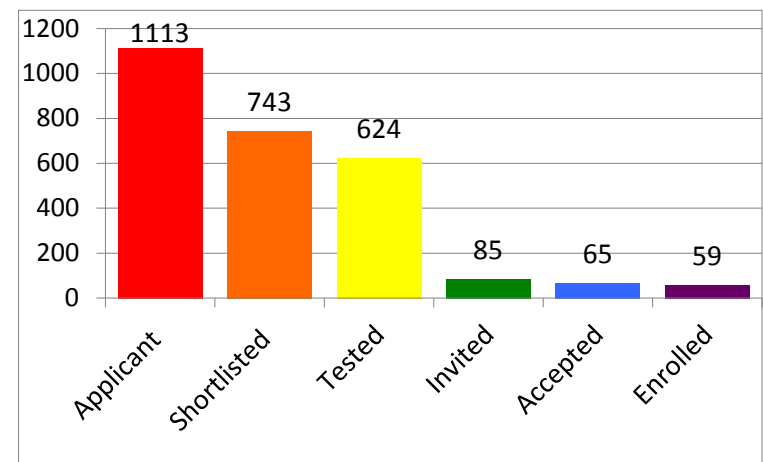
AUW Admissions Policy is oriented to attract the very best students

- AUW is committed to providing quality higher education to the region's most promising young women, regardless of background
- Rigorous, merit-based admissions process results in a highly selective student body
- Students are selected for not only outstanding academic ability, but also personal characteristics: **courage, leadership potential** and **strong commitment to work** for positive social change.
- AUW students come from:
 - Wide diversity of socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnicities and life experiences.
 - From remote villages like Lalitpur, Nepal.
 - Many are survivors of natural disasters, authoritarian regimes, or civil war.
- As a result, they are committed to investing in their own education and working to address the challenges of social and economic advancement of their communities

AUW Admissions Process



AUW Admission Results - 2011



Supporters of AUW

Cherie Blair, Chancellor of AUW, leading human rights lawyer and wife of the former British Prime Minister Tony Blair:

“I fight, personally and professionally, for women’s equality because I passionately believe it is a fundamental matter of principle and justice...it is clear that AUW’s trail-blazing graduates will provide young women across the region with much-needed examples of leadership, raising ambitions to help unlock more potential.”

(January, 2011.)



US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert O. Blake:

*“By leveraging this rich diversity, **AUW plays a unique and vital role in shaping the future of this region and the world.** That’s exactly why I wanted to come here and speak with you today – to explain to Asia’s future business executives, politicians, scientists, journalists, and activists what the United States is doing to support women, and to promote economic integration and opportunity in your neighborhood...By preparing women to be skilled professionals, innovators, and service-oriented leaders, **AUW is the standard bearer in the region’s effort to modernize and help women achieve their full potential.** The United States is proud to serve as a partner with AUW on programs that advance these objectives. “*

(February, 2012)



Testimonials

“Two years ago, I was a cook for my family...Now I’m a daughter to my whole country... I speak my mind. I’m confident. I analyze the situation... I think about my future. I want to represent my people and help them solve their problems” *Parwana Fayyaz, student from Kabul, Afghanistan*



“We believe that we will acquire a respectable place in the world, not through flashy certificates, glamour or glitter, but through our hard work, commitment and dedication.” *Nawra Mehrin, student from Bangladesh...after internship at World Bank Office in Dhaka.*



Why support AUW?

- Women's Education has transformative powers in society
- AUW is building a world-class institution incorporating differentiated programs to meet the demands of the region
- AUW is uniquely positioned with its renowned faculty and promising students
- The school has good momentum to promote intercultural understanding and sustainable human and economic development in Asia and through out the world.
- AUW has the support of many multilateral organizations and from around the world



AUW still needs sufficient funds to achieve its goals.

How You Can Help

- Sponsor a student or a teacher
- Endow Student Scholarships
- Endow Faculty Positions
- Fund Research Projects
- Take on Internships
- Become a Mentor
- Spread the word



“World Changes with Educated Women”



**ASIAN UNIVERSITY
FOR WOMEN**

Student Achievements

- 6 students present in **Education Without Borders Conference, Dubai, UAE.**
- Participation in **ICTD Conference, Doha, Qatar**
- 1 student won a *Global World Pulse* Mentorship Contest and participated two **Young World Conferences in U.K and USA.**
- Access Academy student presented **documentary on gender discrimination in Japan**
- Internships in **China** in manufacturing firm of **Esquel Group.**
- 2 students from Palestine and Afghanistan participated in a **conference in Kuwait with Mrs. Cherie Blair**
- 5 students participated and presented papers in **YUVA 2010, a conference in Delhi on Climate Change.**

