HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT 4

• It is observed that in many countries not enough FEMALE students are choosing to study software engineering. What are causes? And what will be effects on society?

So far many, if not all, western countries have accepted gender equality. Today, women can do anything from sports to engineering, to teaching, or even going to the military.

Job isn’t limited to women as it was before as far as you’ve got the experience or skill. In some countries, there are still old-fashioned laws that permit women from doing certain work, but in some more developed countries studies are showing that not enough female students are choosing to study software engineering, and many ask the question why is that?

Is it because not many female students spend their time on the computer?

Or, is it because they are not interested in that line of work?

We need to look from a different perspective when we’re approaching this matter so that we can answer these questions.

Software engineering and even computer science are becoming very popular. Every day you hear something new about technology or something about computer science or even software engineering, but why are a majority of male students studying that line of work?

I’ve found an article where [Prof Dame Wendy Hall](http://users.ecs.soton.ac.uk/wh/), a director of the Web Science Institute at the University of Southampton, points to the wide variation in gender ratios in computing internationally, which she argues would not be seen if there were a universal biological difference in ability between the sexes.

Hall believes that the gender gap and the “male computer geek” stereotype can be dated back to the advent of the home computer in the early 80s, when the machines were marketed heavily as gaming systems for men. She suspects this might be more culpable for women’s low participation than men having evolved a mindset better suited to writing lines of code.

“Women were turned off computing in the 80s,” she says. “Computers were sold as toys for the boys. Somehow that cultural stigma has stuck in the west in a way that we can’t get rid of and it’s just getting worse. The skills gap is going to get huge.”

One of the reasons why not enough female students are choosing software engineering is as Prof Hall said, since the 80s, computers have been a market for the boys, with the invention of video games.

But that isn’t entirely true, there are many female students who are choosing that in different countries like India, or Malaysia.

You can find in the class more than 50% of female students learning software engineering.

Many women love to code, and in those countries, there aren’t many gender differences.

My take on this is that many male students start working with computers at a very young age, like myself, where they find themselves in that line of work and pursue the career of a software engineer.

Nowadays it’s normal for a person to stay indoors 24/7 doing nothing but learning how to code or something about software and all of that starts with a video game. First, you play video games then you want to learn how to make them, which opens a whole new world of programming and computer science.

Today it’s the same with female students. I’ve been seeing many girls playing video games nowadays, and it’s slowly becoming more appealing to girls which may lead to pursuing a career in some kind of computer science.