

Synergy of Empowering Women in Surveying in Puerto Rico: A Pathway to Equitable Growth Beyond 2030

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SUMMARY

This paper explores the transformative impact of empowering women in land surveying in Puerto Rico through the initiative Women in Survey in Puerto Rico (WiSPR), and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a driver of equitable growth beyond 2030. As a female professional land surveyor and educator, I present WiSPR as a model of inclusive leadership, technical excellence, and emotional support that fosters a synergy of empowerment among women in STEM. The initiative responds to the global call to end discrimination against women and girls and contributes directly to SDG targets related to gender equality, quality education, competitive work, and reduced inequalities.

Education is examined as a benchmark for success, not only in its formal academic dimensions but also in its emotional and interpersonal development. The paper highlights how professors in higher education have evolved into facilitators—mentors who guide students through academic challenges and professional transitions. This dual role strengthens the synergy of empowerment by connecting technical instruction with personal growth, especially for young women entering the surveying profession.

The paper presents current statistics on women in education and the workforce in both the United States and Puerto Rico, underscoring the persistent gaps in representation within technical fields. It discusses the unique responsibilities of female educators and professionals to inspire, support, and engage leadership for others. Through structured mentoring and community-building, WiSPR creates a ripple effect that amplifies visibility and confidence among emerging surveyors.

A detailed framework for empowerment is introduced, encompassing cognitive and emotional processes such as analysis, interpretation, synthesis, and creation. These processes are facilitated

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through safe, inclusive environments that encourage vulnerability, collaboration, and innovation. The paper also addresses the real-world challenges women face in surveying, from generational gaps and family responsibilities to fieldwork limitations and workforce dynamics and proposes disciplines of execution that foster resilience and community.

Finally, the paper shares WiSPR's story of success, including its monthly virtual meetings, in-person events, and participation in national summits. These activities exemplify the synergy of empowerment in action, blending technical training with self-care and peer support. The paper concludes by affirming that empowering women in surveying is not only a local priority but a global imperative for sustainable development and inclusive progress