

7.3.1.2 Post-secondary non-university enrolment

During recent years, enrolment in post-secondary non-university education has grown rapidly due partly to new organizational structures and partly to a range of new programs that comprise programs in teachers' colleges, hospital and regional schools of nursing, some universities, and especially in community colleges.

As shown in Table 7.6, in 1971-72 the 126,830 enrolments in post-secondary non-university education represented an increase of 8,018 students or 6.7% over the previous year. Of the total enrolment, community colleges and related institutions accounted for 75.7% and universities for 6.2%. Enrolments in teachers' colleges and in hospital and regional schools of nursing decreased between 1970-71 and 1971-72 due to more teacher training programs being given in universities and nursing programs in community colleges. It is expected that within a few years no teachers' colleges or hospital or regional schools of nursing will remain in operation.

Women represented almost half (49.4%) of all students enrolled in post-secondary non-university institutions in 1970-71, a decrease from 56% in 1966-67 and a significant decline from the 69% shown in 1961. The inclusion of new courses such as civil and marine engineering in community college programs, thereby reducing the predominance of the nursing and teacher training programs, and the transfer of teacher training in part to the universities, have contributed to the apparent decline. However, women still predominate in nursing, teacher training, medical and dental technology, and social welfare and recreation programs (Table 7.7).

As shown in Table 7.8, community colleges in all provinces except Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba offer university-transfer programs. In 1971-72, 54,826 students were enrolled in these programs, representing an increase of 12.8% over the previous year and of 580% over 1967-68, the extremely large increase over the five-year period being due almost entirely to the introduction of the CEGEP system in Quebec.

7.3.1.3 University enrolment and graduate degrees conferred

During the 1967-68 to 1971-72 period, full-time university enrolment in Canada increased by approximately 70,000 students, or 27%, although the rate of increase has declined notably in the past two years. The increase in 1971-72 over the preceding year was only 4.4% and in a few universities enrolment has actually decreased (Table 7.9). Over the five-year period, the number of women in universities increased by 40%, and in 1971-72 women accounted for 36% of all enrolments compared with 33% five years earlier. Quebec and Ontario, the most populous provinces, accounted for more than 60% of all university and college enrolments.

It should be noted that, in addition to the full-time university-grade enrolment, the number of students enrolled in pre-matriculation or university-grade courses on a part-time basis, either in the evenings, during summer session or by correspondence, was equal to more than half of the full-time enrolment in the regular winter session in 1970-71.

Table 7.10 shows that during the five-year period 1966-67 to 1970-71 the number of degrees granted continued to increase, bachelor and first professional degrees by 57%, masters' degrees by 83% and earned doctorates by 108%. The proportion of women receiving these degrees has been approximately the same in all provinces.

In 1970-71, as in 1961-62, a large percentage of women graduated in courses traditionally considered to be of interest to women (Table 7.11). More than 85% of the bachelor and first professional degrees conferred on women were in arts and fine arts, education, humanities and related subjects, library science, nursing, and social sciences and related subjects; on the other hand, the proportion of men receiving first professional degrees in these fields was significantly lower, and has increased only slightly, from 50% to 54%, over the ten-year period. The percentage of women to total first and professional degrees granted in law, pharmacy and architecture has shown some increase recently but the proportion of women receiving these degrees to total first and professional degrees conferred on women has not.

Women received 20.3% of all graduate-level degrees and diplomas awarded by the universities (Table 7.12). Further, women were awarded 21.5% of the diplomas conferred, 22% of the masters and 9.3% of the doctorates. In relation to first professional degrees, over 80% of the graduate degrees and diplomas conferred on women were in education, the humanities and related subjects, and the social sciences and related subjects; at the same time, 41% of the men graduated in science and related subjects.