

PS1048 - Trabajo de Fin de Grado

Function, sexual desire and masturbation in women with diverse sexual orientations

Extended Summary

INTRODUCTION

Sexual desire is generally defined as the need or drive to seek sexual objects or engaging in sexual activities (Diamond, 2004). Sexual desire is positively related to masturbation frequency (Godoy, 2020) and, in turn, masturbation frequency is related to sexual function and satisfaction (Coleman, 2003). Several studies (Diamond, 2003; Rosenkrantz and Mark, 2018) supported that lesbian women have lower sexual function and desire due to sexual discrimination, internalized homophobia, religious perceptions, heteronormativity, and gender role expectations (Henderson et al., 2009). Other studies (Frederick et al. 2021; Hølemberg and Blair, 2009) argued that there are no differences in sexual function and desire between heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual women (Cohen and Byers, 2014) and, if such differences exist, these are small and larger in homosexual and bisexual women compared to heterosexual women (Nimbi et al. 2020).

The aim of this study was to identify if there are differences in sexual function, sexual desire level and masturbation in a sample of heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual women.

HYPOTHESIS

There will be no statistically significant differences in sexual function, sexual desire and masturbation among women with diverse sexual orientation.

METHOD

This study belongs to an international project involving 40 countries, managed by the University of Montreal in collaboration with SALUSEX, a research group of Universitat Jaume I. The sample was collected by means of social networks such as Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp and YouTube, also by displaying posters in different universities. The total sample collected was 2000 participants, of whom 1200 were women. A total of 238 women were selected from total sample to develop this study.

The sample selection criteria were variables such as age (min. 18, max 44, mean=23.5), education level (25% secondary education, 75% tertiary education), relationship status (47%

single, 45% in a relationship, 5% married and 3% divorced) and religious affiliation (20% Christian, 65% non-religious and 15% spiritual with no religious affiliation).

The relevant data for the study were obtained from two questionnaires (*Arizona Sexual Experiences Scale* and *Sexual Desire Inventory*) and one item about masturbation frequency. The *Arizona Sexual Experiences Scale* (ASEX) (McGahuey, 2000) measures sexual function on a 6-point Likert scale. The scores of this scale were modified, being 1 a better sexual function and 6 a worse sexual function. The *Sexual Desire Inventory* (SDI) (Spector, Carey y Steinberg, 1996) measures sexual desire based on 3 subscales: *SDI-Pareja*, composed by 8 items; *SDI-Solitario*, composed by 4 items; and *SDI-Atractivo*, composed by 2 items. Each item scored on 8-point Likert scale, being 8 higher sexual desire and 1 lower sexual desire. *Masturbation frequency* (mast-fre) was measured using a 11-point Likert scale, being 11 higher frequency and 1 lower frequency.

The data analysis was performed using the statistical program Jamovi. The sample has a non-normal distribution, verified by Shapiro Wilk Test ($p < 0.001$), so non-parametric procedures were used, in particular the Kruskal-Wallis test and Spearman's correlation.

RESULTS

Sexual function (Arizona Sexual Experience Scale)

No statistically significant differences were found between the groups on any of the 5 items: ASEX-Deseo ($\chi^2 = 4,54$; $p = 0.103$), ASEX-Excitación ($\chi^2 = 0,333$; $p = 0,847$), ASEX-Lubricación ($\chi^2 = 0,533$; $p = 0,766$), ASEX-Facilidad_Org ($\chi^2 = 0,914$; $p = 0,633$) y ASEX-Sarísfacci3n_Org ($\chi^2 = 0,0772$; $p = 0,962$).

Sexual desire (Sexual Desire Inventory)

No significant differences were found between heterosexual, lesbian and bisexual groups in SDI-Solitario and SDI-Atractivo subscales ($\chi^2 = 2,90$; $p = 0.235$; y $\chi^2 = 0,735$; $p = 0.693$, respectively). As regard SDI-Couple subscale, the mean score obtained by heterosexual women, lesbians and bisexual women was 47.4, 40.6 and 46.5, respectively and statistically significant differences were found between three groups ($\chi^2 = 9,28$; $p = 0.010^*$). To determinate between which groups showed differences, a Post Hoc comparison analysis with Dwass-Steel-Critchlow-Fligner (DSCF) test was performed that suggested significantly differences between heterosexual and lesbian group ($w = -4,19$ y $p = 0.009^*$) and lesbian and bisexual group ($w = 3,59$ y $p = 0.030$).

Masturbation frequency

The mean score obtained by heterosexual women, lesbians and bisexual women was 5.3, 5.67 and 6.03, respectively. There is statistically significant differences between 3 groups ($\chi^2=6,22$; $p=0.045^*$). To determinate between which groups showed differences, a Post Hoc comparison analysis was performed with DSCF test, that suggested significantly differences between heterosexual women and bisexual women ($w=3,45$; $p=0.039$).

Relationship between sexual function, sexual desire and masturbation frequency

A correlation matrix was calculated to identify if there is a relationship between sexual Function, sexual desire and masturbation frequency. There was a significant positive correlation in the scores of SDI-Pareja and SDI-Solitario subscales between scores of all items in ASEX Scale. However, SDI-Atractiva subscale was only related to ASEX-Deseo. Masturbation frequency had a significant positive relation to the three subscales of SDI, and only with ASEX-Deseo and ASEX Facilidad_Org items of ASEX Scales.

DISCUSSION

As other studies reported (Frederick et al., 2021), no significant differences in sexual function between heterosexual women, lesbian women and bisexual women were observed in this study. Results showed higher sexual desire toward partners in heterosexual and bisexual women in comparison to lesbian women, in agreement with Rosenkrantz and Mark (2018) researches. As Guarín-Serrano et al. (2019) research reported, results reported a higher masturbation frequency in bisexual women compared to heterosexual women. Finally, a relation among sexual function, sexual desire and masturbation frequency was observed, as indicated by Coleman (2003) and Godoy (2020).

The main limitations of this study were the limited sample of lesbian women (approximately 15% of the total), scarce literature about the topic under study (sexuality and diverse sexual orientation) and non-separate sample of bisexual and lesbian women in other studies.

Introducción

El **deseo sexual** se define generalmente como la necesidad o impulso de buscar objetos sexuales o participar en actividades sexuales (Diamond, 2004). El deseo sexual se relaciona positivamente con la frecuencia de masturbación (Godoy, 2020), y, a su vez, esta, se relaciona con la **función** y la satisfacción sexual (Coleman, 2013). Diversos estudios (Diamond, 2003; Rosenkrantz y Mark, 2018) sostienen que las mujeres lesbianas poseen una función y un deseo sexual inferior debido a la homofobia internalizada y la heteronormatividad (Henderson et al., 2009). Otros estudios (Frederick et al. 2021; Holemborg y Blair, 2009) sostienen que no existen diferencias en cuanto a la función y deseo sexual entre mujeres heterosexuales y mujeres homosexuales y bisexuales (Cohen y Byers, 2014) y si existen, son pequeñas apuntando a un mayor deseo en mujeres homosexuales y bisexuales (Nimbi et al. 2020). El presente estudio se realiza con el **OBJETIVO** de averiguar si existen diferencias en cuanto a función, deseo sexual y frecuencia de masturbación de una muestra de mujeres heterosexuales, homosexuales y bisexuales.

Hipótesis

No existirán diferencias estadísticamente significativas en cuanto a función, deseo sexual y frecuencia de masturbación entre mujeres con orientación sexual diversa.

Metodología

Estudio Internacional (40 países), aprobado por la Comisión Deontológica de la Univ. Jaume I, liderado por la Universidad de Montreal en colaboración con SALUSEX de la Univ. Jaume I. La recogida de muestra se realizó a través de redes sociales y carteles.

Distribución de la muestra N=238

		Heterosexual N=100	Lesbiana N=38	Bisexual N=100
	Media de Edad	24,5	23,6	22,4
Educación	Secundaria	26%	26%	29%
	Terciaria	74%	74%	71%
	Cristiana	24%	21%	18%
Afilación religiosa	No religiosa	65%	63%	65%
	Espiritual	11%	16%	17%
	Soltera	43%	47%	53%
Relación	En una relación	18%	45%	45%
	Casada	5%	5%	2%
	Divorciada	3%	3%	0%

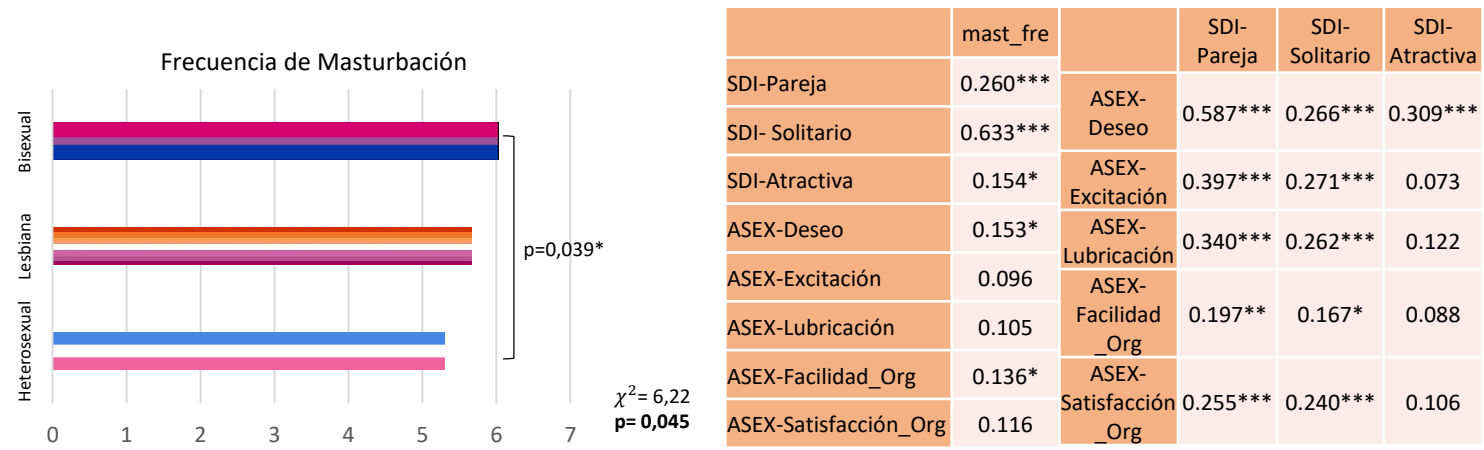
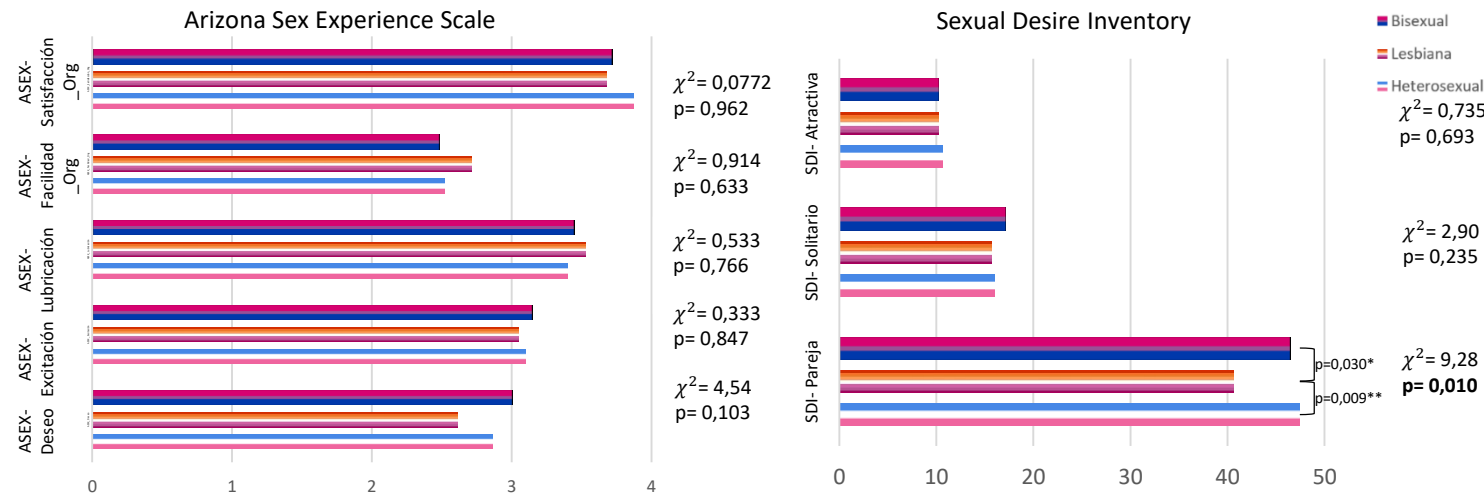
Instrumentos

- **Sexual Desire Inventory (SDI)** (Spector, Carey y Steinberg, 1996)
- **Arizona Sexual Experiences Scale (ASEX)** (McGahuey, 2000)
- **Frecuencia de masturbación**

Análisis de datos

- Jamovi (Kruskal-Wallis, Correlación de Spearman)

Resultados



	mast_fre	ASEX- Deseo	ASEX- Excitación	ASEX- Lubricación	ASEX- Facilidad _Org	ASEX- Satisfacción _Org	SDI- Pareja	SDI- Solitario	SDI- Atractiva
SDI-Pareja	0.260***	0.587***	0.397***	0.340***	0.197**	0.255***			
SDI- Solitario	0.633***	0.266***	0.271***	0.262***	0.167*	0.240***			
SDI-Atractiva	0.154*	0.309***	0.073	0.122	0.088	0.106			
ASEX-Deseo	0.153*								
ASEX-Excitación	0.096								
ASEX-Lubricación	0.105								
ASEX-Facilidad_Org	0.136*								
ASEX-Satisfacción_Org	0.116								

Discusión

Los resultados del estudio no muestran diferencias en cuanto a la función sexual como en Frederick et al. (2021). Por otro lado, encontramos diferencias en relación al deseo sexual con la pareja, mayor en mujeres heterosexuales y bisexuales que en mujeres lesbianas como en Rosenkrantz y Mark (2018). También encontramos diferencias significativas en frecuencia de masturbación, con una mayor masturbación en mujeres bisexuales que en heterosexuales, como en Guarin et al. (2019). Encontramos además relación entre las variables función y deseo sexual como en Coleman (2003) y entre frecuencia de masturbación y deseo sexual como Godoy (2020). En cuanto a las limitaciones del estudio destaca la escasez de muestra de mujeres lesbianas, la escasa literatura acerca de la temática y de esta, en pocos estudios se distingue la población de mujeres lesbianas y mujeres bisexuales.

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