

SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION OF WOMEN IN THE JOURNAL PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN QUARTERLY (2013-2017)

Autora: Patricia Sancho González

Tutora: Rosa Sos Peña

Introduction: Throughout history, there have been a lot of women who have participated in the development of psychology as a scientific discipline. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, economic and social change in America, produced an increase in the number of women who could access to the University.

The interest on the participation of women in scientific research in psychology has been increasing in recent years giving rise to many works, some of which allow to know the evolution of scientific production.

In this work, in order to measure the research activity, in terms of quantity and quality, we have analyzed the number of publications (productivity) and the citations that those works receive (visibility), with the main objective of examining the contribution of women during the period 2013-2017 from the papers published in the journal Psychology of Women Quarterly. In this way, the hypothesis established was that there are no differences in scientific production between women and men.

Method: To carry out the study, the Scopus database was used and then the papers published in the journal Psychology of Women Quarterly between 2013 and 2017, were selected. Then, a database was made in Mendeley with the scientific articles found. After that, each of the signatures of the articles were analyzed in order to find out how many of these items were signed by men and women and which was the position of their signatures.

Results: From 2013 to 2017, 198 papers were published in the journal Psychology of Women Quarterly (PWQ), being 41 in 2013; 39 in 2014; 54 in 2015; 32 in 2016 and 33 in 2017. These papers were written by 528 different authors, being 442 women and 84 men. The number of signatures were 618, being 520 female signatures and 96 male signatures. After the analysis of the number of signatures, can be observed that the percentage of female signatures is almost six times higher than men ones. In order to know that there are no differences in scientific production according to gender, chi-square test was applied taking into account, the number of male and female observed signatures in relation to the expected frequencies. Results show that hypothesis can be rejected stating that the difference in the number of male and female signatures in the journal Psychology of Women Quarterly is statistically significant.

Moreover, the number of first signatures in each year analyzed showed that there are more first signatures by women compared to men, reflecting the recent incorporation of women in psychological research.

On the other hand, Hirsch index has also been analyzed showing that there are no differences between men and women in the number of citations received in their scientific contributions, although it should be noted that the most cited author is a woman, with a Hirsch index of 53.

Discussion: Results showed that women production in this journal is clearly higher than men's one. However, the bibliography found, show that although women predominate in Psychology, professionally and academically, they publish less scientific articles and sign in less relevant positions compared to men indicating that women production is lower than men's one.

Conclusion: Nowadays, it is essential to publicise the contributions of women in the development of psychology to advance on the path towards gender equality. The results of this study, constitute an approach to know the state of the feminine scientific production in this magazine. However, two aspects should be considered:

- This work has focused on the journal Psychology of Women Quarterly, a feminist journal, so as shown results, most articles have been signed by women, maybe because of the type of the journal.
- The period of time chosen is very short and only a part of the scientific production is analyzed, so in order to establish more consistent results it would be advisable to carry out more comprehensive and exhaustive analysis.

In conclusion, this results could not be generalized to the reality of the psychological research of the USA because more studies would be necessary. In future research, other type of journals should be considered including those that are not from the same field of study.