

On The Situation of Women Statistician in Argentine

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We intend. to continue with the reflections of the Local Group in Argentina, the purpose of which was the Characterization of the WS within the framework of the ISI's project "A characterization of Statisticians by Gender in Several Countries" of the ISI - Committee on Women in Statistics."

Our reflections may share aspects with the situation in other countries. We hope that this presentation would render some contribution or added value to the topic we are concerned with.

The status of women in the statistical profession in Argentina is very special given their high participation. However, not many women had access to management and leadership levels.

The general current situation of women in Argentina may be summarized quoting the following paragraph of the work "Women Status in Argentina"- INDEC and UNICEF -2000-:There are presently, however, inequalities in relation to sex specially expressed in the lack of interaction between the educational achievements obtained by women and quality of their insertion in the labor market, both as positions of management and to sectors the activities of which were traditionally performed by men. Additionally, in most women the working activity is extended to their home environment, in other words, the so called "double working session"

Back to the WS environment we shall consider some aspects dealing with the development and performance of statistical profession in our country nowadays:

1. In our former report we stated that the career Statistics at the National University of Rosario (in the National University of Litoral), created in 1948 was the most important producer of professionals of this discipline in our country, exceeding (until 1999) 800 graduates approximately, where the percentage of women is 81%. During the 70's there was the Doctorate in Statistics, with a small number of graduates and a composition of about 50% per sex. Now this postgraduate is no longer in force. By the middle of 2000 the National University of Rosario started the Magister in Statistics project.
2. These achievements of women in the educational arena do not correspond to the quality of their insertion in the working market; first of all, because not all the graduates have an active participation therein, and secondly, because of the position achieved by most of them. On the other hand, the training in Statistics did not expand like other traditional and non traditional disciplines. Therefore, there were other careers working on this tertiary and university levels, both managed by the postgraduates at the Buenos Aires (UBA) and Tucuman Universities. It should be noticed that the postgraduate course at the UBA is recent, but at the University of Tucumán dates back to 1948, where some men graduated, and they are now performing relevant positions internationally.

3. In general the statistics career in our country did not managed to insert itself “in its specialty” strongly, and made room to other disciplines such as sociology, informatics, economic sciences and statistical production and spreading in the official environment.
4. The alter subject, given its implicancies and extension should be deal with alone. It would not be feasible to introduce it in detail because the information about the number of professionals is scarce.
5. Moreover, there are difficulties to determine accurately the populations devoted to each activity in statistics. For instance, how to establish that a profesional (in statistics or other disciplines) is basically devoted to the statistical activity. this was discussed in the LG’s report regarding the elaboration of the indicators which would characterize the WS (About Women Statisticians: A characterization of Statisticians by Gender en Several Countries, in Helsinki).
6. Please note that the difficulties (as per item 6) in different degrees, were also suffered by the countries indicated on the above mentioned report.
7. So far, this analysis is based on tasks regarding the applied Statistics. In the field of research there is no sufficient information, but in this sense, there is not in Argentina, in generals terms, a solid support to develop it, reaching of course Statistics.
8. Considering once more sex in this subject we state that the proportion of women involved in Statistics in Argentina is grater than men’s, but in general they do not achieve the highest rankings.
Isn’t Statistics a prime rate profession? Perhaps
Being scarcely profitable, wouldn’t that be the reason why not many men choose it? May be too
Is it one of so called independent professions? No
Other non statistical professionals may exercise it? According to the experience, yes, but no level indication was made.
9. It will be necessary to work on the possible actions to facilitate the development of the statistical professionals position in the country, where the strengthening of their training is a priority.

It should be noted however, that the proportion of the Argentine women who had access to the ISI and its sections exceeds men’s, means to say, two out of three members are women. This information correspond to the total members of ISI and its sections, excluded the IASE.

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