



Women's role in the Engineering career: situation in the XXI century

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There is no doubt that women education and attendance to university have facilitated their access to almost all the working sectors. At the same time, it has point out a break point between the traditional scenario and the actual reality, how achievements have been obtained thanks to day by day fight, little steps and advances give impulse to women to a full participation in the working area, diversifying her role in different fields and occupying in work market different roles that recently were exclusive for men. For example: army, truck drivers, miners and airplane pilots among others.

However, not everything are lights in this reflection with an optimistic touch, there are shadows too, opposition, obstacles, impediments and difficulties in the society or in women herself that have to be avoided when they incorporate in different labour markets. The difficulties that women have been overcome and the gender inequality that still can be found, even in occidental societies, are something that concerns to all of us. We believe that it is necessary centuries to overcome certain aspects that, in some way, are impregnated in the society, life style, rules of conduct, culture, or simply learned by the people that are really difficult not only to elude them as to avoid them. Throughout this work some examples will be shown that corroborate this comment.

This subject is wide, complex and difficult. For this reason, we will put a limit on it and we will focus on the Spanish society as a part of the western advanced societies. With regard to the working area, we will delimited this study to the engineering careers showing some allusive numbers, actual university studies in this field and related them to earlier decades. In this way, a comparative analysis on the evolution of this scenario can be established. There are many papers and manuscripts that talk about different aspects in female success, such as women in sport, highly gifted and women, etc. For this reason we are going to centre our work on engineering at different places: corporations, institutions, etc where women play a role in the work market.

Although it is not easy "gender roles" change if the internal structure and perception of the society, people's descriptive believes or the respective societies that support it don't do it, it has a certain relation with the stereotypes and prejudices. The origin of the preconceived opinion against women holding certain roles that traditionally were for males are found in the inconsistency perception among the characteristics requires for that role and the well assimilated believes about how are women.

In this work, we will show some data related with women performance in different studies and different work markets in which there is an evident quantitative difference between men and women.