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Scientific Publication By Teachers Who Make Up The Thesis Judging Jury At A Peruvian Faculty Of Health Sciences

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ABSTRACT

Given the problems of scientific production in health in Peru and the limited contribution of publications by teachers and students from the undergraduate level, the objective was to determine the frequency of publication of scientific articles by teachers who participated as a judging jury. thesis in a Faculty of Health Sciences of a private university in Peru. For this, an observational, descriptive and cross-sectional study was carried out in a population made up of 131 teachers who evaluated theses approved in the period 2015-2018. The search for articles was carried out in Google Scholar and the Scopus database. It was found that only 17.6% had any publication. Of this group, 9.2% did so in the last 5 years. Likewise, 6.9% achieved publications indexed in Scopus and 3 teachers demonstrated certification as researchers by the National Council of Science, Technology and Technological Innovation of Peru. It is concluded that the publication rate of teachers who evaluated thesis in a Faculty of Health Sciences in Peru is low and worrying.

Keywords: Database; academic thesis; electronic publications

INTRODUCTION

The exercise of scientific research in health is fundamental for the development of science. Therefore, research in this field involves a process based on the scientific

method that seeks to obtain systematized knowledge, which allows developing technologies, designing health policies and strategies, as well as generating evidence to solve scientifically based questions in order to care for well-being. of humanity. In this way, it is possible to obtain new knowledge and make it accessible, and promote the search for solutions to community problems in order to improve people's quality of life. In this sense, the situation of scientific production in health in Latin America is of interest and also a cause for concern, [1,2,3,4,5] especially in Peru, where the opinion of some researchers about how much there is to do and change in research in the field of health, gained relevance since 2015. [6,7,8] In this regard, several studies, when analyzing scientific production on health sciences, and especially some published in SCOPUS, [7,8,9,10] reported a scarce production of scientific knowledge in this area, although a recent study revealed that the situation has been showing some improvements, but based on the institutional licensing process of Peruvian universities, which seeks to ensure basic conditions of quality. [eleven]

In this context, Health Sciences faculties are one of the settings that promote health research in the world. This impulse is given through one of the most traditional means of research, such as graduate theses, considered as an opportunity for the student from the moment he enters the university to venture into the field of health research. [8,12] In this way, the support of the ideas and the finding of the thesis study falls to the judging jury, which verifies its quality and issues a judgment on the final version of the written document. However, the scientific production of the members of the judging jury is unknown, a situation that does not allow us to assess the work they have been doing, despite the guiding value they have with respect to the final version of the thesis.

That is why the present research aimed to determine the frequency of publication of scientific articles by teachers who participated as a thesis judging jury in a Faculty of Health Sciences of a private university in Peru. during the period 2015 - 2018.

METHODS

An observational, descriptive and cross-sectional study was carried out. 131 teachers were included who participated as a referee and later as a jury evaluator in the support of thesis that were approved in the period 2015 - 2018, in a Faculty of Health Sciences of a Private University of Peru. The identification of this group arose after reviewing 352 theses from the institution's digital repository, where 98 Nursing teachers, 219 Psychology teachers and 35 Nutrition teachers were found. In the case of the School of Medicine, as it only has files corresponding to the year 2019, it was not included in the search.

Variables such as gender (male and female), age (taken as quantitative), academic degree (graduate, master's degree or doctor), employment relationship (full or part-time dedication), research teacher (whether certified or not) were taken into account. ; and as the main variable scientific publications (also taken as quantitative), which were measured using a data collection form validated by three research professors with experience in scientific publication.

To identify the academic degree, the employment relationship and the category of research teacher, a search was carried out in the registry of degrees and titles of the portal of the National Superintendence of Higher University Education (SUNEDU), and in the National Registry of Researchers in Science and Technology (REGINA) of the National Council of Science, Technology and Innovation (CONCYTEC).

To identify the scientific production, a bibliographic search was carried out in the SCOPUS database and the Google Scholar search engine, for which combinations of names and surnames were used, adding Peru in each of the databases: " Lastname1-Lastname2" Peru; "First name1 Last name1" Peru; "First name First name2 Last name1" Peru. The number of publications during his career and publications in the last 5 years were taken into account.

Regarding ethical aspects, this research maintains the confidentiality of the data and the consent of the participants. Finally, the data were processed in an Excel matrix, which was built on the basis of the scores assigned in the case of categorical variables and the direct scores for quantitative variables; They were then transferred to SPSS 22.0 software for their respective analysis.

RESULTS

When analyzing the distribution of the population, the participation of female teachers was found to be in greater proportion (75.6%), who in greater numbers belong to the professional school of Psychology (38.1%). On the other hand, in terms of their academic training, a large number show that they only have a professional degree (38.9%), and their connection with the institution is full-time (47.3%). Finally, only 2.3% have certification as researchers from CONCYTEC of Peru.

Regarding scientific publication, it was identified that 17.6% had the experience at some point in their lives. Of this group, 9.2% continued to make contributions in the last 5 years. However, of the total number of teachers with scientific production, only 6.9% managed to publish in journals indexed in the SCOPUS database (table).

Table Characteristics and scientific production of the judging jury of theses approved in the period 2015 - 2018, from a Peruvian Faculty of Health Sciences

Variable		**Frequency**	**Percentage**
School	Psychology	fifty	38.2
	Nursing	Four. Five	34.4
	Nutrition	36	27.5
Sex	Male	32	24.4
	Female	99	75.6
Academic degree	Graduate	51	38.9
	Master	62	47.3
	Doctor	18	13.7
Employment relationship	Complete	62	47.3
	Partial	69	52.7
Did you ever publish?	Yeah	23	17.6
	No	108	82.4
Have you published in the last 5 years	Yeah	12	9.2
	No	119	90.8
Did you publish in SCOPUS?	Yeah	9	6.9
	No	122	93.1
Are you a research teacher?	Yeah	3	23
	No	128	97.7

DISCUSSION

The present study shows that more than half of the teachers who evaluated thesis in a Peruvian Faculty of Health Sciences were women. This finding implies that a

greater participation of these professionals, as well as the greater proportion of full-time teachers with the same responsibility, would be reflecting the dynamics and processes of formative research, which generally assign responsibility for the assessment of degree work to teachers. with full-time dedication in the school where they are assigned.

Regarding scientific publication, the findings reveal a trend towards low percentages, which can be interpreted as low scientific production by the judging jury, who is responsible for evaluating and guiding the degree works so that they demonstrate scientific rigor and quality. methodological. The fact that this special group of teachers, for the most part, has not published a scientific article at some point in their lives, and furthermore, that there are a few who managed to do so in journals indexed in SCOPUS, could impact the quality of the theses issued by students. This is because it is expected that the research promoted in the undergraduate degree will not only achieve the approval of the work on the day of support, but also have the capacity to be disseminated in specialized scientific journals, which is par excellence the medium where the results of the research are communicated.

These findings corroborate what was stated by similar research reported in the Peruvian scientific literature. For example, in the province, the study carried out by *Chachaima-Mar , Fernández-Guzmán* and *Atamari-Anahui* , [10] found low production by medical teachers at a state university in Cusco. Specifically, 57.8% of a total of 90 had never published in a scientific journal, and of the group that did manage to do so, only 7% were published in journals indexed in SCOPUS. In another instance, such as the capital Lima, although with a smaller population, *Alarcón-Ruiz* and *Quezada* , [9] concluded that the production of 19

thesis advisors from a Faculty of Medicine of a private university in Lima was also low. In this case, 63% had ever published, but only 16% in journals in the SCOPUS database. On the other hand, in the field of Psychology, *Mamani* [13] found a very low production of Psychology thesis advisors at a private university in Lima, including its two campuses, in Juliaca and Tarapoto; that of a total of 37 advisors, 73% never published in a scientific journal.

The fact that professors in charge of advising degree projects, as well as those who are responsible for their evaluation, do not demonstrate scientific publications, beyond revealing a deficit of competencies, would be revealing the deficiencies in the Peruvian university system, and on the other hand , the institutional weaknesses on the part of the universities; a reality that has become visible in Peru due to the latest events related to institutional licensing, where all Peruvian universities have to demonstrate basic quality conditions. One of them, and of fundamental nature, is the management of research for scientific production.

It is concluded that the publication of scientific articles by teachers who participate as a thesis judging jury is low, therefore, there is still much to do in the field of research processes and teaching in the Peruvian university context. , in order to increase scientific evidence of quality in health professionals.

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