

One glance in the history of the role of women in Statistics investigation

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When making a historical review, a large number of mathematics women prior to the twentieth century have not been considered by social barriers and culturally imposed, among which we can specify: negative attitudes not only about their scientific talent but also about the usefulness of mathematics for them, difficulties in obtaining a mathematical education and lack of support and understanding to relieve women of daily tasks.

However we can highlight: Aglaonike, Hypatia, Chatelet, Germain, Lovelace, Nightingale, among others.

Hypatia is considered the first mathematician woman. She was trained both physically and mentally and she achieved popularity because of her investigations; Aglaonike was known as the first astronomer of Western history, she investigated about some celestial phenomena as eclipses. Chatelet was a great scholar of Newton and Leibniz. She maintained constant contact with the most prestigious mathematicians as Bernoulli, Maupertuis and Clairaut, and was one of the pioneers in sketching probability ideas.

Germain studied mathematics alone. At 18, she got some notes of Lagrange and, fearing that he despise her ideas as a woman, she sent her comments signed with the male pseudonym AA Leblanc. Lagrange acknowledged her comments and then she disclosed her identity being recognized by him and introduced in scientific gatherings. Something similar happened with Gauss with whom she corresponded for years hiding his condition under the same pseudonym. Ada Lovelace dedicated his short life to the promotion and defense of Charles Babbage, inventor of the Analytical Engine (origin of modern computers, which used punched cards and could be as scheduled and endowed with the ability to memorize). She also worked with De Morgan and Babbage in probability theory. Florence Nightingale, nurse for years in hospitals in war, was the great statistician applied to medical needs. Her studies led, in the mid-nineteenth century, establish a scientific evaluation system mortality rates. She worked with Quetelet, and was a tireless fighter for dignifying the role of applied mathematics. One of her niece, continued her footsteps, founded the Department of Biostatistics at the University of California and made a recall campaign of passionate statistical woman image.

In this paper I will mention not only the role of these women, but also another statistical women on the history, and their contribution to Statistics., doing great investigations to stand out the role of them in this area.

Review, social barriers, relieve, stand out