

# **Women Scientist in the Academia: The Case of the University of the Philippines Diliman**

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## **Summary**

The field of Science and Technology is considered a traditional field for men. Understanding the situation of women scientists in the academia will be helpful in crafting policies and programs for equal access and opportunities, and to push for diversity in teaching in the field of Science and Technology.

## **1. Relevance**

In a study entitled "Women in Science and Technology in Asia,"<sup>1</sup> the Philippines had a better scenario compared to other Asian countries when it comes to the situation of women in science and technology. However, some of their findings reveal that social situations such as traditional roles as one of the reasons why women are discouraged to continue their career in the sciences. In general, women scientists are "under-represented, paid and promoted less, win fewer grants and are more likely to leave the research field than equally qualified men."

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the paper is to study the situation of women scientists in the Philippines, specifically in the University of the Philippines Diliman (UP Diliman). In particular, it aims to 1) Describe the situation of women in the Science and Technology in terms of employment, family dynamics and challenges encountered and 2) Describe the situation of women faculty in the College of Science, UP Diliman.

## **3. Methods**

The methodology of the research is qualitative. Data gathering was done through a review of secondary sources and key-informant interviews with three faculty of the College of Science, UP Diliman.

## **4. Results**

Interviews conducted showed that women scientists perceive that opportunities for women and men in the academe are equal. The problem lies when doing fieldwork or laboratory experiment because the physiological and biological needs and characteristics of women is a big challenge. For instance, women need comfort room during fieldwork, how menstruation can prevent a marine scientist from going into fieldwork and how pregnancy hindered the attainment of a post-graduate diploma. In addition, women scientist still performed traditional roles in the house directly or indirectly (by managing the maids).

## **5. Conclusions**

My research study will try to address the gap in terms of research on the situation of women scientists, thus my participation in the Gender Summit will provide a venue on an international level to discuss the situation, share and learn from my co-participants and resource speakers on the various issues in the field of gender, science and technology. Aside from exchanges, it will also be an opportunity to meet new people and form linkages and networks among women and gender advocates.

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<sup>1</sup> The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA). *Women in Science and Technology in Asia* (<http://www.interacademies.net/File.aspx?id=28016>). 2015