
THE PURPOSES OF A SCIENCE JOURNAL

Since its beginnings, in 1976, the *Interciencia* journal has declared to be dedicated to stimulating scientific and technological research, to its humane use and to the study of the context in which scientific and technological developments occur in our region, as well as encouraging communication among the scientific and technological communities of the Americas. As the publication of the Interciencia Association, it has adopted the goals of this organization, which pursues to unite the scientific communities of the Americas and to promote the cooperative use of science, technology and innovation for the regional and national development. The development of our countries and the wellbeing of our people were ranked in the first place from the beginning.

In the early years of the journal the thematic priorities that were declared and favored by its founders were notable in the contents and there were numerous papers invited by the editorial body, but with the passage of time the nature of the manuscripts submitted for publication by the researchers has slowly given form to the contents of the journal. In the last years the works received and published, after the respective peer review, are more numerous in disciplines included among the social sciences than those that predominated in other times, as were environment, agrosociences and ecology.

In view of such changes one can ask: What is more conducive to the development of our countries and the wellbeing of our people? Is it the knowledge we have about the handling of pests that affect plants that, as in the case of tomato, for instance, have an important role in feeding the population and an immense participation in the economy? or, Is it the manner in which the local written press affects immigrants or suicide ideation in adolescents, to cite two examples from the contents of the current issue of the journal?

The answers that can be given to these questions will depend upon the approach of the giver. In a holistic approach to science, that would give relevance to all the

elements and fields that correspond to it, the studies in all those themes are important for development and the wellbeing of people. Social scientists and practitioners of the natural or “hard” sciences will think that their fields have more influence and should therefore have a larger exposure. The truth is that the cultivation of both fields is currently important in order to reach advantageous positions and succeed in being competitive in the knowledge society.

What is clear to everybody is that nowadays the possession and ability to apply knowledge is what defines the possibility of a given society to progress and achieve its development and the wellbeing of its members. But it is necessary that such knowledge be generated and absorbed, and to this end education becomes the most important of all the ingredients. Universities have a capital role in the generation and transmission of knowledge, while primary and secondary schools have the responsibility of training the youth so as to eventually be able to grasp, generate and transmit such knowledge.

The difficulties faced to achieve the publication of *Interciencia* in recent years have resulted in the fact that the contents of the journal become in time more dependent on the demand for publication by the researchers. The latter, in turn, has a lot to do with the availability in the region of appropriate media for the publication of their research and studies. On the other hand, the imminent perspective of extinction or change of editor are good reasons to examine its purposes and adjust its reach.

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