Presentation

Undergraduate research training: an issue that should be reviewed under the logic proposed by the new era of knowledge

Ph.D, Juan Diego Betancur Arias

Currently we are immersed in the logics of knowledge management, technology, social production, information, among others, which highlight the intervention of human beings as facilitators of these developments, thanks to their ability to create and evolve over time because, after all, the human being is the only one endowed cerebrally to perform permutations at all levels and advance in the process of evolutionary transformation.

However, even knowing that we are immersed in these logics of management, we are still faced with a very serious problem; it is the indolence, apathy, anhedonia, violence, demotivation and neglect of the higher education students towards research and its processes, to which attention must be paid in order to generate strategies that help mitigate or solve their problems.

Today, in the so-called informational society or knowledge economy, one of the quality factors of higher education is undoubtedly the link that can be established between teaching, research and extension.... (Puerta Lopera, 2012)
One of the substantive functions of the university is research, which seeks to generate explanations, understandings and analysis of objects of study or problems of any order that are still unresolved and that need to be developed by means of investigative methods, in order to generate the social responses required to continue advancing in the experiential plane. In parallel, within its substantive functions, the university also has teaching and with it, the commitment to train professionals with adequate skills to provide solutions to the different projects entrusted to them in any context that requires it. It undoubtedly requires research; it is unimaginable teaching without being supported by serious research processes or without, at least, research for its development. In this way, research is the backbone of the academy, without it we could not build what we call University.

However, students of higher education have not been able to correspond to the cultural changes, especially those that derive from research processes in the strict sense. This situation is unavoidable in the basic theoretical research courses that allow to develop the most elementary competences to prepare the research, since students do not show affinity or liking for it; they continue perceiving research as a subject that is not part of their lives, which leads them to ignore all the possibilities and opportunities that research training brings for a professional.

In addition, the importance of research training has not yet been assimilated by higher education students viewing the construction of professionals with a sensitive, critical, analytical and reflective view. Thus, research competencies that the curriculum establishes within any higher education training program seem to be useless competences or, in their absence, an annoyance for those that are being formed in the logic of scientific knowledge and high academia.

University students have not been able to generate an amalgam between the social reality and the diverse ways of offering complex solutions to situations that merit the intervention of research to find alternatives. This would allow the student to notice the usefulness and awareness of the importance of research processes for an everyday life situation, as well as of the effective solutions that this brings to social problems, referring in most cases to a multifactorial explanation, not a single cause.

However, there are exceptions among those who do notice and preponderate research in their training and execution processes, it is the case of students who have worked to disseminate their thoughts in this issue of the journal; who with great effort, and under the guidance of their teachers have managed to generate educational research products that serve the entire academic community.

The initiative of these students is a clear example for others to begin to contemplate the research activity as an alternative that will enable them to generate different views to the rest of students and professionals who still do not consider research as a rigorous, wise and logical process to give answers to the demands of culture and all its processes. It is the opportunity to demonstrate that research is the only one that allows a serious, valid and reliable look at any phenomenon.

For these reasons, the head of the Funlam journal of students’ research, decides to dedicate the editorial of this issue to the formative research in the undergraduate. On this occasion, the text is written by Dr. Jorge Iván Correa Alzate, Director of the Research Group Senderos Pedagógicos and Coordinator of the Master’s Degree in Education of Tecnológico de Antioquia Institución Universitaria. The text is focused on the recognition of the importance of research in undergraduate training and provides clear reasons for the
need for students of higher education to approach it with all the willingness and motivation since, if not thus, they will be decontextualized professionals of the reality in which we live and will hardly be able to create solutions to the phenomena or problems that merit a professional look and intervention.

In this sense, this issue also wants to highlight a social phenomenon of great relevance at present, it is sexual violence of gender, a scourge that has been growing considerably in recent times in our culture, and whose intervention through research could be relevant and productive, allowing to analyze the factors that mobilize the human being to have this type of behavior deviated from the social norm and, in this way, provide solutions that succeed in reducing this type of behavior characteristic of an immature brain or with important alterations in its operation. As it is customary in each issue of the magazine, there is a collection of photographs taken by José Antonio Jiménez Jaramillo, Jhonny León Madrid Imbachi and Arbey David Zuluaga Yarce, that illustrate very well the current panorama of sexual violence, both in men and women.

It is important to highlight that the journal has a free theme for the reception of the manuscripts, that is, the articles are not restricted to one area of knowledge, on the contrary, it is an open publication and for each number there will be photographs that will illustrate the content of the publication. Although the editorial and the collection of photographs do not cross the same line of the number, if there is an article that coincides coherently with the images that will illustrate the content of the publication, it is the article “Social representations about sexual violence built by the students and teachers of Luis Amigó Catholic University “, written by the psychology students Yuliana Andrea Vahos Henao, Jairo David Garces, Yesmi Lorena González, Omaira Zapata Bedoya and the teacher Heidy Pulido Varón.

Next, there is the article “How virtual learning environments transform learning scenarios; understanding technology integration “; first manuscript to be published entirely in English and was written by the students Dayan Noraime del Castillo Caraballo, Sebastián Flórez Montaño and the tutor Gloria Lucia Arboleda González from the hotbed SECI-Mediaciones. Currently, students are in the seventh semester of the degree in Foreign Languages with an emphasis in English. Disseminating the text in English is part of the journal’s priorities for internationalizing its contents.

Similarly, the article “Internship in Chile: an extension of knowledge and expertise about early childhood education” of Daniela Muñoz Restrepo and Xiodanny Vásquez Holguín, It will be the first text to be published of students foreign to the Luis Amigó Catholic University, this time the work was carried out by two students of the Master of Education of the Tecnológico de Antioquia Institución Universitaria in the framework of an international internship.

Then, two articles are part of the Administrative, Economic and Accounting Sciences Faculty, named: “Analysis of the liquidity cycle, cash cycle and net operating working capital at the Marco Fidel Suárez Hospital in Bello “, written by the students Daniela Cardona Gómez and Juliana Andrea Cano Atehortua from the research hotbed Comunidad Investigativa de Estudiantes de Contaduría Amigonianos. And the article “Corporate social responsibility in the urban public transportation companies of the Valle de Aburra metropolitan area”, prepared by Henry Alberto Marín Naranjo, student of the Solidarity Social Entrepreneurship hotbed, assigned to the Ecosol group of the Luis Amigó Catholic University.

In addition, the student Santiago Naranjo Ramírez, eighth semester of professional Gastronomy, will be the first of the program to contribute an article to the editorial project; his text is constructed from the problem: “Influence of Catholic church in Antioquia’s gastronomy “. On the other hand, the Faculty of Education and Humanities contributes two texts to the current number: the first of them has to do
with the “Pillars of early education as mediators for learning” written by Laura Marcela Córdoba Garcés, Pamela Isabel Hernández Monsalve, Catalina Palacio Chavarriaga and Jenifer Alejandra Tobón Moreno. The Psychology Program of the Faculty of Psychology and Social Sciences proposes several works; the first of them entitled “Memory, subjectivity and means of communication in the armed conflict of Colombia”; the second called “Between theory and reality: A reflexive review on the intervention processes of children with defiant negativist disorder” written by Luz Adriana Triana Osorio; the third “Perceptions of teachers towards functional diversity” written by Juan Diego García Vásquez, Marínela Piedrahita Callejas, Andrés Felipe López Fernández and Sandra Isabel Mejía Zapata; and the fourth text that has already been indicated at the beginning of the presentation. The contributions were elaborated by students in their last semesters.

The student Diego Alejandro Pérez Múnera of the Diplomado in Theology, Pastoral and Missionary Spirituality of the Pontifical Mission Societies of Colombia and the Pontifical Urban University of Rome, contributed with the text “On the path of mercy, a near, joyful and outgoing God”. The writer fulfills administrative functions with the Luis Amigo Catholic University, which shows how the administrative authorities of the Institution are generating contributions to the editorial project.

Finally, students of law and psychology Santiago Hurtado Mira and Estefanía Escobar Bedoya, offer the current issue an article entitled: “The incidence of psychological expertise in the judicial decision”, important text for all the multidisciplinary work done by Law with other areas.

Finally, I express special thanks to all the people who allowed the current issue of the magazine to be built based on good practices for the dissemination of academic texts proposed by the high academia, which have to do with the rigor, ethics and social relevance of the research exercises that made possible the construction of the manuscripts. We hope that the current number will be useful to strengthen the research culture among the different actors that make up the University. This is the appropriate space to congratulate the students and teachers who decided to translate their thoughts to be socialized in the academic community.