



THE PROCESS OF INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Were women initially excluded, prohibited from participating or not included in the Ancient Olympic Games? What about in the Modern Games?
- Which barriers did women have to overcome?
- How did then women take part in the Games? Were they admitted, allowed, given permission, helped or did they struggle to be included?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do the Minutes of the IOC Sessions, other official documents and the specialized literature reflect the historically developed process of women's participation and inclusion in the Olympic Games both as athletes and as administrators?

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

- Important tool for people to appreciate and understand the events, forces and processes that have shaped women's lives and self-image
- Important not only to avoid the mistakes made in the past but also to help understand the forces, movements and tendencies which were present in that context
- Comprehension of the conditions which have limited those accomplishments so that a greater sense of will, determination and aspiration will be stimulated in girls and women to shape their own future

STATE OF THE ART

- Little research in the area
- Few and incomplete studies about the inclusion of women in the OG
- No studies done on the Minutes of the IOC Sessions and Executive Board Meetings in relation to the participation of women in the OG

METHODS

- The historical method of research was used to gather, and analyze materials.
- Essential primary sources available only at the Olympic Studies Center (OSC) located at the Olympic Museum, in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Use of secondary sources

RESULTS

- There were no documents prohibiting women from participating in the OG
- Women had to overcome prejudice and discrimination
- It was possible to observe how the IOC developed strategies to prevent women from participating in the OG

NEXT STAGES

- How did women come to participate in the administrative area and other positions of power? (Lausanne, 2006)
- Who were the American women in Athens for a 'special' marathon in 1896? Who were the other women who participated in the 1906 Athens OG?
- Were there any other women who participated in the 1904 Saint Louis OG?