



LEARN IT

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LEARNIT – WOMEN IN IT



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Background

- 1. What is/was your parent's or other important family member's vocation? How many brothers/sisters do you have? Are they older/younger than you?**

I would say that my parents did not have any vocation, they did not have any opportunity. What they did, and they did it very well was to get ahead their family. They had a store. I've got a sister. She is older than me.

- 2. Where did you spend most of your time when growing up? What kind of area was this – city, town, rural, etc?**

Until I was 18 I lived in a very small town of about 100 inhabitants, called A Veiga of Cascallá, belonging to the Town Council of Rubiá, province of Ourense, in Galicia. My first years of study were in the state school of Rubiá, and my secondary school was in O Barco de Valdeorras, province of Ourense.



- 3. How did you spend your leisure time?**

I spent my free time playing with other boys and girls of my age in my village, and helping my parents with the store, and also my grandparents.

- 4. Did your parents or other important persons express an opinion about how a good/perfect girl has to be (clever, sweet, wild, pretty, shy, etc...)?**

I do not remember such a thing, what I do remember is that they always told me that I had to study hard.

- 5. What gender was your closest friend when growing up? Did this person/ these people express opinions about how a cool/perfect girl has to be?**

I do not remember a special friend, but a group of people, boys and girls. In fact, we shared games for boys; although there were games for girls like the rubber band or the skipping rope, but in general we shared games, like for example the marbles.

- 6. What kind of occupational careers did your friends take?**

There is a little of all: some people studied and have technical careers, like engineers, some have a degree in philology. There are also many others who did not study, those are mainly friends from primary school.

- 7. Did you have role models you wanted to follow? If so who were they and what were their characteristics that you wanted to follow?**

I remember no model to which I paid attention, but I do remember a period when I wanted to be a doctor, another period when I wanted to be a lawyer or a teacher, but I did not have any particular model. Anyway, what it is noticeable is that I studied Physics because of the effort and the encouragement of my teachers from the secondary school.

Actual vocational situation

1. What are your earliest memories on deciding about the job you now have?

It was something completely circumstantial, I never thought that I was going to work in this world, I have a degree in Physics and it took me quite a lot of time and work to get my degree, and I thought that my professional life was going to be another one.

2. Who or what were the initial triggers?

It was due to a series of circumstances. A friend of my sister was going to create a company and he needed someone, I spoke with him. I still had to pass a couple of subjects to finish my degree, and although I did not have a lot of knowledge about the Internet and ICT, I finally made up my mind and I began to work.

3. How did the decision evolve?

The important things in these matters are decisions and also who you find along the way. Camilo and Antonio, the ones who created the company, helped me to make my way through, I own to them a lot of things.



4. What aspects of ICT do you find particularly appealing?

I believe that the mobile phone system is the future, and we are thinking about carrying out some type of application or program. Also the development of free software, everything that has to do with the models of business, although for that Public administration support is needed, as it happens in other places. And the application of the voice technologies to the Internet.

5. Do you work in a team or alone?

I absolutely work in a team.

6. What do you do in your job?

I do many tasks in the company, because this is a very small company of six persons, and I have to do, among others things, sometimes a project, sometimes trimming photos, or doing the presentation of a project. If we have a course, I'm many times responsible for the teaching, because it is important for the company and for myself, I also do administrative tasks, all the management, because although it is outsourced, I also have to control the invoices, the expenses, the relations with banks, and many other activities.

7. What does one of your typical work-days look like?

There is not a typical working day. It is true that when I arrive I read the newspaper and later the e-mails, then I organize my work, plan the things that I have to do, because they are usually a lot and I have to establish an organization of the activities and give priority to them.

8. What aspects of your job do you like the most and the least?

I quite like coming to work, but I am also regularizing my periods of time, now I do it a lot better, last year we had many peaks of work and besides I did a postgraduate course, so I did not have any time for me, what produced to me more and more stress. My friends never met me" she is vanished", that's why I say that I like a lot my work but I know that it takes up a lot of my time.

Supporting/Impeding factors

1. Could you please describe your vocational career?

I work in a company called DIMENSIONA since it was created, at the beginning I only worked part-time, doing project proposals, programming software and budgets, I had some problems to continue in this sector, but at the end I made up my mind, leaving my other occupations to bet on the company. I occupy my current managerial position since three years.

2. What factors and people supported you in your career choice and development?

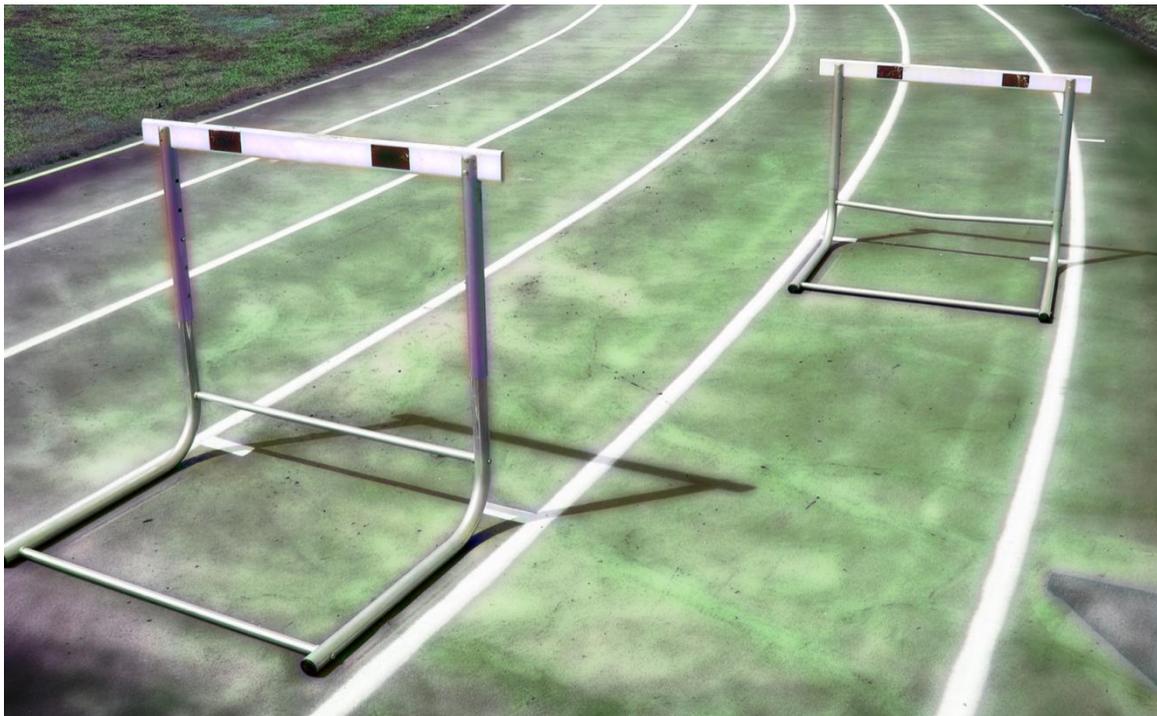
My sister, my parents, above all my sister.

3. What factors and people hindered you in your career choice and development? How did you overcome them?

There were many factors, among others the economic one, also my situation at the beginning, I did not think about doing this, I did not have it clear. There were no particular persons. However it is true that women have more difficulties, reality is more complicated for us, for example, if a woman and a man go to a meeting, people always think that the project manager is the man.

4. Why did you choose this job/these jobs?

As I said before, it was circumstantial.



The private person

1. How do you spend your time off?

The only hobby I have is to read books. If I did not have my current work, I always think that I would have a bookshop, or maybe a publishing house, because it would allow me to decide which books would be published in that editorial or which ones not, I also like traveling, although I do it less than I would like to, and going out with friends.

2. Do you have children? If so what gender/age?

No, but I have two small nephews that take up quite a lot of time of my life at present.

3. Is your spare time influenced by your job? If so how?

It is completely influenced. I am recovering my time at present, but last year I only worked and did some training, I could not even read. This is so because I have chosen priorities and my work is in the first place and then my personal life.

4. What are your main interests besides your job? Do you have any hobbies?

I read books of different styles.

5. In brief, how would you describe yourself as a person? Serious, thoughtful, friendly?

I believe that I am a good worker. I try to be organized but I do not always achieve it. I believe I am maverick, a little bit whining.



Advice for others

1. **Would you encourage other women to work as IT specialists? Why? How would you encourage them?**

I would encourage them to learn, to have knowledge. Training provides information and allows you to choose. Without training one is not free to decide what he/she wants or does not want to do. If you have the formation you have the key to decide if you want to work with ICT or to do any other thing (teacher, pilot of airplane...). It is true that ICT are everywhere in our lives, what has produced a greater knowledge, and what has also led to more women working in these jobs. The way through is not easy, in many fields women have more charges than men: when a woman has children, her situation completely changes, when a woman is 30 years old, and she is going to look for a job, they ask her if she thinks to have children soon or not.



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