

ACTION RESEARCH TO IMPROVE TEACHING PRACTICE IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CLASSROOMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN. A LITERATURE REVIEW.

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Action Research (AR) has taken center stage as a research method that allows problematize, act and reflect on practice in order to improve and change it.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How AR is applied in primary and secondary classrooms in Latin America and Spain?

What are the contributions and difficulties of its application for innovation and improvement in classrooms?

METHOD

Literature review (57 articles)

Inclusion criteria:

Application of AR in classrooms, primary or secondary education in Latin America and Spain.

Articles published in refereed journals online, in Spanish, between 2000 and 2014.

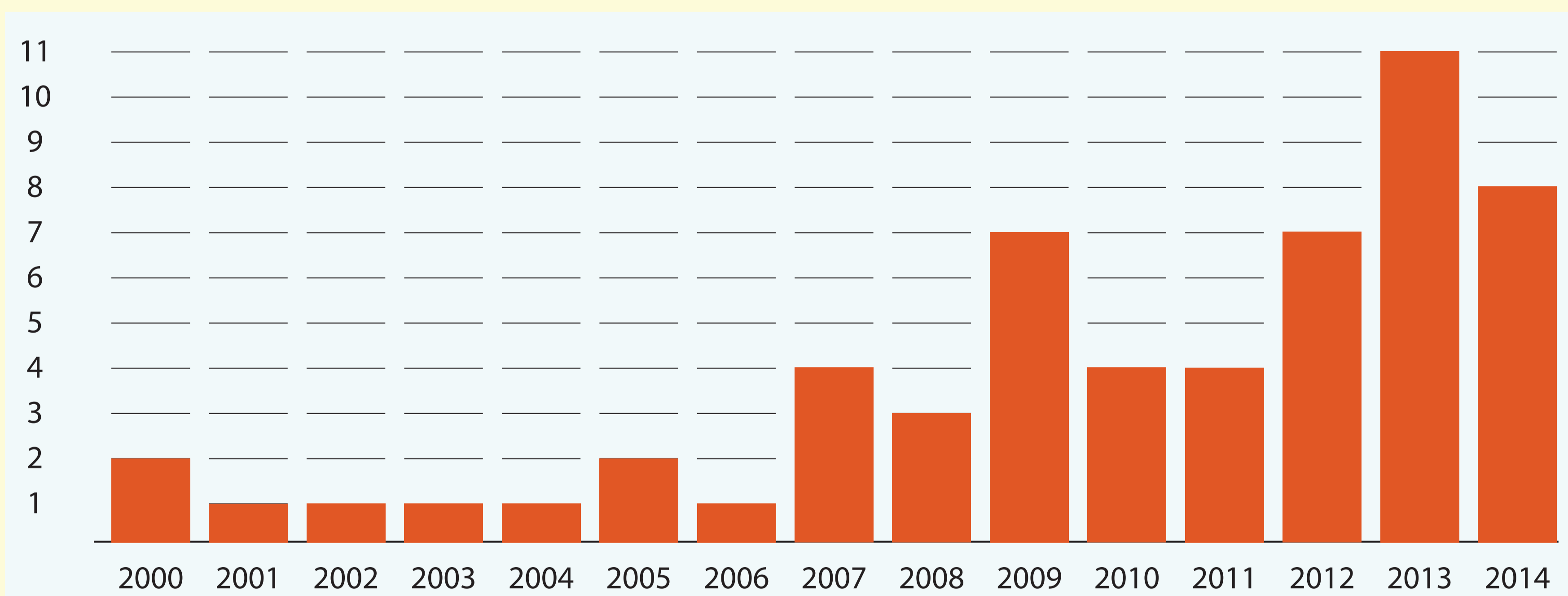
Searches in EBSCO Discovery Service, SciELO, Redalyc, Dialnet and DOAJ.

RESULTS

COUNTRIES



YEAR OF PUBLICATION



SUBJECTS

Subjects	N° of journals	%
Physical education	13	22
Cross cutting themes: <i>health, technology, school life</i>	11	19
Sciences (<i>natural sciences, chemistry, physics</i>), environmental education	10	18
Language, literature	8	14
Musical education	7	12
Maths	4	7
Social Sciences, History	3	5
English as a second language	1	3
TOTAL	57	100

AR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Criticality and creativity of teachers to generate innovations.
- The ability of teachers to reflect on their own problems.
- Seeking innovative ways to overcome problems and continue to learn.
- Collaborative work between teachers or between external researchers and teachers.
- Making informed decisions.

AR DIFFICULTIES

- The limited time available for the development of AR.
- Institutional conditions and the commitment of the school's head and teachers.
- Resistance to change.
- The impossibility of continuing the AR project or generalizing the results to other contexts.
- Fear of the new or uncertainty of results.