

FACING THE SITUATION OF VULNERABILITY OF TEENAGERS IN AN INSTITUTION OF SOCIAL ATTENTION**O ENFRENTAMENTO DA SITUAÇÃO DE VULNERABILIDADE DOS ADOLESCENTES EM UMA INSTITUIÇÃO DE ATENÇÃO SOCIAL****ENFRENTAMIENTO DE LA SITUACIÓN DE VULNERABILIDAD DE LOS ADOLESCENTES EN UNA INSTITUCIÓN DE ATENCIÓN SOCIAL**

Received: 16/04/2015
Approved: 25/11/2015

Jéssica Rocha dos Santos¹
Cláudia Helena Julião²

The goal this research was to know program contribution of the House of Uberaba Boy - MG, Brazil, to combat the social vulnerability of adolescents treated. Held between February and June 2013 used the documentary and field research, with interviews recorded with the professionals. The analysis and interpretation of data were conducted to quantity and qualitatively to enable the construction of the profile of adolescents and families served, and identify ways of coping with situations of social vulnerability used by the institution. The results show that the Boy's Home develops a social and educational work that contributes to young people and families served overcome the vulnerable conditions.

Descriptors: Adolescent; Social vulnerability; Social Assistance.

O objetivo desta pesquisa foi conhecer a contribuição do programa da Casa do Menino de Uberaba - MG, para o enfrentamento da situação de vulnerabilidade social dos adolescentes atendidos. Realizada entre fevereiro e junho de 2013 utilizou-se a pesquisa documental e de campo e, entrevistas gravadas com os profissionais. A análise e a interpretação dos dados foram feitas de forma quantitativa e qualitativa de modo a possibilitar a construção do perfil dos adolescentes e das famílias, bem como identificar as formas de enfrentamento às situações de vulnerabilidade social utilizadas pela instituição. Os resultados demonstram que a Casa do Menino desenvolve trabalho socioeducativo que contribui para que os adolescentes e as famílias atendidas superem as condições de vulnerabilidade.

Descritores: Adolescente; Vulnerabilidade social; Assistência Social.

El objetivo de esta investigación fue conocer la contribución del programa de la *Casa do Menino* de Uberaba-MG, Brasil para el enfrentamiento de la situación de vulnerabilidad social de los adolescentes atendidos. Hecha entre febrero y junio de 2013 se usó la investigación documental y de campo y entrevistas grabadas con los profesionales. El análisis e interpretación de los datos se hicieron cuantitativa y cualitativa con el fin de permitir la construcción del perfil de adolescentes y familias asistidas, así como identificar las formas de enfrentamiento de las situaciones de vulnerabilidad social utilizadas por la institución. Los resultados muestran que la institución investigada desarrolla trabajo socioeducativo que contribuye para que los adolescentes y sus familias superen las condiciones de vulnerabilidad.

Descriptor: Adolescent; Vulnerabilidad social; Asistencia Social.

¹ Graduated in Social Work by the Federal University of Triângulo Mineiro (UFTM). jessica_6rs@hotmail.com

² Social Worker. Master degree and P.hd in Social Work. Adjunct Professor and vice coordinator of the Graduation course in Social Work in UFTM. claudiahj@servicosocial.uftm.edu.br

INTRODUCTION

This work had the proposal to meet the program of the Boy's House of Uberaba - MG, describing its contribution to the confrontation of the vulnerability situation of attended adolescents. The choice of this theme stems from the supervised internship experience in Social Work, performed in that institution, in which it had a rapprochement with the social vulnerability situation to which adolescents are exposed and the developed actions.

In Brazilian society, in which inequality and injustice are present, it is necessary to ensure the rights targeted at children and adolescents, considering they have the right to liberty, to respect and dignity as human beings in the development process and as subjects of civil, human and social rights, guaranteed by the Constitution and other legislation, for example, the Child and Adolescents Statute-ECA¹.

Studies show that the increase of adolescents in social vulnerability situations occurs with the inequality growing, as defined by Gontijo and Medeiros²:

We believe that the exit to the streets of many children and adolescents reflects a process of "intensification of vulnerability to which thousands of Brazilian families are submitted, because of the extreme social inequality experienced in our country," a process marked by unemployment, precarious work and its consequences (2009, p.467).

Social inequality generates elements that influence the risk and socially vulnerable citizens, such as lack of access to education, health, work, leisure and culture. Thus, with the insufficiency of public policies, there is a growing number of adolescents in situations of vulnerability, which, associated with the intensification of risk factors to which they are subject, requires specific actions for solving them.

In Uberaba-MG, Brazil, municipality of the region of Triângulo Mineiro/MG, located in the Rio Grande Valley on the border between Minas Gerais and São Paulo, the Boy's House is one of the areas where such actions are developed, focusing on confronting the vulnerable social situation of adolescents as for their families.

In the city nationally designed for having a productive agricultural economy, there are economic, social and income concentration contradictions. This reality is perceived when observing, on the one hand, the Zebu big cattle breeders and on the other, people in headlights begging for food.

It is understood that the municipality has increasingly to growth, and the Uberaba population is growing due to economic, farming, technological, among others. According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Uberaba has around 300,000 inhabitants³.

There are, in the city, several institutions and programs for the care of people with personal and social risk and between such institutions some have as target children and adolescents in situations of social vulnerability and their families. The Boy's House, established in 1967, is one of those institutions and setting the present study. The objective of this research was to identify the program's contribution to the Boy's House of Uberaba - MG, to confront the social vulnerability situation of attended adolescents.

METHOD

It is a qualitative and quantitative study. Initially, it was performed a documentary research, for understanding and deepening of the subject matter, having served as a means of information for this research stage, the National Social Assistance Policy⁴, the Child and the Adolescent Statute¹, Organic Social Assistance Law and institutional documents.

The consultation to the institutional documents allowed obtaining the social profile of adolescents and families attended in the socio-educational program of the Boy's House in the period from February to June 2013.

Therefore, the data contained in social interview forms were used, highlighting the following aspects: the socioeconomic status of the family, the status of employability and the level of education of the responsible, inclusion in social program and other issues, identifying in this way, the main

vulnerabilities situations that are exposed the attended adolescents in the institution.

Subsequently, semi-structured interviews were conducted with a professional of each area of the institution, six high-level professionals chosen by an intentional sample. The declarations were recorded and transcribed.

The analysis is divided into two aspects: quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative profile was obtained by consulting the data of social interview form of the institution while the qualitative profile was analyzed based on the statements of professionals.

The study had a favorable opinion of the Ethics and Research Committee of the Federal University of Triângulo Mineiro and accepted by the subjects to participate in the research through the Informed Consent Form, after orientation. In the presentation of the statements, the names of the involved professionals have been kept confidential, following the guidelines of Resolution 466/12, not showing up at any time the study

the original names but identified with flowers names.

RESULTS

The Boy's House was founded in 1967 and initially was intended to register, visit and distribute food, medicine or clothing to the most neediest families in the community. Later, under the direction of Tertiary Religious Capuchin Amigonian's, it became a boarding school, and after the approval of the Child and Adolescent Statute, in 1990, it was transformed into a socio-educational support program for monitoring and providing assistance to men and women adolescents, from 12 to 17 years and 11 months, in a situation of vulnerability and/or social risk.

It was found that from February to June 2013, the institution has met 36 adolescents from families with predominant family income up to 2 minimum wages, parents with a formal contract and parents with up to elementary school, as in Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Figure 1. Socioeconomic status of the adolescent's family of the Boy's House. Uberaba, June 2013.

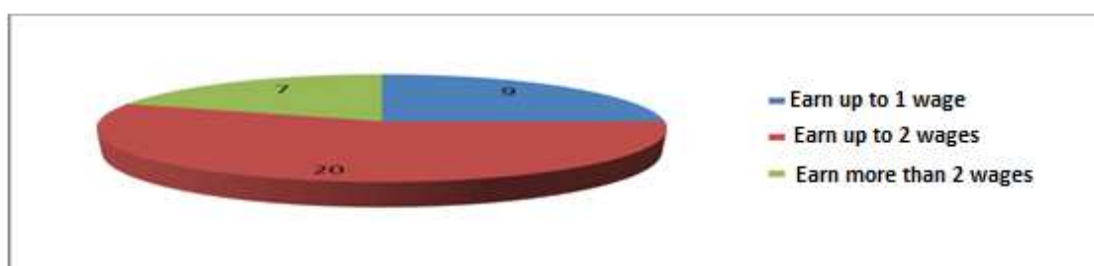


Figure 2. Employability of the adolescent's caregivers of the Boy's House. Uberaba, June 2013.

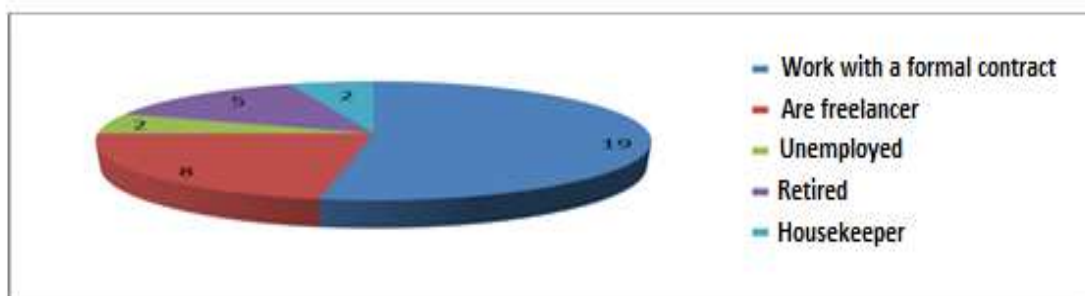
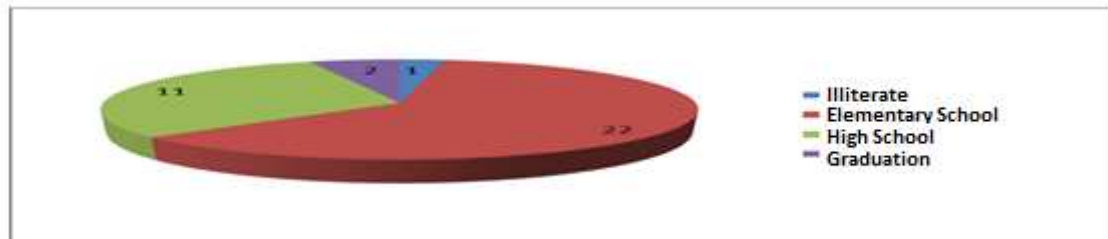


Figure 3. Education of adolescent's caregivers of the Boy's House. Uberaba, June 2013.

Families attended at Boy's House appeal to social programs to supplement the family income, to meet survival needs that are not only supplied with income from work. Thus, 10 families are inserted in the "Bolsa Família" income distribution program.

Concerning referrals, it is observed that of the 36 adolescents, 22% were referred to the institution by the Tutelary Council, by the regular school in which it is registered or by another institution of the partner network.

The inactive time that the adolescent is at home, after returning from school, corresponds to 11% of causes leading adolescents and their families, to seek the service of the Boy's House, considering that such a condition can contribute to exposing them to risk or vulnerability situations.

Of the 36 adolescents enrolled, 6% sought the institution for physical exercise by medical orientation and also for not having leisure time.

About the Boy's House contribution to overcoming adolescents vulnerable status and their families, the interviewed professionals believe that their work is important:

Our main focus is to teach what is to be a protagonist, and encourage them to make it happen correctly [...] we work changing a little bit of this situation, so they are both protagonists of their life as others life who are close (Lily).

Is also identified that the adolescent of the Boy's Home program, because they are in a situation of vulnerability and/or social risk, their rights are not effective, thus, they find in the program a way to achieve some of their

basic rights as food and leisure. It can be observed then that the institution contributes as follows:

Good, positive are these issues of professional, training, to show the young how to be the protagonist, other issues that may be positive is having feeding in the institution, having sports, is a time of leisure, to promote some tours, that things (Lily).

When asked about positive aspects of the Boy's House program, interviewees pointed to the participation of families in the proposed activities:

Families this year gave a show, their participation was exemplary [...] because if they have no family, we can't work only with the teenager (Jasmine).

Also, partnerships with other institutions aiming the realization of a networking was also highlighted as a positive aspect:

We have a network work with other institutions, and I think this work is very positive because you're not alone (Bromeliad).

The interviewee also points out difficulties in carrying out the proposed work, highlighting the need for compliance with institutional rules and the need for strategies for the motivation of users during the courses:

We see that there are rules, the rules are good, but they are not being followed (Jasmine).

DISCUSSION

Several vulnerabilities motivate adolescents to seek the Boy's House institution. Insufficient family income is the main one since 61% of the families have a socioeconomic vulnerability status.

The Boy's House aims to:

To effect the education, guidance, monitoring of adolescents and their families, attending and

*accompanying adolescents through psychological, social, academic, vocational, sporting, cultural and spiritual services, promoting social and family integration, training for the labor market and promoting the construction of citizenship*⁶.

The pointed socioeconomic vulnerability situation can be explained by considering the unequal distribution of income in Brazil, which generates the concentration of income for the minority of the population, while the large majority remains in poverty, having no access to health, quality education, housing, and others. Added to this, the consequences of these conditions - precarious work, for example. Families living on low incomes, find themselves forced to sell their labor power in exchange for wage considering that the salary that will be received, even if little, will contribute to the family income. Thus, as shown by Yazbek⁷:

"Although disqualified, monotonous, repetitive and uncreative, the work appears as a way of being, a worthy way of inclusion of social life, a way to 'make a living,' a social identity."

In addition to low wages, unstable employment conditions resulting from the changes occurred in capitalism, has other manifestations. According to Alves⁸:

"The glowing manifestation of precarious work today, occurs through the occurrences of illnesses and occupational diseases," which express, according to him, *"the suppression of human subjectivity by capital, denial of the generic human subject by the constraints of bourgeois order."*

In contemporary times, they are found numerous difficulties in the labor market insertion, which has an increasing demand for professional education. This requirement becomes an issue for parents or caregivers of adolescents attended by the Boy's House because on the one hand the technological development is increasingly expanded, on the other hinders the inclusion or continued employment of workers with lower education and professional qualification. It appears that most of those responsible for adolescents attended at the Boy's House has the elementary school, thus indicating they

have not had access to a complete education that meets the current demands of the labor market - are excluded from the labor market or led to posts work for ever lower wages.

The insertion and/or precarious insertion in the labor market is not capable of guaranteeing the survival needs. Families turn to social programs as an alternative to supplement income and coping with social vulnerability where they are. According to Guerra⁹:

"Poor families lack protection to protect."

The State decreases their investments in social protection and low spending on social policies that generate consequences as the subordination of social policies¹⁰. The domain situation of economic policy on social policy results in increasing commercialization of basic services¹¹, like health, education and housing in a process of State irresponsibility.

The family in socially vulnerable status, needs the State support to ensure their and members rights, not only for material resources to survive, but also to arrange to develop its protective capacity. It is necessary, therefore, the existence of programs and projects that offer reception and listening to families in these conditions, as proposed by the Boy's House.

The research identified that the socioeconomic status of the attended families is one of the factors that lead adolescents to seek the Boy's House, especially in access to professional courses for integration into the labor market, which can contribute to overcoming the vulnerability condition, which their families are exposed.

The perception of interviewees about the importance of family participation in activities sponsored by the Boy's House showed that this insertion, besides being a factor of support and encouragement to adolescents, corresponds to a form of closer ties between the institution and the families, so they can also receive guidance, answer

questions and establish a cooperative relation with the professionals.

Another positive aspect mentioned by the interviewed professionals refers to networking, which has significant importance for dealing with social vulnerability situations because, as pointed out Gerônimo¹²:

“Networking is an intervention strategy that makes possible to focus on social transformation.”

The need to comply the rules in the institution for the program functioning was one of the difficulties pointed out by interviewees, followed by lack of adolescents to participate in the offered activities and courses. Thus, it is understood that the promotion of dialogue between student and teacher is one of the strategies to be used, requiring a democratic relation between them and with activities that start from the reality of adolescents, enabling them to transform this reality

The Boy's House is constituted in this way, in a space to confront the social vulnerability of adolescents, guiding them to develop a critical view, and about issues relevant to this stage of life as rights, sexuality, drugs, and others, and also providing psycho-social, sporting, cultural and professional consultations that contribute to the construction of citizenship.

Adolescence is a time of life of discoveries, desires, and fears, insecurity typical of this phase is aggravated by the lack of protection of the public and society powers. According to the Child and Adolescent Statute¹ in Article 4th is a family, society and government obligation to ensure, with absolute priority, the realization of the rights to life, health, food, education, sports, leisure, professional training, culture, dignity, respect, freedom and family and community life. It is realized the need of State, family, and society, concurrently, to perform actions for the rights effectuation of this segment.

However, as families are also in vulnerable situations, as well as adolescents, the principle of child and absolute adolescent priority must appear among the priorities of the public authorities with social policies.

CONCLUSION

It is understood that public policies had a great advance in Brazilian history, but it is necessary to be greater investment in social actions so social rights can be fully effected. However, social policies currently own emergency, focused and selective character to serve the poor, and thus not even meet the basic needs of citizens.

The origin of social inequality is linked to the exclusion ratio, hunger, violence among other expressions of social issues that affect the Brazilian population; such expressions are present in the current mode of production, the capitalist.

The Boy's House institution, Uberaba-MG, is thus, a social protection initiative focused on the care of adolescents and developed a socio-educational work promoting actions that contribute to confronting the adolescent's vulnerable situation, as well as their families.

REFERENCES

1. Presidência da República (Br). Lei nº 8.069 de 13 de junho de 1990. Dispõe sobre o Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente e dá outras providências [Internet]. D.O.U., Brasília, 16 jul 1990 [cited in 11 feb 2014]. Available in: http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/LEIS/L8069.htm.
2. Gontijo DT, Medeiros M. Crianças e adolescentes em situação de rua: contribuições para a compreensão dos processos de vulnerabilidade e desfiliação social. *Ciênc Saúde Coletiva*. 2009; 14(2):467-75.
3. Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE). Estatística, 2013. Minas Gerais – Uberaba [Internet]. Rio de Janeiro:

IBGE; 2014 [cited in 10 aug 2013]. Available in:
<http://www.ibge.gov.br/cidadesat/painel/painel.php?codmun=317010>.

4. Ministério do Desenvolvimento Social e Combate à Fome (Br). Política Nacional de Assistência Social. Brasília: MDS/SNAS; 2004.

5. Presidência da República (Br). Lei nº 8.742 de 07 de dezembro de 1993. Dispõe sobre a organização da Assistência Social e dá outras providências [Internet]. D.O.U., Brasília, 8 dez 1998 [cited in 11 feb 2014]. Available in: http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/leis/l8742.htm.

6. Casa do Menino. Plano de trabalho. Uberaba; 2013.

7. Yazbek, MC. Classes subalternas e assistência social. 8ed. São Paulo: Cortez; 2015.

8. Alves G. Dimensões da precarização-ensaios de sociologia do trabalho. Bauru: Canal 6; 2013.

9. Antonio MLB, Guerra MNOPB, Mello FAOP. Família, (des) proteção social e direito à vida. São Paulo: Veras Editora; 2013. (Coleção coletâneas).

10. Cherchiglia ML, Dallari SG. A reforma do Estado e o setor público de saúde: governança e eficiência. Rev Adm Pública. 2013; 33(5):65-84.

11. Nascimento S. Reflexões sobre a Intersetorialidade entre as Políticas Públicas. Serv Soc Soc. 2010; (101):95-120.

12. Gerônimo LL. A importância do trabalho em rede na garantia dos direitos sociais: uma experiência no Instituto Guga Kuerten e no bairro Itacorubi. [Trabalho de Conclusão de Curso]. Florianópolis (SC): Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, UFSC; 2013. 90 p.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Jéssica Rocha dos Santos contributed to the literature review, data collection, data analysis and writing. **Cláudia Helena Julião** participated in the planning, study design and critical review of the article.