

Center Rondon project and university extension: sharing and knowledge production

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Rondon Project

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Abstract

This work explores the experience of team participation the University of Cruz Alta Cruz Alta Rio Grande do Sul, Rondon Project. With goal to integrate the student to reality Brazil, and develop political, economic, and health care activities education for the poor, in January 2012, teachers and students visited the city of Aguiarnópolis, state of Tocantins in Brazil. The project is the intellectual effort of research and

understanding of the process history, involving the saga of Brazilian Cândido Mariano Rondon and his legacy to the formation of anthropologists. This study proposes a reflection on Rondon Project while the university democratization of space public, considering it essential to approach institution with society. The Rondon Project is an extension activity that aims to consolidate the sense of social responsibility in university, knowledge on different Brazilian realities and production local collective projects. It is intended, finally, contribute through this study to highlight the importance of alliance between scientific knowledge and empirical in everyone's life citizens, and the contribution of the Rondon Project to provide this exchange of knowledge between students and underserved communities.

Keywords: *university extension; Rondon Project; integration; culture; Marechal Rondon;*

1. Introduction

Sustainable development of an emerging country is ruled by five dimensions of sustainability, social, environmental, economic, cultural and political -organization. Education in this context is crucial, being the most effective means for a country to develop socially and economically. However, that education is indeed a mechanism of social transformation, there must be a concern for universities to prepare students not only for the labor market, but prepares them for citizenship, which is stimulated by the practice of extension university (Ferreira, 2009).

In Brazil, Rondon Project is currently one of the most comprehensive projects of university extension programs in the country, fulfilling an important role in improving the quality of education, reflecting the best academic background, as a university extension project, extremely necessary for academic and student citizen. The Rondon Project promotes the socialization of regional experiences, encouraging the creation of innovative projects in the most deprived communities throughout Brazil. Also, it makes the university and the university community to exercise their social commitment (Castilho and Castilho, 2010; Brazil, 2008).

The project coordinated by the Ministry of Defense since 1967, is a foray into project and aims to value the culture of municipalities in various regions of the country, providing greater integration between the Brazilian people, with a view to providing a multicultural learning to university students, from all regions, which, through solidarity, have citizenship in its full sense. With dedication, provide services and carry information through college in small towns, lacking resources and with many socio-economic needs, on important issues today, such as health, education and human rights.

Discuss the role of the university in the current context of change driven by public policy, globalization and computerization of knowledge from a context in which education developed by it suffers from the marks of transformations printed by the globalization process is extremely important, since higher education has shown great growth in recent years, greatly influencing the characterization of new professional and cultural, social, intellectual and political youth (Santos, 2008)

This work is the result of reflections and reports obtained mainly from the experience gained through Operation Babaçu, Rondon Project in Aguiarnópolis (Figure 2), Tocantins state located in northern Brazil, held for two weeks in January 2012 (Figure 1). Retrieved also experience carried out in the northwestern

region of Rio Grande do Sul state, through the core of the Rondon Project at the University of Cruz Alta.



Figure 1. Brazilian students of all participating states of operation Babaçu 2012.



Figure 2. Landscapes recorded during Babaçu Operation Rondon Project in 2012 the city of Aguiarnópolis - TO.

The Rondon Project in the municipality of Aguiarnópolis (TO) was performed by two academic teams composed of twelve students and four coordinators teachers from two different universities, one B joint team from the University of Cruz Alta and the whole team the Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de

Mesquita Filho".

1.1 Rondon Project and University Extension

The university extension allows interaction between the student and the community in which it operates. It is through the extent that the University takes knowledge and / or assistance to the community, and it receives information about the values and culture of it.

The scientific, cultural and educational process articulates teaching and research, and facilitates the relationship between the university and society. The academic community is in society the opportunity to intervene professionally in the light of the theoretical framework that will guide the methodological procedures and technical resources that will best suit each situation.

The academic practice extends to beyond the classroom. Becomes academic project-political, providing services and developing teaching and research activities. The university reaches then a wider audience, and gives him easier access to knowledge and techniques necessary to improve the quality of life. The extension integrates and consolidates the teaching and research activities with the demands of the population. Enables the formation of professional and citizen qualification in the society. Through the privileged space of knowledge production, permanently seeking to overcome social inequalities.

The educational institution must contribute to the critical discussion about the reality of society. According to Paulo Freire, there is only education within human societies, and every man in any society or civilization, has education. The author believes in the political emergence of the popular classes, and makes reflection on the culture and the popular movement. Still according to him, there is elite that dominates the culture, and that only accepts the formal and erudite.

It is through the exchange of information that occurs understanding among men. Paulo Freire proposes the democratization of culture, so that nobody is excluded from national life. This is where his ideas on education are similar to theoretical principles that guide the Rondon Project, since value not only school education, but also popular culture: For Roque anthropologist Barros Laraia, who, in the 70s, participated in the Rondon as coordinator of the Advanced Campus of the University of Brasilia (UNB) in Aragarças (MT), the cultural diversity between different people is explained by the inequality existing stages in the evolution process. The transformations of society derive from the relationship between groups and spread their cultural elements: Man is the result of the cultural environment in which it was socialized.

Empirical knowledge is tradition in the city of Aguiarnópolis. Indigenous and slave origin, the inhabitants preserve customs, folklore, beliefs, festivals, crafts and the principles of the first peoples of the region.

1.1.1 Characterization of the municipality of Aguiarnópolis

The municipality of Aguiarnópolis was founded in 1994 on the banks of the Tocantins River, a straight line distance of about 760 km from São Luis, Maranhão. stood out over almost the entire twentieth century, the production of Babaçu poop (Figure 3). Its estimated population of 3449 inhabitants.

The state is located in a transition zone of the semi-arid climates of the Northeast to the equatorial humid Amazon, which is reflected in the plant formations that transact the Savannah (Cerrado) in the south to the seasonal forests in central and eastern part , and the rain forest in the northwest of the state. This transitional

location contributes to the generation of unique environmental and socioeconomic conditions, currently undergoing transformation due to the late development implemented in the region and that is creating environmental and social impacts. Temperatures across the state are high, with higher annual average to 24 ° C. The rainy season is concentrated from December to May, reaching the highest values around the month of March, averaging around 290.4 mm.

Although most of the population still withdraws its support of primary activities, mainly agriculture and animal husbandry, there is a state of industrialization attempt. Trade is the main economic activity of the state, which provides commodities and imports manufactured goods. Industrialized imported products reach high prices due to transport and tax costs because the Tocantins is far from industrial centers in Brazil and the most used means of transport is road, large costs.

Most farmers still use farm system of Indian heritage, using techniques, resources and rudimentary tools such as earth rotation, human energy and animal, hoes, sickles, machetes, ax, hoe, etc., so that the use soil and used techniques provide low yield of products by acreages, which end up being intended mainly to family maintenance.

Livestock farming is practiced more intensely, occupying large areas, committing to the native forest. Although it is present in hundreds of cities in the state actually focuses on a few municipalities, the West's main geographical area larger herd (Mesquita, 2008). Herds (cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, buffaloes and birds) are set loose, grazing naturally without technical care, with low productivity. Cattle rising is the main activity carried out, the most important herd economically. Cattle are raised for the entire rural population, for almost in its entirety to the court. The birds, led by chicken is a flock that plays an important role in feeding the urban low-income worker, as the costs have provided lower prices for other sources. The agriculture industry is small and focused on the local market, is related to meat and milk (Mesquita, 2008). Although increasingly rare, hunting is still practiced for the food supplement of rural workers, especially in areas where there are no major population concentrations. Are targets species of mammals such as armadillo, paca, agouti, capybara, pork-eating fox and deer as well as birds such as nambu and siricora, however, the big catches are jaçanãs and manned both for commercial purposes.

In the extraction, it has been out of the Babaçu coconut, which is extracted by the small farmer quite rudimentary, especially for the female population, where the income is earned and exchanged for consumption of genres in greengrocers. The major focus of Babaçu is in the valleys of the main rivers Maranhão and transition forest.

1.1.2 Silvopastoral System in the municipality of Aguiarnópolis, Tocantins: a proposal for livestock production associated with maintenance of biodiversity

The silvopastoral systems are associations of pasture with trees and herbivorous animals, being a viable option to promote the sustainability of animal production systems on pasture (Castro and Paciullo, 2006). They have great potential as economic and environmental benefits to producers and to society, as well as increase the production per unit area, improve productivity through the integrated management of natural resources, enable reduction of erosion, improve conservation bodies water, increase carbon capture and

sequestration, provide greater convenience to animals to animals increasing biodiversity, and reduce the pressure on the remaining natural vegetation (Duleba, 2009).

Thus the silvopastoral systems are presented as multifunctional systems. The objective of this study was to present a viable and environmentally friendly alternative to promote rural development and increase income, and preserving biodiversity in Aguiarnópolis municipality properties. The activity was developed in rural settlements Cocos and Vitoria in the municipality of Aguiarnópolis, TO, in January 2012, through the Rondon Project organized by the Ministry of Defence with the support of City Hall location and staff at the University of Cruz Alta. The target audience was small farmers, directly linked with agricultural and livestock activities, whose main source of income is the milk production, the production of fruit pulps such as acerola, cupuaçu, guava, as well as the provision of domestic services the local farmers. This work was performed using a previously elaborated plan of activities based on a diagnosis made in the precursor trip. Courses and lectures were given to producers on the management of silvopastoral system, where the theoretical foundation was based on bibliographic references, seeking compliance with specific characteristics to the north of the country combined with other techniques. The interaction between the participants allowed many doubts were cleared up and the discussion of various topics and peculiar situations in the systems of pastures and native trees present in the region, especially the native palm, Babaçu. This palm tree very present in Aguiarnópolis fauna, considered one of the symbols of the region is protected by law, which generated considerable debate in the workshops among farmers who reported the difficulty of exploring these areas with other crops.

The implementation of silvopastoral system taking advantage of the presence of Babaçu (Figure 3), came to the producers as a solution to protect the flock from extreme weather, get environmental services and promote the diversification of craft products obtained from the Babaçu coconut. He rose to controversy if Babaçu was appropriate for the silvopastoral system, because according to residents of the settlements it is a kind of unwieldy, it releases a lot of straw contained in the branches, making the pasture cleaning, but were approached some techniques that can benefit the soil, nutrition part which may contribute to the improvement of pasture quality.



Figure 3. Babaçu: Plant extraction, fruit and use in fruit crafts.

All participants were receptive and interacted with the theme presented, where the main objective was to improve and increase the production per unit area, highlighting the multiple benefits added to the enrichment of soil and pasture, animal welfare which reflects in increased productivity, and also increases the scenic beauty of rural property. To conclude the debate, the Agriculture Program Low Carbon (ABC) was presented, created in 2010 by the Federal Government, which provides benefits and credits for farmers who want to adopt sustainable farming techniques. Whose goal is to encourage farmers to practice sustainable agriculture, ie to ensure the country's food security without harming the environment. There was a positive impact generated by the topic covered on the silvopastoral system, showing that the rural population is seeking sustainable alternatives to increase crop production per unit area, generating improved productivity and profitability without interfering negatively in the richness of the cerrado fauna of nature.

The interests of producers for knowledge of government programs to encourage resources to enhance sustainability in agricultural production demonstrate the receptivity paradigm shifts and increase the maintenance of local biodiversity.

2. Encouraging Associations as a form of local development through rondon project

The association is a strategy for small businesses and groups so that they can enter and compete in the market with multinational companies that have developed skills in highly competitive environments. Thus, the development of the communities the association is of fundamental importance. It is a form that can be

adopted to compete with large chains, from benefits obtained from all areas involved in the acquisition, production, dissemination and distribution of products (Lima and Gomes, 2005).

As the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (1998) the association is in a civil non-profit society, where several individuals are organized democratically in defense of their interests. The importance of the association is the union of small groups of people who have common goals in a legally established entity, maintaining, however, the independence and individuality of each participant. Thus, the formation of a network allows the execution of joint actions, facilitates the resolution of common problems and creates new opportunities.

The collective work enhances the generation of income in the same way that sensitizes participants about the importance of cooperative action in order to reduce individual weaknesses and create new opportunities, promoting local development.

During Operation Babaçu - occurred between January 20 to February 5, 2012 - Rondon Project, rondonistas team at the University of Cruz Alta has developed in the municipality of Aguiarnópolis (TO), the workshop "Associations - the power of cooperation." The objective of the activity was to demonstrate the importance of associations as a way to boost economic development and income generation, and to encourage the founding of new associations and stress the importance that they can play in a small town.

The Rondon Project, an initiative coordinated by the Ministry of Defense always happens in the holiday period of Brazilian higher education institutions. Everything starts from a preliminary contact the Ministry with the municipalities of the regions with the lowest human development index. The cooperation of municipalities is essential for carrying out the project and it was with this support that the municipality of Aguiarnópolis received rondonistas team Operation Babaçu. Among the activities, we highlight here the workshop already mentioned above and which was developed in two days. During the activity were used as strategies, dynamic, videos, teaching methods, different group activities and individual and expository speech. The positioning circle was also an important method for encouraging the participation of all. The activity of the target audience would be possible associations in the city, people who work individually, but with low incomes and the general public with an interest in the subject, ie, farmers, waste pickers, small business, etc. The ten (10) workshop participants showed great interest in creating a new association in the city for the collection of recyclable materials, especially PET bottles, for production of ottomans, sofas and stools. The existing association in the municipality worked exclusively with crafts produced from Babaçu coconut.

The first exercise conducted was the aircraft factory. At that moment it was presented a plane folding model and participants should make the greatest possible number of planes and shaped more like the model. They could work together to achieve the established objective, so numerical results would be better than the individual work. It was found that each participant worked individually without teamwork and the result was a low number of paper airplanes, and none was made by model. After the dynamic a video that showed the importance of working together and how to reach a common goal with the cooperation was presented. Although it used the SWOT method: which helps to identify the Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; Threats in creating a business. The method is also called SWOT, which in English is strength, weakness, opportunities and Threats. With this method, we identify the aspects that could collaborate, add, and be

threats and / or negative points regarding the market performance for the association. This method has worked in pairs and then shared with the whole group. All participated, exchanged ideas and created together the Fortresses, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

On the second day were defined jointly Mission, Vision, Values and the membership action plan and has been made the analysis of a status proposal for the association. We work in a circle format and all gave suggestions to reach a consensus view. Each participant had a sheet where you wrote the suggestions for further typing. Thus, a document was created which would be a statute of principle, which could be used for the new association.

Through participation in this workshop people have awakened the desire to create more associations in the city of Aguiarnópolis because there was only one entity with this profile in the city, which is well entrenched and even markets its products throughout Brazil and abroad. Participants could also learn how to create a business that can generate jobs and income while working with the environment, form an association, create a statute and mainly work as a team to achieve satisfactory results. The experience made possible by the completion of the association workshop not given us the assurance that the proposal would be effectively developed, however, a first step in this direction was given by the group of participants, especially by the arrangement shown by them during the meetings. Finally, while students, we had the opportunity to share some knowledge with that group that could potentially benefit the community and that group of people in particular. The exchange of knowledge is essential for the formation of each individual, not only on the technical and professional skills, but also humanistic. This finding only strengthens the relevance led by the Rondon Project.

3. Conclusion

The Rondon Project is an action of the federal government that promotes universalization with the purpose of improving academic development, promoting socialization of experiences, interaction with the community and encouraging innovative projects in the social sphere.

In the present work, concludes creation of community associations can boost economic development and income generation, whereas the appreciation cultural and environmental diversities, emphasizing group work, w the aim of improving the quality of life of this population. This mode, strengthening local biodiversity through development.

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