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## Assess the level of knowledge about sustainability, appreciation of popular knowledge and the concept of health of children, pre-teenagers and teenagers from low-income community of the neighborhood Pina, Recife-PE

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### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to review three activities undertaken by the Group of Biological Sciences, Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) with young people between 2 and 14 years of the NGO in Recife-PE, in search of each methodology effect applied to learning students. In the days of group visits, the activity was applied at three different times relative to the time that young people are playing football, and analyzed how they behaved in relation to the activity brought. It was observed more interest and curiosity in applied after the game, where children and adolescents were already filled, and able to do something different. Observed indicates that in addition to the theme of a dynamic, the occasion and the way it will be displayed directly influences the knowledge that students can absorb a day of visits to the project.

Keywords: UFPE, NGO, Activities, Biological, Project

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## INTRODUCTION

The care of children and adolescents has been traditionally relegated to the area of Social Assistance, as reflection of the current systematic before the advent of the 1988 Federal Constitution and Law No. 8.069 / 90, where only were addressed to the attention (and concern) by the State (in a broad sense), children and adolescents (so-called "minor") who already had their rights violated effectively. State intervention was therefore solely repressive and timely in order to give a "semblance" solution to a problem already installed, which usually occurred through the "institutionalization" (and consequent "penalty") of the victims of the situation, often from the lower classes of the population<sup>3</sup>.

The roles and relationships of NGOs and their donors come every day changing, alternating between processes of collaboration / partnership and cooptation, dependency and the search for sustainability. Such relationships also have redefined fields of activity of NGOs with regard to the formulation and implementation of policies for reducing poverty and promoting development<sup>5</sup>.

Participatory methodologies presuppose the effective participation of those involved in the educational work process, all of them considered holders of learning and knowledge, not mere recipients of information. The appreciation of the experiences of the participants, involving them in the discussion, identifying and finding solutions to problems which they work leads to meaningful participation, promoting and making the inclusion in the decision-making process, issuing opinions and feeling confident for seek solutions in group<sup>1</sup>.

The use of participatory methodologies, as well as providing a better individual and collective approach to situations of violence, to allow an organization of differentiated and supported services in various knowledge, including knowledge of the family experience, it also

allows a permanent evaluation process from different looks to improve the potential of health services. The information generated by the collective can and should contribute to the improvement of the network of care and social protection<sup>2</sup>.

This study aimed to assess the level of knowledge about sustainability, appreciation of popular knowledge and the concept of health of children, pre-teenagers and teenagers from low-income community of the neighborhood Pina, Recife-PE

## METHODOLOGY

For both, educational workshops have been prepared with children and preteens, aged 05-15 years old, residents of the Bode community on the banks of Pina basin, living in vulnerable conditions (Figure 1). Was established partnership between the Centro de Revitalização e Valorização da Vida - CRVV, the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE) and Ministério da Educação (MEC / SESu) through the Program Promoção a Saúde e Educação Socioambiental: estratégias para cidadania.



**Figure 1 - Image of children from Pina Community - Bode - Recife - PE.**

The workshops were performed from March to August 2015. The number of participants was on average 25 per activity. The approaches involved education as cross-cutting issue and involved sustainability, appreciation of popular

knowledge and the concept of health. The workshops dealt:

Workshop 1 - "Universe in a Bottle": was carried live the preparation of the artisanal product that simulated stars and other cosmic formations in a bottle, where it was offered the opportunity to young people to learn and fabricate their own decorative object. The materials, which were plastic bottles, cotton, glitter and aniline of many colors were used by the young ones with the monitors help and guidance. The activity was carried out while the older boys played football and the smaller ones watched. The intention was to invite them to come spontaneously (Figure 2).



**Figure 2. Universe in a Bottle.**

Workshop 2 - "Venomous Animals": The activity consisted in a dialogue about venomous animals and the care that must be taken to prevent accidents and first aid. Pictures with the respective animals were displayed and distributed during the explanation of the monitors. The activity was made after the football, while the students waited for the meal to be served.

Workshop 3 - "Cardboard Bionic Hand" (Manual do Mundo, 2015): A forearm made of cardboard with the hand fingers articulated and controlled by operator fingers by string and rubber bands, simulating tendons, was made and taken by a monitor to give notions of anatomy to the young ones. Activity applied in a closed room, where young ones were taken after being removed from football to see the explanation (Figure 3).



**Figure 3. Cardboard Bionic Hand.**

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Participants initially showed no interest. It was identified resistance to the action. Pedagogical activities began with the exposure of its respective theme, following the importance of that learning would have for the minors formation. Their curiosity was one of the objectives to be achieved before the start of each workshop.

Monitors used recyclable and disposable materials that were easily identified by the group. They mentioned where materials could be found, its use and also mentioned that these materials were disposed improperly. The methodology encouraged group participation.

They comment that in day-to-day this type of excessive disposal on the streets, promotes dirt, clogging of the channels and fill the water resulting in floods streets in the neighborhoods. They reported that reuse could be made for toys, for example, and not excessive discharge.

It was observed that the responses to the workshops have been different. In Workshop 1, covering the lower age to 13, it was found that they performed the activity with interest and curiosity, that when compared to the group aged between 13 and 14 years.

Regarding the Workshop 2, adolescents were more participatory. They cited situations experienced, suggested alternatives, asked and inquired monitors constantly.

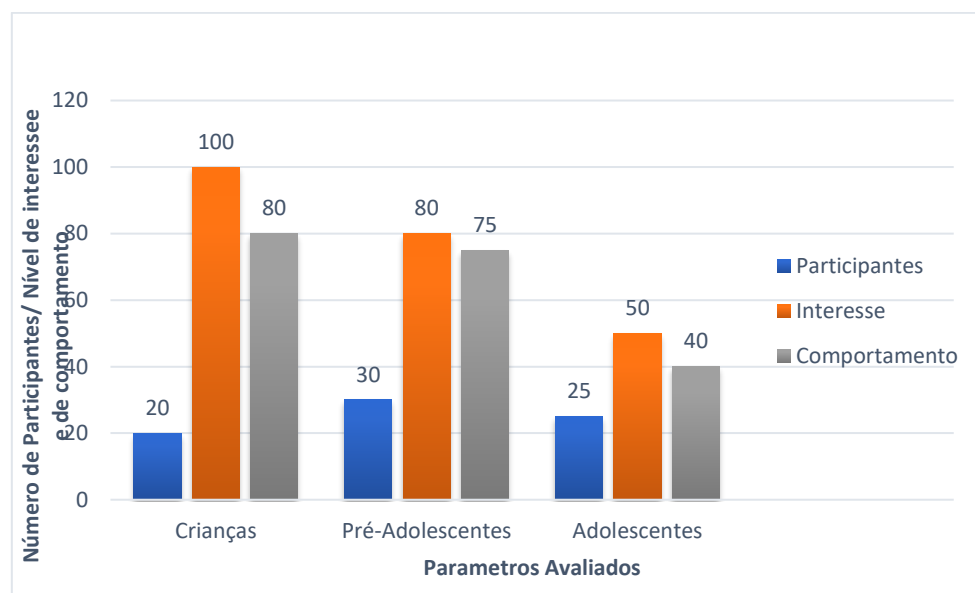


The Workshop 3 drew attention by the novelty and innovation; they demonstrated surprised to the object. They were involved and experienced. However, for the knowledge that was being transmitted, side conversations were recorded, at the time it were passed concepts of health, for example.

The Bode Community is fraught with difficulties, with the population subjected to problems of various kinds, such as violence, insecurity and disorderly occupation. One of them, from natural order, is the advancing tide, which makes water, when looking for space to spread out, to

penetrate in the houses. Other problems are arising from contact with contaminated water, which is responsible for the occurrence of leptospirosis due to the accumulation of garbage, since the collection is insufficient<sup>6</sup>.

The response to the workshops was different, behaviors presented differences according to the age of the group and interest in the workshop (Figure 4). Activities that address enforcement issues in the life and health of the young ones most attracted their attention, in addition to the activities being applied after football and before a meal.



**Figure 4. Relationship between the average age of the participants with their respective levels of interest and behavior in the workshops. More satisfactory results in children are observed.**

The community therapy has proven to be an excellent resource to deal with suffering due to social exclusion, poverty and violence. It can also be used with professionals working in the same service, building up a supportive space exchanges and mutual learning. Knowing each other better and finding in the other ones a source of support, the teams will create better conditions to plan and develop its violence prevention work and the attention and care of children, adolescents and their families with rights violated<sup>1</sup>.

The education in the health area in children and adolescents is a factor of extreme social

importance and a great investment for the future generations. Biology, in particular is an information field that attracts the interest and arouses curiosity of people of all ages. And bring knowledge and motivation to people from different locations is a difficult and necessary mission.

Working with groups is a great way to share experiences and foster dialogue and reflection among the participants. This dialogue can emerge new perspectives and alternative approaches to the problems experienced. Participating in groups, people have a chance to break out with isolation, to learn and to teach, to

increase and diversify their social network, and to mobilize for action<sup>1</sup>.

The school as a relationship space is ideal for the development of critical and political thinking, as it helps to build personal values, beliefs, concepts and ways of knowing the world and interferes directly in the social production of health. The health promoting school is defined as a location that has an integral vision of the human being, which considers the people, especially children and adolescents, within their family, community and social environment. Thus, it is clear that the school as a learning center by excellence, is now viewed as one of the most important spaces in promoting a healthy lifestyle<sup>4</sup>.

## CONCLUSIONS

The didactic in teaching of subjects in health care as a whole, especially to young people, requires a communion between the best time, the best place and the best context in which classes or activities will be held. Strong distractions related to fun have great impact on student achievement, what do may result in demotivation of lecturer activities. This study showed that careful planning of the subject and the conditions under which a dynamic must be performed can present satisfactory results in terms of student participation and mostly their learning. More observations need to be made for a better use of project participants' efforts be achieved and satisfactory results be reached.

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