

HOMELESS YOUTH: POLICIES AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS ANALYSIS IN A BRAZILIAN CITY

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Introduction: It is presented part of the analyses from the Ph.D. thesis which has investigated social policies and programs to assist homeless youth in Campinas, SP, Brazil. Campinas is a one-million-inhabitant city thus it has the same urban problems of great cities. Objectives: Within a plan which prioritized the investment for childhood and youth population, we've focused on a program for children and youths who live in streets, and a discussion was held on whether there was social-political innovations and changing in life of its users.

Methods: The procedures were semi-driven interviews with managers from city, with coordinators and technicians, and also with the youths who live in the street; activity groups with teenagers inside the institutions; and participating observation. Life stories were taken to present the services.

Results: It was noticed that the dynamic among actors was set under a tension with understandings not always congruent between institutional objectives and its users' objectives, which has generated little advance on the promotion of rights for this population group. It was pointed out that social policies focus borders on developed actions, marked by the neoliberal political structure of the capitalist democratic State, as it was evidenced by the execution of actions which lead to individualization of the problems and little advance on the collective understanding and facing. Nevertheless, they also produce a level of caring and attention which constitutes itself as support points to this population.

Conclusion: The social policies keep the possibilities of effectively consolidating social-political innovations and they walk to the promotion for rights of youth Brazilians from popular groups. To do so, it was emphasized as the challenge for social actions, among which those on public health, to set innovative and effective practices to the promotion of rights.

Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy: Intervention on social field with population living on the streets has become a work field for Occupational Therapists, creating the need for a critical attitude and comprehension of social policies to the development of an interdisciplinary work which is focused on the promotion of this population's access to their rights.