Union of Domestic Workers of Campinas and Region. The Transforming Power of Participative Experience.

Alexandra Gimenes Salas (IC)  
Profesor Adviser: Luciana Ferreira Tatagiba

Abstract  
This research analyzes the participative experience of syndicated domestic workers in the city of Campinas and region. Based on literature review, interviews with union members, activities of the organization and document review of the Union of Domestic Workers of Campinas and Region, the paper presents a conjunctural analysis of domestic work in Brazil, highlights the history of the union of the category at national and local levels and gives voice to women who have come together to pursue their rights, which have been negated for centuries, and shows that these women have achieved autonomy beyond the professional life.

Key words: Sindical Movement, Domestic Work, Participative Experience.

Introduction  
This research have as its subject the Union of Domestic Workers of Campinas and Region and its goal is to rescue the history of the organization that has become a national reference for all organizations of this category as well as praise the notable figure behind the Union, Dona Nina; also has the intent to define and give visibility to new demands of the category in consequence of the recent achievements and changes in their working conditions; beyond that, tries to determine the profile of syndicated women and, finally, this present research shows the amazing life stories of women who today take part of the union.

Results and Discussion  
In face of the initial goals, the research rescues the history of the organization, which has been a long path of struggles and achievements for that category and also highlights the history of its founder, Mrs. Laudelina de Campos Melo, a notable figure in the rights persecution of domestic workers in Brazil. Then, this research aims to achieve its purposes by accomplishing literature reviews, by analyzing documents of the organization and by interviewing union members. It presents, moreover, a conjunctural analysis of contemporary domestic work in Brazil and the evolution of labor laws for that category and also their current claims. Through a questionnaire applied during the IX Congress of Domestic Workers of Campinas and Region it was found absolute predominance of women among domestic syndicated, of which 90% of them joined the career in childhood or adolescence, 95% had not completed high school or concluded it after the age of 30 and 85% declare themselves black.

Conclusions  
The experience of meeting and interviewing these women led us to believe that would be a waste to use their life stories just for data collection. Accordingly, some reports were selected to illustrate the results acquired during the process and emphasize the magnificence of the information that the research provided.

Acknowledgement  
I am grateful to devoted attention and orientation of Prof. Dr. Luciana Ferreira Tatagiba, to the National Counsel of Technological and Scientific Development (CNPq) and to the Institutional Scholarship Program for Scientific Initiation (PIBIC) of the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) for the opportunity, funding and encouragement of the scientific research.


DOI: 10.19146/pibic-2015-38306