Resistance trajectories: an analysis of children's and teenager's institutional path through Fundação CASA

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Abstract

Fundação CASA is the institution responsible for juvenile offenders responding for serious crimes. In its main goals there is the attempt to guarantee children's and teenager's rights provided by the ECA (Children's and teenager's statute). This research proposes an investigation of how this institution works and how it contributes as part of a support system for children and teenagers in fragile scenarios.

Key words:

punishment, trajectories, educational institutions.

Introduction

Recently the media have discussed a lot about reducing the minimum age required for imprisoning criminals, using as an argument the large number of crimes committed by under ages. This way the research proposes to better understand the ECA law and its application in reality acknowledging the economical disparities, structure and opportunities between Brazilian families.

The effort has been to analyse the economical profile of the offenders and what crimes have they committed (against life, property, security, etc) in order to discuss adequate public policies and methods of changing the present scenery.

Results and Discussion

At first, the project pretended to discuss the *Fundação's* impacts through narrative of teenagers that have experienced the institution's reality themselves. But, because of difficulties on obtaining the needed authorizations, the solution found was to interview professionals that have or still work in or with the institution, and going through public data.

In the professionals' testimonies, the Institution appears as punitive instead of educational, as it presents itself. They complain about difficulties in developing any significant work with the youngsters for the lack of infrastructure, privacy, material condition and the overpressure of the security team and the administration for bureaucratic work. There are some documentaries about the *Fundação* that show some workers statements that goes on the same line of defining their activities as precarious and punitive towards the teenagers.

Image 1. Fundação CASA's logo.

Chart 1. Juvenile offenders level of education

Level of Education	Number of internees
College degree	2
Primary School	1069
Secondary School	5560
SS - Completed	3
High School	2608
HS - Completed	47
Not informed	267
Total	9556

Conclusions

ECA, the law that regulates the rights and duties of children and teenagers, previews that every child must have access to education, good alimentation, and housing. But, at the same time, it also defines types of punishment of those who offend the country's laws. An ethnography of the institution, combining with an analysis of the official discourses with narratives of some of its employees suggest that *Fundação CASA* appears as the last resource for the warranty of rights that other institutions failed to provide. It becomes, therefore, the place of conflict between withdrawing the right of liberty as a punishment in order to be able to offer the satisfaction of other rights that weren't accessible by other means (housing, alimentation, education, leisure). This research has understood that everyday politics towards juvenile offenders requires complex and often unattainable solutions - solutions that both should guarantee their safety and provide means of rehabilitation.

Acknowledgement

Thanks to all the people that had the patience to listen and answer my questions, questionings and comments. Thanks to CNPQ that financed this research and my mentor Chris, for all the support.