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FALADEIRAS EXTENSION PROJECT

Maria Regina de Avila Moreira
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
reavila10@gmail.com

Christiane dos Santos Luciano
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
christiane.dsluciano@yahoo.com.br

Cynthia Ribeiro Luiza do Amaral
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
cynthiaservicosocial@gmail.com

Débora Zanghelini
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
dzanghelini@gmail.com

Ingrid de Cássia Souza de Oliveira
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
ingrid.csoo@gmail.com

Maria Cecilia Olivio
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
mariaceciliaolivio@gmail.com

Abstract

Faladeiras extension project is a feminist project and it is linked to the Center for Studies in Social Work and Popular Organization (NESSOP) of the Department of Social Work at the Federal University of Santa Catarina. It is characterized as an action with the community, with gender violence as its main focus. From its first edition in 2017 so far, the original project has undergone modifications, especially through permanent evaluations with the participants. Thus, the main objective of this experience report is, in addition to socializing the practice of an extension project, signaling the importance of the context to indicate the needs for changes, which can be seen in the presentation of the editions. This must be the commitment of the Public University with the defense of the population's rights, in the struggle against all kinds of current oppression and exploitation.

Keywords: University Extension. Feminist Qualification. Gender-based Violence.

PROJETO DE EXTENSÃO FALADEIRAS

Resumo

O projeto de Extensão Faladeiras é um projeto feminista e está vinculado ao Núcleo de Estudos em Serviço Social e Organização Popular (NESSOP) do Departamento de Serviço Social da Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina. Caracteriza-se como ação junto à comunidade, tendo como foco principal a violência de gênero. Da primeira edição em 2017 até agora, o projeto original sofreu modificações, especialmente por avaliações permanentes com as participantes do projeto. Assim, o principal objetivo desse Relato de Experiência é, além de socializar a prática de um projeto de extensão, sinalizar a importância do contexto para indicar as necessidades de mudanças, o que pode ser visto na apresentação das edições. Esse deve ser o compromisso da Universidade Pública com a defesa dos direitos da população, na luta contra todas as formas de opressão e exploração vigentes.

Palavras-chave: Extensão Universitária. Formação Feminista. Violência de Gênero.

PROYECTO DE EXTENSIÓN FALADEIRAS

Resumen

El proyecto de extensión Faladeiras es un proyecto feminista y está vinculado al Núcleo de Estudios en Trabajo Social y Organización Popular del Departamento de Trabajo Social de la Universidad Federal de Santa Catarina, Brasil. El mismo se caracteriza como una actividad junto a la comunidad y tiene como foco principal la violencia de género. El proyecto original, de 2017, tuvo modificaciones, en especial por las frecuentes evaluaciones realizadas por las participantes del proyecto. De esta forma, el principal objetivo de este relato de experiencia es socializar la práctica de un proyecto de extensión señalando la importancia del contexto social con el intuito de indicar las necesidades de cambios. Esto será exhibido en las diferentes ediciones del proyecto realizado en los años de 2017, 2018, 2019 y 2020. Consideramos que este debe ser el compromiso de la universidad pública por la defensa de los derechos de la población y por la lucha contra todo tipo de opresión y explotación vigente.

Palabras claves: Extensión Universitaria. Formación Feminista. Violencia de Género.



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INTRODUCTION

Faladeiras extension project proposes itself as a feminist, professional qualification, and extramural action of the Public University, and so far it has focused on the gender violence. It's linked to the Department of Social Work of the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) through the Center for Studies in Social Work and Popular Organization (NESSOP). The project started in 2017 and has already undergone modifications over its three years of experience. The reasons for these modifications are closely related to the evaluations carried out by the participants each year, thus strengthening the proposed methodology of permanent analysis and horizontality in the execution of the project. So much that the project in its original formulation shifts from the objective of contributing to the organization of women in the struggle for the right to the city to act in the qualification of public and community agents to assist women who are victims of violence.

In Brazilian context, a closer look at daily life is enough to reveal that women are the ones who commonly take their children to school, and who access more often the health units, and the Social Assistance Reference Centers. In general, women live the neighborhood actively, circulating more in this space and, consequently, they are more exposed to the insecurities of the streets, corners and the violence that permeates these places. Besides that, many of them still have to face violence within their own homes.

It is well known that the access to social policies is substantial for the survival of working class women and their families. Still, it is important to consider the inherent contradiction in such policies, which is the fact that they are at the same time concessions and conquests. On the one hand, there are specific advances in periods of economic expansion while recession times, the possibilities for negotiation are restricted (BEHRING, 2009). Therefore, from the social struggles, at a specific historical moment, a scenario emerged that provided the recognition of social rights with the approval of the 1988 Constitution, inaugurating the social security system in the country. Thirty years after its promulgation, the current political, economic, and social situation still presents us with great challenges for the implementation of Brazilian constitutional rights.

One of the instruments created to expand social participation within the scope of elaboration, implementation and inspection of social policies is what we call social control. According to Bravo and Correia (2012, p. 127) this is an expression used as “synonymous with control of civil society over State actions (own translation)”. It was implanted in 1990 in a context permeated by contradictions arising from the guidelines of the neoliberal project. Thus,

councils and conferences were institutionalized within the State - the challenge of not allowing their structures to become “channels of consent” for classes was established, as this situation creates a beneficial context for the conservation of current relations.

The authors warn us that the

[...] social control of the subordinate classes over the State's actions and over the destination of public resources becomes important in the Brazilian reality in order to create resistance to the reduction of social policies, their privatization and commodification (BRAVO; CORREIA, 2012, p. 133) (own translation).

If women represent a significant portion among users of public policies and the dismantling that we have been currently experiencing tends to deepen, directly impacting their survival, the need to contribute to the information of their rights and the expansion of social participation of women in society's decision-making processes is evident. It is necessary for them to know their rights, so that they can precisely defend and expand them. If we start from the assumption that intervening in reality requires knowing it, we can understand that:

[...] the right to information is not only restricted to the knowledge of rights and of what is legally established in social policies. It includes the right of users to enjoy all socially produced knowledge, especially those generated in the field of science and technology, necessary to improving conditions and quality of life or for users to be able to access certain goods or services in specific situations. In addition, the right to information is not restricted to access to information. It also presupposes the understanding of information, as this understanding is what will enable the use of information in everyday life. Thus, the use of information or the incorporation of information by subjects becomes an important indicator of evaluation in the process of building the autonomy of individuals, groups, and families [...] (MIOTO, 2009, p. 6) (own translation).

In this direction, there are gaps regarding information on social policies, since the dissemination of information depends directly on the profile of the professionals in the services, thus, in addition to fighting for what we already have, for the actual implementation of policies and their expansion, it is necessary to contribute to the qualification of these professionals as well.

It was with this perspective that Faladeiras Project emerged, whose initial objective was to disseminate information about the rights that are directly linked to the lives of working class women and to contribute with forms of organization for the defense of such rights. In addition, for the concept of Public University, extension is a privileged place for the fulfillment of its social function in society.

If in colloquial language the expression “faladeiras” is seen as something pejorative, here it will be its reverse. These are times when we cannot remain silent. Just as an example, in Florianópolis only 40% of the cases of violence against women registered at the 6th Police

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Station for the Protection of Women, go through the reception of the Reference Center for Assistance to Women in Situation of Violence (CREMV)¹- public equipment where violated women have access to a series of legal, psychological, social-assistance information, whose building is next to the aforementioned police station. Whether out of fear, insecurity, or any other reason that causes a woman not to seek support, it is clear that there is also a lack of knowledge and qualification for professionals to carry out the necessary referrals to the network.

Therefore, more than ever, reality points to the need to be more and more “faladeiras”! As a university extension project with a popular and feminist approach, Faladeiras also presents itself as an instrument of disputing the public university, as an important agent and propeller of social transformations. Faladeiras project was presented as an instrument that could facilitate the meeting, the dialogue, the convergence of voices, of women's speeches, a means to build a space that brings out what they think. According to Santos (1998, p. 48), "space has a different meaning according to the level of income and social class to which it one belongs". If the working population appropriates their rights, they forge their weapons to claim them. If there are no daycare facilities, schools, adequate health, if there is insecurity, if there are no free leisure alternatives, it is necessary to create ways to reverse this.

Thus, the proposal was for the project's action, in addition to its feminist approach, to materialize at the periphery of the city. It is this process that is reported with the objectives of, besides socializing the experience, contributing to show the importance of developing a methodology that prioritizes real demands from the insertion of the population in the process of construction of extension projects.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The characteristics of each year of execution of the project are presented below, including the proposal for 2020, whose format format is being readjusted due to the pandemic. Therefore we describe which was the objective of each edition, the evaluation at the end of each one of them and the consequent redefinition of the objectives.

2017 Edition - Domestic violence as daily life of women

¹ Data obtained on a visit to CREMV / Florianópolis, held on June 24th, 2016.

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For the first edition and, therefore, the one that justified the project, the proposed methodology had, and so far it still has, the assumptions of popular education, since it privileges the collective and democratic construction of knowledge with women, from the contextualization and understanding that they have about the meaning and importance of organizing to struggle for the right to the city. It was held at a Social Assistance Reference Center (CRAS) in the south of the island of Florianópolis. Furthermore, it was carried out in association with the collective Committee for the Defense of Social Rights in the South of the Island, as a pilot experience. The dynamics and periodicity of the meetings were in accordance with the availability and interests of those women.

The participation and autonomy of the groups is a premise for the development of the project, in addition to being a pedagogical tool for the students involved in the work processes with popular groups and the political organization of women in Florianópolis. The project intended to expand the possibilities for women's intervention in decision-making spaces related to the right to the city as well as to improve access to and assistance of local public social policies, as well as to improve the qualification of students for this process, which is so fundamental to the professional practice in social work.

Other critical indications were made from the positive evaluation of the project as an action linked to women from the periphery, of how important this contact was for the students involved and, especially, of learning, although not as a surprise, the gravity of the experiences of women who live a daily routine of violence, and often have difficulties in identifying the violence as such.

The financial precariousness influenced, even for the systematic arrival and participation of these women in the group, which led to a discontinuity in the conversations, with little possibility to advance in a debate that reached the feminist agenda. That was, on the other hand, fundamental for the assessment of the extent to which the reality of poor women is saturated with contradictions of gender, class and race. Finally, another conclusion was that the presence of the project was replacing the dynamic that should be specific to the work of the CRAS. Based on these considerations, it was decided to expand the assessment by investing in the convocation of local female leaders working in the community organization.

At that time, at the end of 2017, at the CRAS facilities, two meetings were held with these women. The first one to present the project and the second one to discuss what would be central to its continuity. The formation of a feminist consciousness from the problems faced by women was evident. Thus, the priority for the second edition was to extend an invitation to those leaders, extending it to public agents whose professional spaces involved dealing with contexts of

violence against women, such as health workers, social workers, psychologists, for instance. Also, topics of interest to conversation circles were indicated, which we later characterized as thematic workshops.

2018 Edition - The political contradictions of acting in territories.

As a continuation to the previous edition, and under the same title, we sought to resume the project's objectives, such as the right to the city, based on the social-historical particularities of the territories, such as accessibility, housing, security, health, education and social assistance, which were objects of the contents approached during the activities of the project. The dynamics and periodicity of the meetings were in accordance with the availability and interests of those women.

The target audience that year was female community leaders from lower classes of different districts of Florianópolis/SC, in particular, from the southern region of the island. At biweekly meetings, the group discussed various topics related to women's rights and their struggle. To access the target audience, it was necessary to map and contact organizations, residents' associations, community councils, local health councils and other entities. Among the almost thirty locations which were mapped, it was possible to make contact with thirteen of them, and representatives of four institutions attended the initial meeting, held in June.

Based on the demands which were pointed out, the qualification meetings were structured, along with the definition of themes, preparation of support materials and contact with professionals and groups for participation. Among the themes highlighted by the women participating in the meeting, the themes of violence against women, women's rights, and feminism stood out.

The qualification took place in fortnightly meetings between September and November 2018, at the Areias do Campeche Residents Association (AMAREIAS). During the meetings, reports were shared from the participants regarding the perception of violence against women in their daily lives. Another highlight was the reports of difficulties and challenges which the health agents faced while assisting women victims of violence and articulating the service network.

The 2018 edition was fundamental to what we came to evaluate as an improvement in quality for the 2019 edition. It was possible to realize that local disputes interfere with the project and we are not always prepared to implement an extension project when there is no experience of the specificities of a given territory. This ended up leading to a change of the space for the execution of the project, sharing the space with other community activities, which caused a

precariousness in the established agenda. In any case, the experience with guests was very positive. It was found that the most constant participants throughout the process were the public agents which presented the criticism that they expected a more consistent training, beyond the exchange of experiences that was the keynote of the 2018 edition. Therefore, already focusing on violence against women as the most requested theme, the organization of the 2019 edition was aimed at deepening the qualification of these agents, which would imply research, study and dissemination of the project to public institutions operating on the territory.

2019 Edition - The formative identity of Faladeiras Project.

As assessed in 2018, this edition focused on qualification of public and social agents who work assisting the demands of women in the southern and adjacent neighborhoods of Florianópolis. As these agents are also residents of the neighborhoods, in addition to maintaining the objective of contributing to the process of forming a critical and participatory feminist consciousness in face of reality, it also incorporated two other complementary objectives: to provide technical and ethical tools for assisting women and to contribute to the articulation of a care network for women in the region. The proposed methodology, maintaining the assumptions of popular education, consisted of qualification for professionals from different areas on the theme of violence against women. Held in the format of workshops, the qualification had a total workload of 28 hours, divided into 14 meetings, 2 hours each.

Keeping the focus of the previous editions, the meetings took place at a public school in the south of the island of Florianópolis. Three units were defined for the course: theoretical, political and historical aspects of violence against women; technical-operational and ethical-political aspects of assistance; violence against women and the service network in Florianópolis. As it included several themes that are outside the scope of Social Work knowledge, professionals working with women who are victims of violence and researchers in the area of gender and sexuality were invited to minister and coordinate some of the qualification meetings.

In addition, a survey was made about the municipal network of services to assist women victims of violence, through contact with various institutions, services and professionals. However, it was with great difficulty that we obtained the information about the service network for women victims of violence in Florianópolis. Over this process we could realize the difficulties that a woman victim of violence has in obtaining information, because if we identified ourselves as people from the university seeking to systematize the current service network in Florianópolis and did not get the information, how can a woman who has suffered violence access the

network? How does it feel to have to chase information from organizations that do not communicate with each other and have little effectiveness in serving women who suffer violence?

The qualification was disseminated through the project's social medias, delivery of pamphlets and posters in Health Centers, Social Assistance Reference Centers and schools in the south of Florianópolis, contact by email with residents' associations, with other institutions and services that provide assistance to women victims of violence and with participants from previous editions. An online form for prior registration was created, which had a total of 50 people registered. When drawing a brief profile from the data provided in the registration, we found that all those registered are cisgender² women, mostly white (74%), and heterosexual (76%). Regarding age, the average is 35 years old, with the youngest enrolled at age of 22 and the oldest at age of 58. Despite their focus on the south of the island, those enrolled live and work throughout the municipality and even in other municipalities in around Florianópolis. Most have higher education, with Social Work, Nursing and Psychology being the three main categories of course participants. Among the 50 people enrolled, 27 of them were present on the first day of the qualification, 15 of whom completed the course, with at least 75% attendance.

The evaluation and proposals for 2020 considered that there was a new improvement in the project quality compared to previous years, as it was possible to reach a larger number of women, from different professional categories and areas of activity, densifying and qualifying the debates. In this sense, the qualification in format of a course with workshop methodology allowed the creation of a more focused group with greater space for discussions, debates and contributions from all participants. As a negative point, the difficulty in reaching the target audience that had been defined for the training was perceived. In addition, despite the great workload of the course, it was not possible to include all the necessary content and some debates could not be explored in an ideal way.

The evaluations performed by the participants were positive - all of them considered the course to be good (20%) or very good (80%). The contents covered were considered to be "of great social relevance" and "pertinent to the course proposal, often exceedingly enriching the pre-established borders and limits in a clear demonstration of the need for continuity and expansion of the program". Regarding the methodology, several participants praised the diversification in the dynamics used over the three units and highlighted the contribution of the invited speakers in some meetings. Due to the evaluation process, we opted for a reformulation of the project for 2020, which actually deepens the objectives of Faladeiras. It involves qualification inside the services based on thematic workshops, as already approved by PROBOLSAS 2020 and Sigpex.

² Cisgender is the person who identifies with the biological sex with which he/she was born.

2020 edition - during the pandemic, discontinuity and reformulation.

In 2020, the proposal was intended to extend intensively to the qualification of public and community agents who daily deal with women victims of violence, and require specific training and qualification to act effectively in this field that also covers sexual, reproductive, and social rights. The current situation of regression of rights increasingly exposes the extent to which violence against women is materialized through different nuances and forms. Thus, eight workshops were planned, to be held in different services of social assistance, health and education policies, as well as in unions and community organizations, to address the different themes involving such violence: violence and sexual and reproductive health; violence and sexuality; violence and racism; domestic violence; gender violence and work; generational and gender-based violence; violence and homeless women.

The organization of each thematic workshop proposes a coordinating team, composed of members of Faladeiras project (teachers, undergraduate, and graduate students) and participants of the qualification held in 2019. Given the perspective of analysis that articulates gender, race and class as structuring axes, we aim to emphasize on the racial issue, in dialectical articulation in the workshop on violence and racism, rescuing and associating the ethnic-racial issue of black and indigenous women and the racism, and the issue of women with disabilities and ableism, which fundamentally intersect in different situations. According to Davis (2017, p. 37), "working class women, in particular those of ethnic minorities, face sexist oppression in a way that reflects the reality and complexity of the purposeful interconnections between economic, racial, and sexual oppression (own translation)".

In the beginning of 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent need for social isolation, suspension of presential activities, redirection of different policies to meet new demands which arose and aggravated in this context, the planning and execution of activities proposed by the thematic workshops for the Faladeiras project were also impacted. It is currently undergoing a reformulation process for the online modality, maintaining the contents initially proposed.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

During the presentation of the editions we try to present the subsequent results and analyzes. We start from the observation that women are the ones who live the territories more

extensively and intensively, either through the bias of attention and demands for public social policies, as well as insecurity, which mostly affects popular and / or peripheral communities. The constant evaluation with the participants over the three editions held so far, allowed the perception of the emerging demands of community leaders, health agents and other professionals, who in their professional field, constantly assist women victims of violence.

Also, throughout the existence of the project, we were able to endorse the importance of extension at the university and, particularly, for training in social work. The permanent evaluation process with the participants of the different editions was also essential for a construction in line with the desired participation proposal. During this process, it was also possible to get closer to professionals and public agents who work in the care network for women in situations of violence, directly or indirectly, as well as the identification of potential points to be better elaborated in the service network. From this process, a technical cooperation agreement with the Bureau of Social Assistance in Florianópolis was also made official, for thematic workshops with the workers of their services.

Other important results refer to the inseparability of research, teaching and extension. The project forged the creation of the study and research group on Work, Feminisms and Social Work which, although linked to extension, gained its own dynamics and added other students, including some from other areas of knowledge. It gave rise to a research project that seeks to articulate internship projects, course completion works, master's dissertations and doctoral theses around the theme. The scholarship students participate every six months in the course Introduction to Academic Life, taught in the first semester of the Social Work undergraduate course, presenting the Project's experience, in addition to strengthening the dialogue with other areas.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Violence against women is not detached from the broader social, political and economic context, the same applies to the possibilities of extension projects, especially those aimed at the community, in direct contact with the population. So much that the COVID-19 pandemic has so far put the project on hold. However, from an initial uncertainty about the duration of the pandemic, to the understanding of its extent, the team developed other activities and plans to return to the project even though reformulating its format.

In partnership with the SUAS SC-Covid 19 Committee in defense of life, Faladeiras project organized an article that systematizes the mapping of violence against women in this period in addition to hosting a webinar with the title: Domestic Violence and Pandemic: challenges to the social protection system, to present these results. We sought to bring some data about domestic violence against women in the current pandemic context in Santa Catarina, questioning the effectiveness of public policies so as to point out some possibilities that can expand access and protection for women.

As pointed out in another article,

The context of a global COVID-19 pandemic exposes the perversity of a society model that strives for “profit above life”, which means, from the outset, knowing that the relations of oppression will, as they so far have been deepened. And in Brazil, this truth takes on catastrophic proportions. At a time when there is a cry for health and the necessary defense of public services, for sanitary and income measures, what we have witnessed is the daily attempt to approve the measures of the austerity policy, of tax adjustments that benefit companies, banks and the richest. Social isolation is treated as a dispute of opinions between science and denialism which is functional to the interests of capital. And, not by chance, we can accuse the Brazilian government of a genocidal policy because we know that the coronavirus does not affect everyone equally. The peripheries, the black people, indigenous people and working women are the ones who are most affected and who are dying (FALADEIRAS, 2020, p. 2).

The relations of gender, race and class are structuring of Brazilian society and cross all aspects of life (SAFFIOTI, 2004). In the context of the current pandemic, which imposes necessary and significant changes in the immediate conditions of survival, the inequalities imposed by these structuring axes of life are also intensified. Another question that arises is that the conditions for implementing the necessary changes in the form of sociability imposed in times of a pandemic must be guaranteed through basic and intensive public policies, especially in situations of violence against women.

However,

in a context that was previously aggravated, since 2016, with the advance and deepening of neoliberalism as an ideal economic model, the systematic withdrawal of public policy financing has been intensifying. The ineffectiveness in providing an immediate response to the increase in situations of domestic violence in a pandemic period is a repercussion of this precariousness that, in times of normality, already has insufficient spaces for reception, listening and referrals. The fight to strengthen policies to combat violence against women are diligently minimized, weakened and set aside, however, in the midst of the current crisis, we witness a significant lack of capacity of states and municipalities to deal with the increase in these cases of violence. It is important to state that, regarding the confrontation of domestic violence against women, these and other elements expose how the patriarchal gender

order (SAFFIOTI, 2004), assumes the structural character in the reproduction of social relations (FALADEIRAS, 2020, p. 3).

This situation, in addition to demanding the reformulation of the extension project, corroborates its concerns in the sense of defending the university's social function, the public social policies, the need for feminism, the anti-racist struggle and the working class struggle.

The contribution of this report, therefore, demonstrates the importance of university extension, the materialization of the social function of the Public University and the extent to which the extension itself enhances the inseparability with teaching and research.

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