



VOLUNTEER SOCIAL WORK. A CASE STUDY IN A SCHOOL OF SAMBA IN BRAZIL

Trabalho social voluntário. Um estudo de caso em uma escola de samba no Brasil

Alessandro Marco Rosini¹, Silmara Cristiane Gomes², Angelo Palmisano³, Alexey Carvalho⁴, Vitória Catarina Dib⁵

¹ UNIAN-SP-Brazil, UNIVAG-MT-Brazil, ² SENAC-SP-Brazil, ³UNIVAG-MT-Brazil, ⁴UNIAN-SP-Brazil, ⁵Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo-Brazil

E-mail: alessandro.rossini@yahoo.com, silmara.cgomes@sp.senac.br, angelopalmisano@uol.com.br, alexeycarvalho@gmail.com, vitoriacdib@uol.com.br

ABSTRACT

Voluntary work has contributed a lot to social development both locally and globally. Many organizations have benefited from this type of work. Brazil is usually recognized internationally for both Football and Carnival, both with strong ethnic roots. However, little is said about the Social Impact of the so-called Samba Schools that organize the Carnival performances. This work aims to show how a Samba School in Sao Paulo, developed social work in their communities, that are very important and valued so much for by both communities by the institutions themselves and society; and therefore, they represent an important type of Local Social Entrepreneurship. The objective of the research is to identify what drives people to do voluntary work at the samba schools, what motivates them and what is the profile of the volunteer worker at the Unidos de Vila Maria Samba School. The research is qualitative, exploratory and literature about the volunteering theme, and carried out research on the type Focal Group with 8 integrates of samba school study. The research results show that despite prejudices still exist, volunteer work in samba schools improves motivation and helps to understand how the world can be better when projects are put into action that aim to help the marginalized and disadvantaged in society.

Keywords: Voluntary work; Motivation; Social project; Samba School.

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TRABALHO SOCIAL VOLUNTÁRIO. UM ESTUDO DE CASO EM UMA ESCOLA DE SAMBA NO BRASIL

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Alessandro Marco Rosini¹, Silmara Cristiane Gomes², Angelo Palmisano³, Alexey Carvalho⁴, Vitória Catarina Dib⁵

¹ UNIAN-SP-Brazil, UNIVAG-MT-Brazil, ² SENAC-SP-Brazil, ³UNIVAG-MT-Brazil, ⁴UNIAN-SP-Brazil, ⁵Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo-Brazil

E-mail: alessandro.rossini@yahoo.com, silmara.cgomes@sp.senac.br, angelopalmisano@uol.com.br, alexeycarvalho@gmail.com, vitoriacdib@uol.com.br

RESUMO

O trabalho voluntário tem contribuído muito para o desenvolvimento social local e global. Muitas organizações se beneficiaram com esse tipo de trabalho. O Brasil costuma ser reconhecido internacionalmente tanto pelo futebol quanto pelo carnaval, ambos com fortes raízes étnicas. Porém, pouco se fala sobre o Impacto Social das chamadas Escolas de Samba que organizam as apresentações de carnaval. Este trabalho tem como objetivo mostrar como uma Escola de Samba de São Paulo, desenvolve um trabalho social em suas comunidades, que são muito importantes e valorizadas por ambas as comunidades pelas próprias instituições e pela sociedade; e, portanto, representam um importante tipo de Empreendedorismo Social Local. O objetivo da pesquisa é identificar o que motiva as pessoas a fazerem trabalho voluntário nas escolas de samba, o que as motiva e qual é o perfil do voluntário da Escola de Samba Unidos de Vila Maria. A pesquisa é qualitativa, exploratória e bibliográfica sobre a temática do voluntariado, e realizou pesquisa do tipo Grupo Focal com 8 integrantes de escola de samba. Os resultados da pesquisa mostram que, apesar de ainda existirem preconceitos, o trabalho voluntário em escolas de samba melhora a motivação e ajuda a entender como o mundo pode ser melhor quando são colocados em prática projetos que visam ajudar os marginalizados e desfavorecidos da sociedade.

Palavras-chave: Trabalho voluntário; Motivação; Projeto social; Escola de Samba.

INTRODUCTION

The idea of work, according to Fabiani and Colussi (2014), occupies a central place in people's lives, being an essential element for the construction of social identity. According to Freitas (2017), work provides meaning, but in addition to the financial aspect, aspects such as application, stability, social relationships between peers and managers, opportunity for growth, learning and recognition should be considered.

The work needs to be understood as a set of motivating factors that gives meaning to the individual existence. Work enables men to fulfill their dreams, achieve their goals and objectives in life, in addition to being a form of expression. The work is a means for the individual to demonstrate actions, initiatives, develop and improve skills. Work is the possibility for man to learn to live with other people and with differences.

The work does not is the feathers one form of financial survival, but is a means to social inclusion. Often, when men are out of the labor market, they may have a feeling of no longer being part of society. Voluntary work has contributed to the individual's social insertion, as well as to local and global social development, as many organizations and people have benefited from this type of work.

Actually, for Souza, and Pereira de Medeiros (2012) the volunteer work is closely related to the motivation of individuals. Cavalcante (2012) explains that there are levels of hierarchy in the motivation for volunteer work, as follows:

1st. Level - The first level concerns altruistic voluntary work, when the decision appears strongly related to the desire to promote well-being, due to political or religious conviction, through personal donation to the practice and socialization of initiatives that attest to superior human qualities;

2nd. Level - The second level of volunteer work is the affective one, which appears based on the re-encounter with the collective, as for the volunteer, being together and doing good to others conveys a sense of accomplishment, of responsibility;

3rd. Level - The third level is friendly volunteer work, when the decision is linked to the constitution and development of networks of subjects in a similar situation, with the volunteer interested in sharing values and strengthening group bonds close to situational spaces that he/she has experienced or experienced; and,

4th. Level - The fourth level of volunteer work is adjusted to the decision. In other words, it is based on the search for specific skills and abilities, with the volunteer interested in self-development, through social action and recognition of privileged status.

The Samba Schools in Sao Paulo are examples of institutions that are developing social work in their communities using volunteer work. Among the activities developed, the following stand out: soccer, karate, judo, dance, health care such as physiotherapy, dentistry and psychological services. The actions developed are valued both by the communities served and by the institutions themselves.

The purpose of the research was to understand the motivation of individuals when developing voluntary activities in institution will and Samba School, and in particular to know how the work volunteer is being held in the Unidos Vila Maria Samba School in São Paulo.

Next, item 2 discusses the concept of volunteer work and its importance in the development of the individual, item 3 addresses social work in samba schools as a means of leveraging community development and item 4 deals with social work carried out in the Unidos de Vila Maria Samba School.

1. THE VOLUNTARY WORK

Throughout history, and even more in s last s times with the restrictions imposed by Pandemic Covids the s labor relations have been modifying rapidly and are being shaped s by digital platforms, giving way to the home-office work and autonomous.

Kim (2008) points out that, when we look at the world of work, realize -If that there is a move towards greater flexibility, both in relation to formal employees and workers who use in a more flexible work contract. On the other hand, Ferrarino (2003) points out that voluntary actions in Brazil, from a historical point of view, were not only carried out in religious institutions, but also maintained a close relationship with the social issue and

assistance policies for the needy. Thus, they are related to different contexts - social, legal or economic - and never ceased to strengthen moral and religious aspects, maintaining the status quo, positions and even the prejudices of the elite. Moreover, according to Bareli et al. (2010), little by little, volunteer work has acquired other dimensions and is no longer focused exclusively on assistance. From then onwards, actions aimed at the development of citizenship began to emerge, with educational, cultural and leisure activities.

Volunteer work begins to emerge in Brazil, in the early twentieth century, from the need for support and assistance to the needy, especially because of epidemics and several diseases that affect the poorest population. (CENTRO DE VOLUNTARIADO DE SÃO PAULO, 2001). The 80s, with the involvement of society, emerge as the non - governmental ORGANIZATIONS (ONGs) that have enriched this work. As a result, there is a strengthening in the diversification of volunteer work in Brazil, with emphasis on the protection of the environment.

The Federal Constitution of 1988 played an important role, as it not only emphasized social responsibility as a premise to be observed by society, but also highlighted citizenship and human dignity as foundations of Democratic States of Law. According to Law 9608/1998, voluntary services involve unpaid activities, without employment relationship and social security obligations, which are provided by an individual, public entity or non-profit private institutions, and which have civic, educational, cultural, scientific objectives, recreational and/or assistance.

For Neri (2012), involvement in social activities intensifies social support and favors subjective well-being, the individual, according to Gomes (2016), does not exchange his workforce for financial resources, he is in search of his personal satisfaction.

2. SOCIAL WORK IN SAMBA SCHOOL INSTITUTIONS

“From the agrarian festival of ancient Egypt, through the celebration of Dionysius in Greece, to Bacchus in Rome, the street dances of Renaissance Venice and the coronation of the King and Queen of Congo in the 18th century, the festival of meat gained a new context in Rio of January of the 20th century, with the popularization of the samba schools. A universal festival with origins in primitive agrarian rituals, carnival brought together in a single concept games and social phenomena of different origins, which occurred on different dates, but had characteristics in common.” (BRAZIL AGENCY)

The social work of samba schools through their community actions includes access to various cultural, leisure, sports, basic, elementary, secondary and professional education activities, and constitute an important universe of possibilities, especially for low-income people and for the children and young people, often keeping them away from drugs and crime. Such activities arouse the interest of the social and human sciences, despite their little publicity by the mainstream media (Costa de Assis, 2019), more focused on the dissemination of aspects of the universal festival. The actions of a samba school go far beyond the common sense that they act only in function of the carnival parade (Resende and Benedini Brusadin, 2015); and actually, there is a large list of samba schools in Brazil is divided into the 26 states of the federation, and among the best are: Beija-Flor, Pérola Negra, Mangueira, Acadêmicos do Salgueiro, Unidos da Tijuca, Vai-Vai, Unidos de Vila Isabel and Mocidade Happy (BASE STEP).

According to Paiva (2021), samba schools are stimulated by the competition of the official Carnival parade, and are maintained through the creativity of their carnival designers, directors, ward heads, choreographers, plastic artists, seamstresses, props, blacksmiths, carpenters, electricians, communities, official and volunteer supporters, these who spend personal effort and a lot of tactical skill to maintain this cultural practice, which each year gathers greater admirers and followers around the world. The author observes that a samba school plays a very important role in the social context, generating social inclusion, employment generation, encouraging the practice of volunteering, which makes the human being feel better with high esteem, in addition to being rich and natural source of teaching and learning in the arts: plastic, scenic and musical; and

moreover, samba schools start to assume a significant social role in community life, especially at a time when Brazilian citizens and especially our youth suffer so much from urban violence, unemployment, lack of opportunity, with the leisure generated by the contemporary world and the lack of perspective in our country.

But what is important to consider is that still today the carnival associations in the city of São Paulo and especially in Rio de Janeiro, are an example of organization, discipline and professionalism, becoming a source of income and sustainability for many people, in addition to providing through the coexistence with cultural differences, the development of team spirit skills.

3. SOCIAL CONTEXT INSTITUTION SHALL UNIDOS DE VILA MARIA SAMBA SCHOOL

The social crisis and difficulties faced by municipal and state governments provided the emergence of social work to contribute to the communities surrounding the samba schools. The social work carried out by the Unidos de Vila Maria Samba School helps to remove young people and teenagers from the streets and reduce crime rates. For Costa (2003), the challenge is to find a consensus on what, who and how to respond to society's desires in relation to its well-being, as a community. The author also inquires about what we should do collectively, and not individually, so that social actions result from the involvement of both individual motivation for a solidary ethics constituting social cohesion, and the guarantee of the State's "responsiveness" to citizens.

The Unidos de Vila Maria Samba School is a traditional college in the northern part of the city of São Paulo with more than 60 years of history in the São Paulo carnival. In the last 20 years, it has carried out more than 30 social actions in favor of the community, creating free options for people with low purchasing power and contributing to their moral, social and intellectual development. Its projects have achieved a large proportion and reach, and served more than 200 thousand people, in various areas, whether in sports, culture, health, education and professional courses (SOCIAL PROJECT VILA MARIA).

The samba school understands human and professional emancipation as the main mechanism for promoting well-being in the community, which concentrates efforts to train ethical and qualified professionals for work, as well as for the full exercise of citizenship, that is, with critical capacity before society and the State and commitment to building a more just and humane society. The relationship of solidarity between school and community created a form, concentrating actions that have distanced children and adolescents from involvement with drugs and marginality, assisting young people and adults in professional referral and emotional stability, and providing the elderly and the entire community more quality of life. All this without assistance, increasing the feeling of citizenship that the Brazilian people need to rescue to fulfill their duties and asserting their rights.

The activities that the school maintains are models of expansion, always supported by the tripod Sporting Goods, Health and Education and Culture. The Institution develops activities in the areas of sports, physical and psychological health, education and culture, theater, music, dance, offers literacy courses, telemarketing, surveillance, languages, school support and others, which aim to reduce school dropouts, enable social inclusion, and vocational training for youth and adults to meet the market requirements.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research is exploratory and bibliographical, carried out in Scopus and Scielo databases and in specialized books and magazines dealing with the subject of volunteering. The research is qualitative and uses a questionnaire with closed questions. In this research, the Volunteer Functions Inventory (IFV) was used (Pilati and Hess, 2011), which is an example of an instrument developed for the identification of individual motivations of a generic nature for volunteer work, and is concerned with identifying reasons, plans and goals underlying the individual's thinking, feelings and behavior. Pilati and Hess (2011) adapted and validated the Volunteer Functions Inventory (IFV) for Brazil.

The instrument is based around four factors (values/understanding, protection, career and social/enhancement), partially replicating the factor structure of the original instrument and confirming the existence of cultural differences in the motivations for volunteering. Each factor receives a total score. On Factor Social /

Exploded the score maximum is 49 point being composed of 7 questions ranging from 1 to 7 points. In the Values / Understanding factor the total score is 63 points, compost it for 9 issues ranging from 1 to 7 points. In Career factors Protection and Professional the maximum score is 28 points each, which consist of 4 issues ranging from 1 to 7. Across all factors, the higher the score, the greater the way in which participants demonstrate their reasons for volunteering.

This study used a Focus Group research (Backes et al., 2011) with 8 people from the Unidos de Vila Maria Samba School. The Focus Group is the realization of an interview carried out by a moderator in an unstructured and natural way, with a small group of interviewees having a theme as a focus. Participants interact through group interaction, enabling the researcher to understand the process of construction of perceptions, attitudes and social representations in the group.

Most of the people who participated in the survey have been in management positions for more than 5 years. The age group of respondents is above 41-45 years old, and the vast majority is between 51-55 years old. Most respondents are male and white. They have been engaged in volunteer work for over 10 years, and their level of education ranges from high school to graduation. Most of them are married or separated, they all have children, and the family income is between 5 to 6 minimum wages. They devote about 5 to 10 hours a week to volunteer work, and all of them are actively involved in formal paid work, in administrative, commercial, teaching or are self-employed professionals; and the analysis of the responses considered the following scale from 1 to 7 : value of 1 means "Completely No Importance" and the value 7 means "Totally Important" , and the values between 1 and 7 informs ra m the degree of importance of the item.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The following is an analysis of the information collected in the Focus Group survey:

- 1) People unfortunately do not value the volunteer work performed at the samba school. Only those people who play this role value the social work that is carried out;
- 2) In the service and performance of the volunteer, there is the opportunity to create emotional bonds with other volunteers. This ends up motivating most of those surveyed, because, in one way or another, volunteers are sensitized to people's difficulties, trying to help everyone;
- 3) The work volunteering somehow helps and allows much the opportunity to make good friends, for these friendships s will most sincere;
- 4) The experiences lived and carried out as a volunteer worker are constructive, as each new day, one learns with new facts and experiences;
- 5) Working as a volunteer significantly increases the worker's self-esteem, because when performing good works in favor of others, people feel more useful to society, increasing self-esteem;
- 6) The volunteer work that is performed by the people who help in the samba school significantly increase their self-confidence;
- 7) Learning to volunteer does the lack of affection, financial, psychological people. This can be seen because when helping the other, due to the existence of their difficulty, one learns from the existing lack;
- 8) When works and activities are carried out to help others, people feel good, grateful, at peace;
- 9) In the realization of the voluntary worker, prejudice is lost, because the difficulty of others is understood, becoming aware of them;
- 10) For the implementation of voluntary activity, all come to believe r that if the work was done by all citizens could improve and transform the lives of people and the world itself as a whole;
- 11) Working as a volunteer in samba schools helps to understand how the world could be better, by helping everyone, in understanding, understanding the difficulties of others, etc.;
- 12) Volunteer work makes people who do this type of work feel good about themselves.

CONCLUSION

In the 21st century, people still not only discriminate against voluntary work, they are also prejudiced. In samba schools, this is no different, the difficulties are still great, because in these communities' pride, arrogance, self-interest and selfishness speak louder. But there are people who are more detached from the issues of material life in the capitalist world, and who somehow try to worry about the difficulties of the other.

The main motivations found for carrying out volunteer work at the Unidos de Vila Maria Samba School Institution are related to the desire to help people, to give a better world to those in need, that is, to bring better conditions and quality of life to others. All this boils down to giving to the other. The volunteer work carried out at the Unidos de Vila Maria Samba School Institution has helped communities in need of social work, noting that personal fulfillment in volunteer work is important for those who carry it out, providing personal satisfaction by benefiting and helping others, those in need; there is a feeling of being helpful; peace of mind; and, happy to help people in need.

The future perspectives for the continuity of volunteer work at the Unidos de Vila Maria Samba School Institution is to look for partner companies so that the work grows and not the other way around, as well as more volunteers to collaborate. Thus, it is necessary to have more and more conditions and resources so that courses, leisure activities, health, culture and education can be implemented in the school. It would also be important that the city could help in these actions.

Moreover, in order that the social work performed at the samba school could contribute even more to the local community, it is necessary to have greater involvement and engagement of people, without personal interest involved in these works; more support from public companies and the private sector; more cooperation and involvement of leaders and people who can help with volunteer work; and, greater awareness of public agencies and private companies with the consequent reduction of prejudice.

As future research, it is suggested to carry out more in-depth studies, using quantitative research in other Samba School Institutions in the city of São Paulo, thus seeking to identify in greater depth how social and volunteer actions are being developed in this social segment of São Paulo.

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