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**THE SOCIAL ASSISTANT
IN THE CONTEXT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**

Ayna Miranda da Silva Nogueira

Unyleya College (Emergency
and Disaster Management)

Caruaru-Pernambuco

<http://cnpq.br/5843630888078659>

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Abstract: This article aims to study the importance of the social worker's work as an environmental educator. The study follows its line of considerations proposing to contribute with information related to the environment, for this it follows the methodology of bibliographic research and analysis of studies through articles and books already published. On the world stage and specifically in Brazil, the environmental issue has become something of concern for humanity. It is no longer a topic that interests only environmentalists or people linked to ecological issues, to be seen as a problem that permeates the entire society. The environmental issue involves, above all, the awareness that the preservation of the environment is something that we urgently need, of a daily practice that integrates cultural issues of a personal and professional nature, thus crossing environmental issues. It is necessary to discuss the role of the Social Worker in relation to the social issue. As an eye directed to the social sphere, we have the Social Service, which, in a more technical way, has family relationships with environmental issues. Article 3, paragraph d, of the Code of Professional Ethics provides that Social Workers "have a duty to participate in programs to help the population in a situation of public calamity". The involvement of professionals in actions to support the affected population is of total ethical and political relevance, however, it is necessary that professionals exercise their duties in line with the Ethical-Political Project, preventing actions from falling into welfarism and following the guidelines of the regulations.

Keywords: Social Worker; Environment; Environmental Social Movement.

INTRODUCTION

This article aims to study the importance of socio-environmental movements, with a view to the participation of the social worker. We understand that environmental education is part of emergency demands, because it requires innovative strategies that are now being developed by social classes, pointing to the expansion of the occupational space of Social Work. The changes in the environment, caused by man, unbalance natural environments creating situations of vulnerability and various actions of environmental degradation that are determining factors for natural disasters to occur. In view of the observed and presented aspects, we understand that the role of the social worker is of fundamental importance in the environment theme. How the social worker's academic training gives him special conditions to work with the demands, as a project manager, also works/acts through articulation, such as coordinating groups, in order to awaken concern for the environment in the population and in the authorities.

Despite a lot of weakness, in our country, we have public policies aimed at providing immediate assistance to people affected by these events. Hence the importance of deepening the relationship between social issues and environmental issues and starting to consider situations of environmental injustice. The social worker's duty is to guide the victim of their rights, to assist the user in accessing this right. The expansion and consolidation of these spaces and mechanisms of democratic social control have been marked by the action and systematic reflection of social workers.

Acting professionally in decentralized, integrated management, in project planning, means relating to various actors and institutions, with their practices and visions, encouraging them to seek points of convergence that result in coordinated action

in favor of life, in favor of the environment, in favor of an improvement of life for the needy population, who are the ones that suffer the most from the negative effects of nature. urgency that the demand has, the professional's performance is necessary, as he performs the mediations, referrals and the appropriate information for the user, IAMAMOTO (2004, p.40):

The social worker carries out an eminently "educational", "organizational" action in the working classes. Its objective is to transform the way of seeing, acting, behaving and feeling of individuals in their insertion in society. This action therefore affects the way of living and thinking of workers, based on situations experienced in their daily lives, although it is carried out through social services, provided for and carried out by the entities to which the professional is contractually bound (...) he mediates the relationship between the institution and the "clientele", articulating the population to the bodies in which he works.

Through Iamamoto's reflection, we understand how much the social worker as an environmental educator and as a professional in the demands of this theme is necessary for the necessary articulations and measures. In the same way as their participation in environmental social movements, because by being aware of the demands that have occurred and their acquaintance with environmental education, the professional will be able to meet the required needs, including developing intervention projects, lectures focused on this theme. , between others.

The degradation of the environment is the result of the cumulative effect of our actions. It is essential that everyone be aware of urban growth in a disorderly way and in risky places, the capitalist mode of production (destructive of nature), which has only the need to accumulate wealth, going against environmental sustainability, the absence of

of urban planning, which ends up causing serious damage to nature, altering the climate of our Planet.

The research is in the process of analysis, but bibliographic studies are able to elucidate the issues of this theme. And in the course of the process we understand that environmental education it's up to each of us.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The human being is daily faced with serious environmental problems and therefore has been the subject of constant debates in society. Environmental problems must be addressed in our daily lives, in professional, family and educational relationships. That is why the theme of the environment, sustainability, environmental education and all citations involving the environment must be on the agenda so that preservation and awareness is put into practice, in all our activities and actions.

It is clear that environmental degradation has been growing in all regions of the world, its effects end up reaching the entire world population in specific and differentiated ways for each sector of the world, such as longer droughts; more disastrous storms; hurricanes/earthquakes in places that did not occur, no one being free to suffer from the effects caused by inadequate human interference in nature.

The social service emerges as another partner in the fight against environmental destruction and its view of the social issue helps in the creation and implementation of public policies aimed at the population that suffers from the effects of environmental degradation. It meets the demands of natural disasters, helping (in the sense of guaranteeing rights) the victims of the disaster. In addition to being able to act in the demand for environmental education, whether in schools, public or private spaces.

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL MOVEMENT

There is no report of exactly when the mobilizations on environmental issues began, but there has always been a concern about the use of nature, expressions of interest in nature have been recorded since antiquity. Babylonians¹, had laws to protect the banks of rivers and canals and regulated the felling of forests. Plato left a record of the deforestation that took place in his time². Therefore, the mobilizations have historical importance, in the sense that if they had not appeared, perhaps, today, we would not have laws and public policies directed at environmental issues. And in this context, I want to quote CASTELLS (2000, p.141), who says:

If we set out to evaluate social movements after their historical productivity, namely, by their impact on cultural values and institutions of society, we could say that the environmental movement of the last quarter of this century has achieved a prominent position in the scenario of human adventure.

The socio-environmental movements emerged from the social conscience that, instead of life and social well-being, industrialization, based on science and modern technology, causes different types of natural disasters and seriously devastates the environment. Social movements play an important role in the struggle for rights, generating awareness of the theme addressed. It is simply a minority fighting for the good of a majority. To better exemplify the concepts of social mobilization and social movement, MONTAÑO and DURIGUETTO (2010, p.264): “A ‘social movement’ characterizes an organization, with a relative degree of formality and stability, which does not

reduce an activity or mobilization. A ‘social mobilization’ refers to an activity, which runs out in itself when completed.

There are several types of social movements, they are linked to blacks, homosexuals, women, immigrants, Indians, in short, there is a diversity, but all of them are characterized by an incessant desire to seek dignified social conditions for life, generating and guaranteeing conquests for the specific public, and this whole relationship is intertwined with the class struggle. But, in relation to the environmental movement, there is no specific social class, it is a movement that fights to guarantee future life, which affects any and all classes. Although those who suffer most from the effects of environmental devastation are the poor, due to their homes being in risky areas, for example, in general, human beings end up suffering from this environmental degradation, after all, polluted air is “available” for everyone, rich and poor alike. For MINC (1985, p. 65), environment that has been squandered by short-term economic interests, which have government complicity”.

In the 1960s, the need for a new attitude related to the procedures and uses of natural resources was born. In 1968, the Club of Rome was created, with the aim of, according to SEIFFERT 2014, “to study the global impact of the dynamic interactions between industrial production, population, damage to the environment, food consumption and the use of natural resources”. In the period of the military dictatorship (1970s), social movements (many of them coming from the hippie and feminist movements) began to emerge, even with the sole purpose of questioning the abusive and authoritarian practices of the State.

1. Babylonians: Developed a set of laws to organize society and a calendar for the floods of the Euphrates River (where they lived) to better control agriculture.

2. WIKIPEDIA, the free encyclopedia. ENVIRONMENTALISM.https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambientalismo#cite_note-Deacon-1

In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Environment took place, among the various agendas discussed and analyzed, a Declaration on the Human Environment was created and a World Action Plan was produced. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) was also created. However, it was in the 1980s that the movement gained strength, including companies adopting sustainable practices. Considering that environmental sociability is acting ethically and correctly, companies start to add this practice, precisely in a period when competitiveness grows, with the phenomenon of globalization and strong capitalism. SALHEB (et al 2009), reports:

The Federal Constitution of 1988 inserted the principles of sustainable development in its article 225. In 1989, the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) was created, bringing together the competences of the other extinct sectorial bodies of the environment, such as the Brazilian Forestry Development Institute (IBDF), the Rubber Development Superintendence (SUDHEVEA), the Fisheries Development Superintendence (SUDEPE) and SEMA. This fact appears to have been a governmental response to strong internal and external environmental pressures, which culminated in the assassination of Chico Mendes, in 1988. Also in view of the UN conference that would take place in Rio de Janeiro, it is recreated, in 1990, the Special Secretariat for the Environment, this time linked to the Presidency of the Republic, which apparently gave him greater importance. (...) thus, public environmental policies assumed a fundamental role of protecting the environment, integrating its protection with the other objectives of life in society, as a way, even, to provide quality of life. Brazil has always been marked by a predominantly exploratory economy of its abundant resources and natural wealth, basing all its development (economic, political, social, etc.) on the exhaustive production of primary

products (agriculture, livestock, extraction of precious metals, extraction of wood and others) in an aggressive and predatory way. to provide quality of life. Brazil has always been marked by a predominantly exploratory economy of its abundant resources and natural wealth, basing all its development (economic, political, social, etc.) on the exhaustive production of primary products (agriculture, livestock, extraction of precious metals, extraction of wood and others) in an aggressive and predatory way. to provide quality of life. Brazil has always been marked by a predominantly exploratory economy of its abundant resources and natural wealth, basing all its development (economic, political, social, etc.) on the exhaustive production of primary products (agriculture, livestock, extraction of precious metals, extraction of wood and others) in an aggressive and predatory way.

In 1990, the agenda was climate-related issues. “The expression environmental quality has become part of people’s daily lives”, says SEIFFERT (2014, p.15 and 16). In that decade there were some conferences, the most important was ECO 92, which took place in Rio de Janeiro and “aimed to discuss global environmental issues (...). Two important outcomes of this conference were Agenda 21 and the standards of the ISO 14000 series”. However, SALHEB (et al 2009) says that:

With the rise to power of a democratically elected president after years of military dictatorship, environmental policy was marked by ambiguities and contradictions, representing a risk of setback in terms of previously won environmental rights, as the environmental policies announced by the ruling class only had the power to make a good impression on international actors, promoting the country’s good image through oblique ways, not translating into policies effectively aimed at environmental protection. Were it not for the claims of the environmental movement, facing up to proposals and projects that would somehow

pose a risk to the environment, occupying the vacant spaces left by the government in the area of environmental policy, we would probably have gone backwards in this field.

Gradually the mobilizations turned into organized movements, and they conquered several rights and even the implementation of public policies, based on specific laws. The accelerated growth of cities awoke in various forms of social pressures that were strengthened over the years. Society began to demand more effective actions from the government in combating environmental degradation. The implementation of public environmental policies in Brazil was through the enactment of Law n° 6.938/1981, which established the National Environmental Policy (PNMA), translated into a series of principles, objectives and instruments: National Environment System (SISNAMA); National Council for the Environment (CONAMA); later the creation of the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA),

The movements were of fundamental importance for the awakening of a sustainable environmental conscience and it was from the emergence of the Ministry of the Environment³, in 1992 that sustainable practices and implementation of public policies began to be actively debated in government bodies. Laws, resolutions, decrees and ordinances were created for vehicles to control the emission of polluting gases, for example.

Perhaps the greatest particularity of environmental social movements is linked to their diversity. Much still needs to be done, however, but we can say that we are on the right path for the population to reach a level of environmental education that, when using nature's resources, is not devastating and that it is replaced, in order to guarantee continuity of the actions.

THE SOCIAL ASSISTANT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

When looking at environmental issues, the social worker is focused both on the environment in its general form and on the human being. Having in its professional practice the educational factor, with that its performance is focused on diverse demands both for the implementation or management of social policies, as for the demands after environmental disaster. The Federal Council of Social Service (CFESS, 1999), in its curriculum guideline, states that:

The social worker is a professional who works in the expressions of the social issue, formulating, implementing and evaluating proposals to face it, through social and public policies, social movements and third sector organizations; being a professional endowed with critical generalist intellectual and cultural training; committed to the values and guiding principles of the Social Worker's Code of Ethics.

In Brazil, the social service has acted in the various manifestations of the social issue. An emancipatory project that includes environmental problems as one of the expressions of the social question must be among the desires, possibilities and practices of the profession. However, it is not just a matter of proposing new procedures and instruments, but of encouraging and guaranteeing a constant exercise of dialogue, negotiations and creation of new meanings. As guaranteed by the Federal Constitution of 1988⁴, Brazilians have rights and duties: Article 225, § 1 of the VI paragraph says: promote environmental education at all levels of education and public awareness for the preservation of the environment.

The role of the professional as an environmental educator is somewhat emerging, although it is not a new practice.

3. Resolution No. 432, of July 13, 2011 See: <http://www.mma.gov.br/port/conama/legiabre.cfm?codlegi=653>

4. CF - https://www.senado.gov.br/atividade/const/con1988/con1988_15.12.2016/art_225_.asp

Socio-environmental issues are understood to be any situation that involves the environment, encompassing the resources available for structuring social and economic policies. The demands of everyday life arise linked to specific situations where the social worker deals with issues of health, assistance, housing, death, among many others. Faced with all these issues, the professional needs to qualify to meet the specific demands, as the CFESS (2010) says:

It works within the scope of social and political relations, together with individuals, families, the community and social movements, developing actions that aim to strengthen their autonomy, participation and exercise of citizenship, based on the principles of defense of human rights and social justice, with a view to overcoming inequality and situations of violence, oppression, poverty, hunger and unemployment.

In Brazil, there is a specific assistance policy related to environmental disasters, the SUAS. He is a non-contributory, decentralized public system whose function is to manage the specific content of Social Assistance in the field of Brazilian social protection⁵. The system organizes social assistance actions into two types of social protection. The first is Basic Social Protection, aimed at preventing social and personal risks by offering programs, projects, services and benefits to individuals and families in situations of social vulnerability. The second is Special Social Protection, aimed at families and individuals who are already at risk and who have had their rights violated due to abandonment, mistreatment, sexual abuse, drug use, among others.

SUAS encompasses the offer of Assistance Benefits, provided to specific audiences in an articulated way with the services, contributing to overcoming situations of

vulnerability. It also manages the linking of social assistance entities and organizations to the System, keeping the National Register of Social Assistance Entities and Organizations updated and granting certification to charities, when applicable. Within this program, there is the Service of Protection in Situations of Calamity and Emergencies, which is a special protection service of SUAS to face situations of Public Calamities and Emergencies recognized by the Ministry of Integration. The purpose of the service is to ensure provision of physical environment, material resources, human resources and social work.

A country of continental dimensions, Brazil is made up of municipalities with a diversity of size, population density and socio-territorial organization. There are 5,570 municipalities, 59 of which are metropolitan regions. Most cities grew without proper urban planning, which makes evident the contradictions and social inequalities, expressed more clearly in cities through slums and peripheral neighborhoods resulting from socio-spatial segregation. Brazil, in its various territorial specificities, suffers the consequences of an occupation ordered according to the interests of restricted and speculative real estate capital, without effective participation of the State. (CARMO and VALENCIO 2014 p. 66)

When it comes to the role of the social worker in the space of environmental education, actions that transcend welfare conceptions are evident, even though in many cases there is this practice, but through a perspective focused on effective transformations in the lives of subjects with the intention of guaranteeing rights provided by law, the subject is assisted, or at least guided about his rights.

5. Primer: Basic Operational Norm NOB/SUAS, Ministry of Social Development and National Secretariat of Social Assistance, 13p. <http://www.assistenciasocial.al.gov.br/sala-de-imprensa/arquivos/NOB-SUAS.pdf>

METHODOLOGY

The present work used exploratory and bibliographic research. Exploratory research aims to, according to Vianna (2001, 130p):

“It allows for a greater explanation and a deepening of studies on a certain subject or area, with a view to its more qualified understanding or the discovery of new relationships.”

A bibliographic survey was carried out through a secondary research source, and some authors were consulted, such as: Araújo (2000); Carvalho (2003); Seiffert (2017); Sposati (2002). The evidence of the cited productions delimit the research on the proposed theme, since the environment theme is broad and quite generic, and it is necessary to limit the research.

To conduct such discussions for this work, it was necessary to take the method of bibliographic review, which will ensure a necessary theoretical basis for data collection and analysis. As stated by Gil (2002, 44p) bibliographic research: “is developed based on material already prepared, consisting mainly of books and scientific articles”.

Continuing the research, qualitative research will be carried out, since what is important for this study is the understanding of the interviewee and their experience in acting and not numerical quantification, for example. For MINAYO (2001, p14) qualitative research “works with the universe of meanings, motives, aspirations, beliefs, values and attitudes, which corresponds to a deeper space of relationships, processes and phenomena that cannot be reduced to operationalization. of variables”.

CONCLUSION

In view of the aspects studied and presented, we understand that the role of the social worker is of fundamental importance in environmental social movements, as it

has a different look, a look that is directly linked to the guarantee of user rights and environmental education in several levels of schooling. Holder of a broad vision of society, where he understands that the individual needs to have a place that allows him to live with dignity. It is essential that everyone be aware that there are public policies for this type of occurrence and the social worker enforces this right through his actions and articulations in the face of demands. Iamamoto (2000) considers that these struggles broke with the private domain in the relations between capital and work, extrapolating the social issue to the public sphere,

The democratic participation of society (through isolated acts, social movements, academic groups, solidarity institutions, NGOs), information on legislation, public policies and most importantly, environmental education (from an early age, both in schools, in social spaces, and in families), are strategies and mechanisms that enable government decision-making, both for the implementation of public policies and for the execution and inspection of the tables. The numerous themes that involve research on the professional relationship with social movements led to the recognition of a multiplicity of theoretical references, with the expressive growth of the postmodern trend via new social movements. It is with the strengthening of environmental movements that society begins to discuss models of societies and thus build more sustainable knowledge and practices alternatives. Or, in the words of Sousa Santos (2009), “a prudent knowledge for a decent life.”

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