

THE NORTHEAST MIGRATION TO THE SOUTHEAST REGION OF BRAZIL: A LOOK AT THE TOWN OF BAIXA GRANDE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SÃO BERNARDO/MA

Francisco Jose Santos Reis

Graduated in Human Sciences-Sociology
- “Universidade Federal do Maranhão”

Laura Rosa Costa Oliveira

Adjunct Professor of the Degree in Human Sciences/Sociology at the São Bernardo Science Center - “Universidade Federal do Maranhão”; Degree in Geography from the “Universidade Estadual do Maranhão”; Masterin Agroecology from the “Universidade Estadual do Maranhão”; PhD student in Natural Resources and Sustainable Management at the University of Córdoba/Spain, Member of the Study Group: Development, Modernity and Environment (GEDMMA)

Merval Ribeiro da Silva Filho

PhD in Natural Resources and Sustainable Management -University of Cordoba/ Spain, Master in Agroecology from the “Universidade Estadual do Maranhão”/ UEMA, Economist from CEUMA University

All content in this magazine is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License. Attribution-Non-Commercial-Non-Derivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0).



Part of the Monograph presented to the Degree in Human Sciences - Sociology in 2016.

Abstract: This research sought to understand the reason for the migration of young people from the town of Baixa Grande, in the municipality of São Bernardo/MA, to the Southeast region of Brazil, to the state of São Paulo, to work in sugarcane plantations and in civil construction. To carry out this work, I carried out exploratory and explanatory research of an applied nature, with a qualitative approach, with the application of semi-structured interviews with young people who were moving to the Southeast of the country. The results revealed that most of the migrants who move to another region provide a scenario of economic and population rearrangement and (re)distribution, the metropolitan regions play a relevant role in this process, which is the search for better living conditions, precisely because of the lack of opportunities in their hometown, which mostly has municipal services. The minimally favorable conditions for a dignified survival remove the individual from living close to the family to a difficult life far from the family environment.

Keywords: Migration, Town, Baixa Grande, Young people.

INTRODUCTION

The migratory flow from the Northeast region to the Southeast region of Brazil has always been a common and constant act within the reality of the Northeastern people. The fact that migration has constant areas of displacement is reflected in a process in which the needs and objectives outlined by migrants used as a motivational device for their decision-making stand out. Living without opportunities makes life suffocating for many. Opportunity is what causes a large part of the northeastern population to migrate to the southeastern region of Brazil.

People migrate with the aim of improving their lives through work, in an attempt to obtain a higher income. Singer (1973) adds

that in addition to the need in the place of origin, there is also the attraction exerted by the destination, and that both factors act simultaneously, although with different intensities.

Migrating to another place is not a singular reason, but a set of factors that are characteristic of the historical, social, and mainly economic moment, which articulated help to build the forced exit mechanisms that mark the migratory processes in general and cases of temporary migration.

From the moment that the individual migrates from his place of origin to another place, he will consequently obtain change, in the cultural and economic field, as well as social.

Migration from the Northeast Region to the Southeast region of Brazil takes place in a field in which need is one of the influencing factors in this displacement process. Certainly, when one speaks of need, one consequently thinks of a lack of both social and economic structure.

If they venture to move to another region, the northeastern migrant takes his workforce with him. This transfer of labor harms its place of origin, and benefits the receiving place to which it is migrating.

It can be clearly seen that the Northeast region is the poorest in Brazil, due to the scarcity of job opportunities. The transfer of labor is the main factor responsible for the lack of development in the region caused by the lack of public policies that provide these workers with opportunities.

If all transferred labor were inserted and working within the Northeast Region, certainly the development of the region would be much greater than it is currently configured. Thus, the impact on the economy becomes direct and immediate.

METHODOLOGY

The first stage consisted of a bibliographic review, focusing on expanding the literature review on the researched topic by consulting books, newspapers, theses, scientific articles and monographs.

We used the quantitative method that according to Neves (1996, P. 3-4). Qualitative research studies differ among themselves in terms of method, form and objectives [...] highlights the existing diversity among qualitative studies and list a set of essential characteristics capable of identifying a research of this type, namely: a) the natural environment as a direct source of data and the researcher as a fundamental instrument; b) the descriptive character; c) the meaning that people give to things and their lives as a concern of the researcher; d) inductive approach

20 young people aged between 18 and 30 years were interviewed, through semi-structured questionnaires, residing in Povoado Baixa Grande, in the municipality of São Bernardo/MA, to identify the causes of migration carried out by young people to the Southeast region, state of São Paulo. The interviews were carried out over a period of two months (January and February, 2016) according to the availability of people. The analysis of the data collected with the making of graphs in the Excel 2010 program.

THE MIGRATION OF MARANHENSES TO THE SOUTHEAST OF BRAZIL

Northeastern migration to other regions of Brazil was of great relevance, especially to the problem of labor exploitation in the rural economy of the region, guided and explained by the drought, added to the large number of jobs offered in other regions, specifically the Southeast region.

Analyzing the theory of migrations,

Castiglioni (2009) makes some considerations about this phenomenon, noting that it

“[...] it is a complex process in its characteristics, measurement, causes and effects, affecting the lives and behavior of migrants, their families and their parental and community networks, and, in terms of the structure of society, for its character Bilaterally, migration causes changes in the distribution, dynamics and composition of the population, interfering in the economic, political and social life of the communities of departure and arrival of migrants (CASTIGLIONI, 2009, p.39)

Due to the reflected image of the past decades, the false ideals that developed about the Southeast region, the promise of a better life. Dazzled by this imagination, many migrants from the Northeast, when they migrate, end up finding themselves with an entirely different reality, in addition to tolerating social prejudice in their daily lives.

As can be seen, the history of northeastern migrations takes place in parallel with the history of economic growth in the country and its regions. In this regard Secreto states that “The migration of northeasterners is a recurrent social phenomenon in the history of Brazil”. (SECRETO, 2003, p. 52).

The great migration of workers to the cities was one of the outstanding facts in the social history of the country, with the metropolitan region of São Paulo as the main recipient and the Northeast as the region of origin of most migrants. São Paulo has become a place of residence and employment for millions of Northeasterners (FONTES, 2008 p. 43).

It is necessary to think about the situation of the state from which migrants leave. It is evident that migrants who leave their land of origin fail to provide them with a dignified life. According to Martins (2004), no one abandons their land, their roots, unnecessarily. Thus, it can be seen that migrants do not leave their places without reason and without thinking,

they always leave in search of better living conditions.

Within the specificities of construction of the territory of Maranhão, we can define it as a basically agrarian state that has its economic bases based on agricultural production, aimed at exports or internal supply. Among the causes of favoring this process, there are northeastern migrations, caused by problems of a natural order, the agrarian structure and unemployment. When evaluating these changes, we have to consider that the penetration of monopoly capital through large companies in the countryside is the main factor in the structuring that has been constituted since then. Generating poverty, underemployment and unemployment for rural and urban populations lacking qualifications.

It is important to note that the living conditions of many migrants are still plagued by poverty in many small towns, most do not have an adequate labor market that meets the population's demand, directly affecting the survival of the individual and his family.

When we study the reasons that lead people to leave their places of origin, it is clear that migration is generally associated with the search for better conditions, being conceived here as:

A phenomenon that goes beyond the economic factor, it is embedded in a broad social and cultural change, both individual and collective. The population needs to be socially mobilized to be attracted by the developing society. Faced with new possibilities for social participation, she makes herself available for emigration. This process of social mobilization towards a developing society is what defines migration and makes it a process that extends from the place of origin to the integration of the migrant in the place of destination (BRITO, 2007, p. 9).

A LOOK AT THE BAIXA GRANDE TOWN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SÃO BERNARDO/MA: THE YOUTH AS THE PROTAGONIST OF MIGRATION

A large portion of the population migrates in search of job opportunities and the conquest of a better life, they believe to find work more easily, both in the sugarcane industry and in civil construction. In the municipality of São Bernardo, state of Maranhão, the reality is not different from many other municipalities in the state, as shown in FIGURE 01, every Friday, a bus leaves from the city of São Bernardo to the Southeast of the country, to the city of São Paulo/SP. With little opportunity for work in their municipality, the individual feels attracted by the service provided in another region, thus causing an interest in migrating.

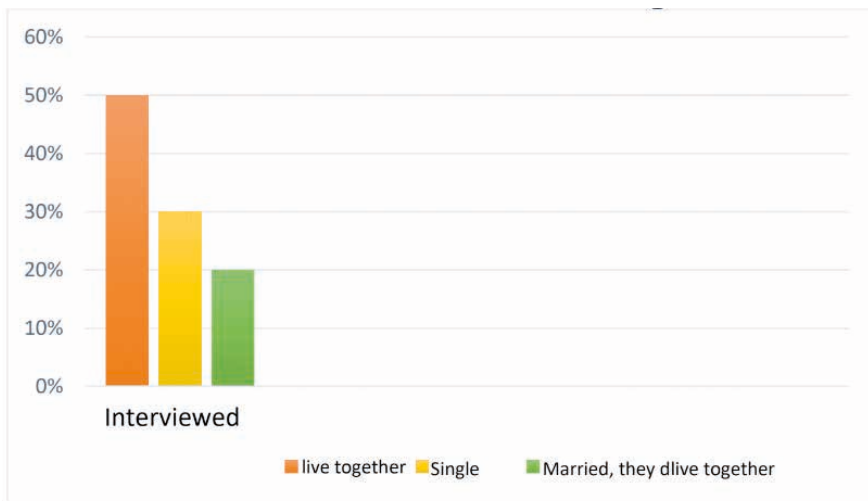
As for marital status (GRAPH 1), only about 50% live together; 30% are single and only 20% are married, as currently there is no difference in terms of the rights of spouses under the law, perhaps for this reason we have a higher percentage for those who live together.

Around 40% of our interviewees have completed Elementary School only; 30% with incomplete secondary education and 20% with incomplete secondary education and 10% with complete secondary education (GRAPH 2). The low study rates are related to the difficulty that the population that lives far from the center has to get to school. The mid-level units are only found at the village headquarters, these depend on transport to carry out the displacement, although some villages have transport available from the municipality to the headquarters, there are some obstacles such as: the non-frequency of the same in some cases which discourages those who want to study for those who already have a hard working day in the fields in a scorching sun.



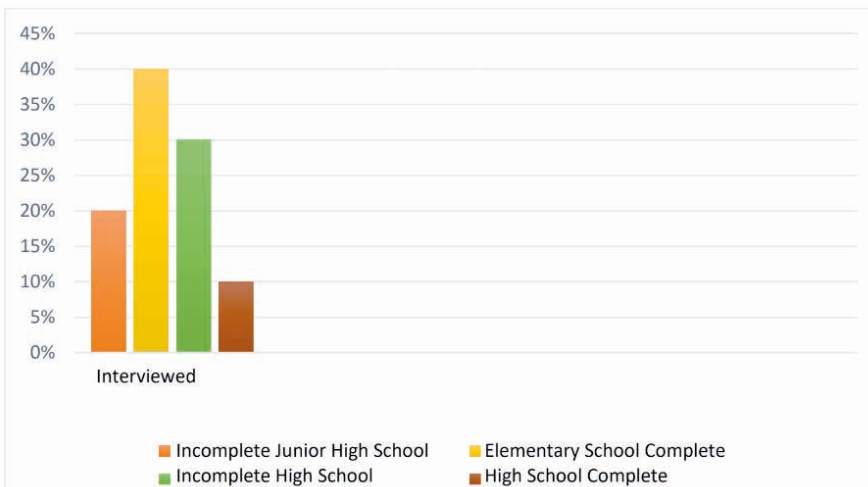
Figure 01 – São Bernardo/MA Bus Station

Source: Reis, 15 Jan/2016.



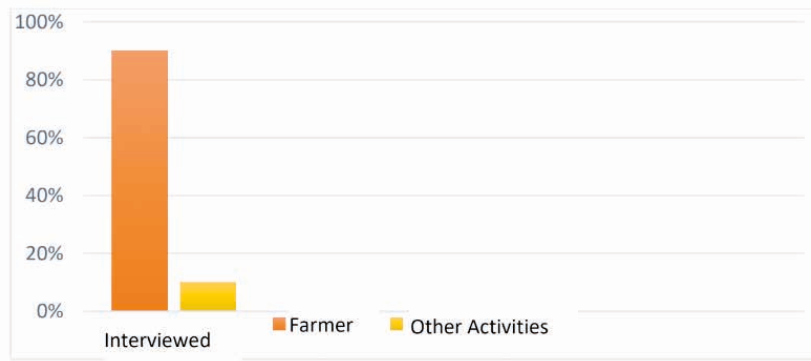
GRAPH 1 – Indicates the marital status of migrants from Baixá Grande

Source: The authors, 2016.

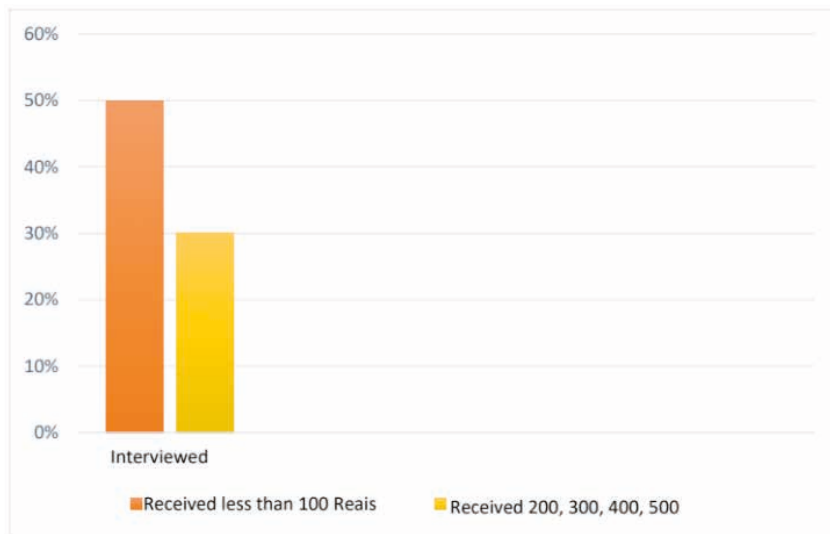


GRAPH 2 – Shows the level of education of the migrants interviewed

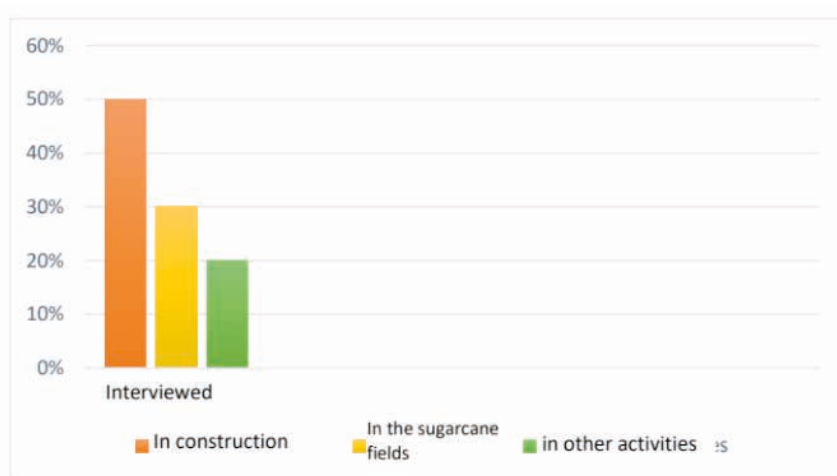
Source: The authors, 2016.



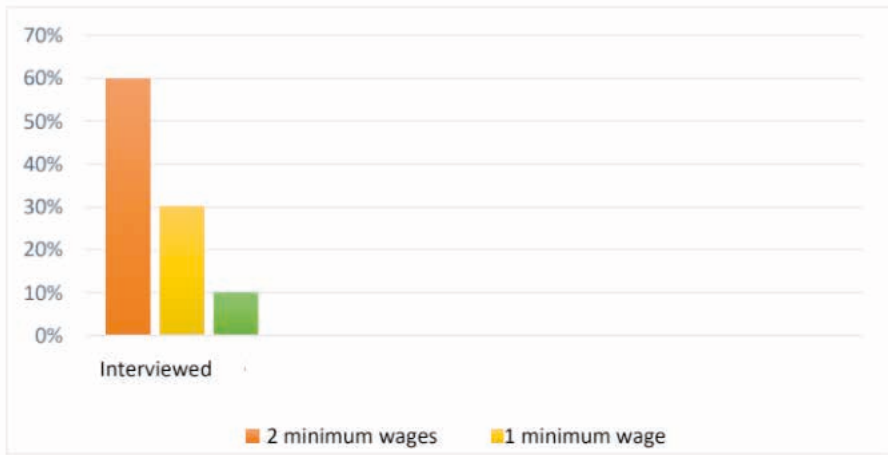
GRAPH 3 – Indicates the activities that the migrant carried out in his/her location before migrating
Source: Authors, 2016



GRAPH 4 – Indicates how much the migrant received monthly for carrying out these activities
Source: Authors, 2016



GRAPH 5 – Indicates what types of work the migrants went to perform in the places to which they migrated
Source: Authors, 2016



GRAPH 6 – Indicates the average salary that migrants received with the work they performed
Source: Authors, 2016



GRAPH 7 – Specifies the crucial moment that influenced the migrant to make the decision to migrate
Source: Authors, 2016



GRAPH 8 – Indicates the expectations of these migrants about life in another region
Source: Authors, 2016



GRAPH 9 – Indicates the independence that the migrant sought when deciding to migrate
 Source: Authors, 2016



GRAPH 10 – Shows the type of achievement that the migrant sought abroad, in another region.
 Source: The authors, 2016

As for the activities performed (GRAPH 3), 90% worked in the fields and only 10% performed activities as Bricklayer and Bricklayer's assistant. The large percentage in farming is explained by the fact that there are no other job opportunities in the village, the posts at the headquarters are allocated to the private sector, such as: clothing stores, shoes, furniture sales, foodstuffs, among others.

As for the amounts received for these activities (GRAPH 4), 50% received less than 100 (one hundred reais) per month; while 30% had an income ranging from 200 (two hundred) to 500 (five hundred) reais a month, amounts much lower than the minimum wage, which is not enough for a family to sustain itself, perhaps this is one of the causes of migration away from your loved ones.

According to the respondents (GRAPH 5), about 50% went to work in civil construction; 30% in sugarcane fields and 20% in other activities (carriers, restaurants, etc.) The great demand in civil construction is associated with the fact that the current government has the Minha Casa Minha Vida program, which has increased the demand for jobs in this area by to the detriment of others and this activity does not require a high level of education.

According to the majority of respondents (GRAPH 6), 60% received two minimum wages; 30% minimum wage and 10% minimum wage. The current salary at the time of the survey was R\$720 (seven hundred and twenty reais). Although these activities do not pay high wages, they are still attractive due to the facts mentioned above. At the headquarters, private jobs pay a minimum wage at most, in line with what Menezes (2002) mentions, salaried work is found more frequently in places far from communities, which encourages displacement.

All of our respondents had a formal contract, these companies mostly provide services to the state power, the Ministry

of Labor makes periodic inspections, they comply with what the law mentions.

All respondents reported that they left their family life in search of better working conditions, since their place of origin does not have adequate jobs.

According to (GRAPH 7), 60% decided to leave due to financial needs and 40% because they found a family. These factors are very strong when you have no expectations of improvements in your municipality, which does not have factories and the few private companies only employ those who have completed at least high school.

As shown in (GRAPH 8), around 70% of our respondents expected to have better opportunities migrating to another region with a more dreamy vision; while 30% expected a difficult life with a more realistic view, living away from home is not an easy situation. GRAPH 9 complements (GRAPH 10), in which 70% expected to have financial gains; and only 30% have professional experience, believing that in large urban centers there is a greater offer of free technical courses for the population, which does not occur in small cities.

Most of our respondents, according to (GRAPH 9), about 60% sought financial independence while only 40% would be looking for new job opportunities.

It is noticeable that the displacement of most migrants is due to the search for better working conditions. It is based on this that most of these migrants look for opportunities in the large urban centers of the Southeast region of Brazil, mainly in the sugar cane plantation in São Paulo.

Many of these migrants leave behind their families in order to earn enough to survive. With the money they earn, migrants usually send it to maintain their families and care for the crops, which guarantee some foodstuffs such as rice, beans and corn, as Menezes

(2002, p.89) in his study states that: "The man brings or sends money for the maintenance of the family, and also for the expenses of agricultural production with seeds, rent of workers, etc."

In other cases, there are families that do not have crops, and end up not guaranteeing the subsistence of those who remain in the original environment. In these cases, everything that is consumed by this family is bought, causing more expenses and greater financial dependence. It is also noticed that from an early age the children are inserted in domestic activities and agriculture. While the eldest daughters help their mother with household chores, the sons help their father with the farming and heavier activities.

When they leave, the men temporarily transfer responsibility for the house to the women. In relation to this Menezes states that:

Circular migration, over several generations, turns women into heads of households during men's absence. While a man is working away from home, whether on the sugarcane plantation or in cities in Southeast Brazil, he remains a husband or father to the family (MENEZES, 2002, p. 87).

Therefore, it is important to clarify that the man's departure does not necessarily constitute the breakdown of a family, because, as has already been seen, even with the man's departure, he continues to be father and husband within that family environment.

Upon returning home, to his place of origin, the man comes with his reservation made during the season he remained working, to make investments in the house, furniture and small animals together with the family.

According to the analyzes carried out, young people are the ones who move the most in search of work, better opportunities. Accustomed from an early age to looking for things to do, out of necessity, young people assess the current frustration of not being able to find work in their place of birth, naturally

their expectations are projected elsewhere.

These young people will work outside the home even before completing their student cycle, as time goes by, the number of people capable of exercising a function in the labor market within the municipality will be minimal.

The place where they live is also evaluated in this decision to leave, both from the point of view of their alternatives for work and survival and the option of freedom it can offer. The fact that society maintains a behavior that is alien to the common life of rural workers, leaving early to earn a living is thought of as a way of compensating for what he left behind, leading him to acquire new experiences every day and renew his life. survival condition.

According to Pochmann (2000), at the end of the 20th century, young people aged between 15 and 24 represented about 20% of the Brazilian population, of which 80% were in urban areas and 20% in rural areas. age range mostly from the North and Northeast regions of the country to the states in the Southeast region.

When it comes specifically to work in the sugar cane harvest, young male migrants are the workers most requested by the mills. According to Novaes (2007):

The workers who arrive from the Northeast have a profile consistent with what is needed today for manual cutting. According to them, since they were socialized from childhood to hard work in agriculture in their region of origin, working in the sugarcane fields is not scary. In addition, according to reports from technicians at the plants, they are preferred by plant owners for being more dedicated to their work and grateful to employers for the job opportunity, which does not exist in their regions. The pressing need to earn money, to ensure the livelihood of the distant family, has worked as a brake that makes them more tolerant with non-compliance with labor laws, with the injustices and distortions that occur in the measurements made by the class inspector in their daily production in

sugarcane cutting (NOVAES, 2007, p. 171).

The issue of sex and youth is directly related, according to Rosa (2009), with the demands made by the mills to hire workers for sugarcane cutting; However, there are also important criteria:

[...] 'good conduct' or subordination, the ability to maintain assiduity, and consequently health, throughout the season and productivity. It can be said without difficulty that the last two criteria are more easily achieved by young and male people, even with exceptions. (ROSA, 2009, p. 93)

Given the inconsequence that permeates the country, the socioeconomic difference that overlaps with young people brings with it, on the one hand, the battle for the professional option and, on the other, the consequent social exclusion of the most needy or less favored who, due to poverty, choose to drop out of school to help support his family. Therefore, because they cannot find work in their region, migration ends up being the only alternative to enter the labor market. The departure of workers from the Northeast region in search of jobs in the Southeast region has never ceased, as has the presence of young people, most of whom are migrants.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The present work sought to clarify the main factors that cause the migration of people from the Baixa Grande village, northeasterners to the Southeast of Brazil. Approaching this process was not an easy task, due to the complexity involved in this migration process, mainly because we understand that a single factor is not decisive for displacement, but several, make the migrant population leave its origins and venture into distant and unknown lands. We conclude that this displacement was possible because they do not have a fixed life in their place of origin, always venturing elsewhere in search of better working

conditions.

It was evident that unemployment has a great influence within this migratory process, however, it is not exceptionally the main responsible for it. Political, economic and social factors share this responsibility as they are involved in these migrants' decision-making when it comes to migrating. It is noticeable that the prejudice against these northeastern migrants in the destination is at least absurd, referring to a society in which the majority defends social equality, more than in fact, there is a great division with regard to the Northeast region.

It was found in this study that the migration of people from Maranhão from the Baixa Grande village to São Paulo goes to work in the sugarcane industry and civil construction, where most of these migrants are concentrated. The migrants who leave here, the woman plays an important role when their husbands make this displacement, and fundamentally, the reality of young people in the municipality as the main protagonists of this migration, who do not come from their place of origin, a job perspective that gives them a quality of life, with an income of at least one minimum wage

REFERENCES

BRITO, Fausto. **Urbanização, metropolização e mobilidade espacial da população**: um breve ensaio além dos números. Revista Ampliada do Texto Apresentado no Teller CELADE de Migración Interna. MG: v.1, 2007. Disponível http://www.abep nepo.unicamp.br/docs/anais/outros/5EncNacSobreMigracao/mesa_01_urb_met_mob.pdf. Acesso em: 20/09/2014.

CASTIGLIONI, Aurélia H. Migração: Abordagens Teóricas. In: ARAGÓN, Luís E. (org.). **Migração Internacional Na Pan-Amazônica**. Belém: NAEA / UFPA, 2009. p. 39-55.

FONTES, Paulo. **Um Nordeste em São Paulo**. São Paulo: FGV, 2008.

MENEZES, Marilda A. **Redes e enredos das trilhas dos migrantes**: um estudo da família de camponeses-migrantes. Rio de Janeiro Ed.: Relume Dumará. João Pessoa, PB; EDUFBA, 2002. Disponível em http://www.redesrurais.org.br/gencontro/trabalhos/Trabalho_75.pdf. Acesso em: 04/10/2016.

NOVAES, J. R. P. ALVES, F. **Migrantes: trabalho e trabalhadores no complexo agroindustrial canavieiro (os heróis do agronegócio brasileiro)**. São Carlos: EduFSCar, 2007. Disponível em <http://www2.ufscar.br/uploads/LancamentoMigrantes.pdf>. Acesso em: 26/11/2014.

POCHMANN, M. **A batalha pelo primeiro emprego**. São Paulo. Publisher Brasil, 2000.

ROSA, L. A. **Trabalho e trabalhadores dos canaviais**: perfil dos cortadores de cana da região de Ribeirão Preto (SP). Programa de Bacharelado em Psicologia. Departamento de Psicologia e Educação. Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras de Ribeirão Preto - USP. Monografia de conclusão de curso, 2009. Disponível em <http://pepsic.bvsalud.org/pdf/cpst/v17n1/a11v17n1.pdf>. Acesso em: 27/11/2014.

SECRETO, Maria Verônica. **Ceará a fábrica de trabalhadores: emigração subsidiada no final do século XIX**. Trjetos – Revista de História UFC, Fortaleza, v.2, n. 4, p. 47-65, novembro 2003. Disponível em: <http://ppct.caicyt.gov.ar/index.php/estudios-rurales/article/download/640/779>. Acesso em: 27/11/2014.

SINGER, P. Migrações internas: considerações teóricas sobre o seu estudo. In: Migrações Internas e Desenvolvimento Regional, Vol.1. CEDEPLAR. Belo Horizonte, 1973