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THE SOCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SQUARE AND SOCIETY: A SOCIAL STUDY ABOUT THE PRAÇA DAS MÃES IN THE CITY OF CATALÃO (GO)

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Abstract: The purpose of this article is to analyze the social relations that exist between the public square and society using ``Praça das Mães`` located in the city of Catalão (GO) as a reference. The urban public square contributes with great social functions, and one of them is that the population can live in society, that is, it contributes to the well-being and physical, mental and social health of the population. ``Praça das Mães`` is a public space of great importance for the city, as it is located in front of Hospital Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Catalão (GO) this space plays a fundamental and essential role for the population that frequents it both for its space around it. around. One of the social functions that this public space can offer to the benefit of the population is the feeling of belonging in the urban environment.

Keywords: ``Praça das mães``; Social relationships; Society.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this article is to understand the social relations that exist between society and the urban public square, focusing on ``Praça das Mães`` located in the city of Catalão (GO). The fact is that there are public squares of different types, models and shapes with various attractive elements, which contributes to the square being a good option for leisure, pastime, among other positive points that contribute to it being susceptible and susceptible to frequentation.

One of the most frequented public spaces in the urban environment are the public squares, it is a space that has a great function and importance for the city. The urban public space can be identified as a square, park, dam, gardens, street, avenue, sidewalk, that is, the public space is described as an open space with movements of people coming and going. Public squares have a great attribution and role for society as well as for the city, as it is a

space that shelters and welcomes, a space for encounters and disagreements, a leisure space, it is a point of reference, it is a meeting point for demonstrations, it is a work space for some: street vendors and stallholders, the square is a social space, it is an imagery space, it is a place of bonds, the square is a space where stories and stories are created and constructed.

Catalão is a municipality in the State of Goiás, the municipality has a territorial area of 3,826.370km². Catalão (GO) has the following geographical coordinates, latitude: 18° 10' 20" South, longitude: 47° 56' 29" West. With an estimated population of 113,091 inhabitants (IBGE). The city of Catalão (GO) has a good structure, however, with the unregulated growth of the city, the priority of infrastructures is in the central neighborhood, leaving the improvements in the most distant neighborhoods in the background. We can analyze which squares were preferred by the renovations and revitalizations, such as those located in the center and subcenter of the city: Praça Getúlio Vargas, ``Praça das Mães`` and ``Praça Duque de Caxias``.

Praça das Mães carries a great notability with it, as it is located in the São João neighborhood in front of ``Hospital Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Catalão`` (GO), nowadays the square serves as a bridge between the hospital, which contributes to being a calm and balanced space, with gardens, well-lit and accessible.

Nowadays, the urban public square can be pointed out as a discursive object, that is, as a symbolic space that has different meanings, formed by language (The form of language can be expressed through feelings with this space, such as happiness, memories, among others. As well as having a reference with it) and by social practices in certain historical periods, this means that the squares throughout their history have gone through great structuring and organizations. For example: Caldeira

(2010) explains that “in Greco-Roman antiquity, the square was the most important public space in the city, where it functioned as its vital center. Materialized in the figure of the Agora or the Forum, the square, with its architectural complex, played a crucial role”, that is, the Agora was where discussions and debates about policies in Ancient Greece took place.

The present research counts with the accomplishment of field work in the “praça das mães”, this process was carried out in order to have a greater knowledge of the theme worked, the analysis of the square was carried out through the observation of the space and the elements that compose it. This way, we seek to support the article in authors who seek and investigate this theme, for example in the discussion about the urban public space: Gehl (2010); Bussola and Orlando (2017), Rodrigues (2018) Martinho (2021); and about social relations: Fávero (2004), Oliveira and Mascaró (2007), Sena (2021), Diana [s.d.]. Other authors help to complement this research with concepts and definitions to make this research more current.

LINKS BETWEEN THE URBAN PUBLIC SQUARE AND ITS SOCIAL RELATIONS

To begin this text, it is essential to explain the concept of “social relations”. Diana [n.d.] explains that “social relations in sociology comprise a complex concept that deals with the set of interactions between individuals or social groups, whether at home, at school, at work”. In other words, the relationships and interactions of society occur beyond the example cited, they can occur in public transport, in the square, in the park, on the sidewalk, among other places that make the individual interact with that space or with another human being about to produce and create their collectivity.

For Karl Marx in the book “A miséria da filosofia” written in 1847”, as exposed by Esswein (2018), explains that:

Social relations are closely linked to productive forces. Acquiring new productive forces, men transform their mode of production and, by transforming it, changing the way they earn their living, they transform all their social relations (MARX. 1985, p. 106).

This way, what is the idea of a public square in Brazil today? The answers are the most diverse, commonly the idea of a square is associated with the presence of trees, gardens, shadows throughout the square, with the movement of people of all ages, a space for meetings, comings and goings. The fact is that there are squares of different types, shapes and models, which make the population establish their social life, for example:

- There are squares with the presence of outdoor gyms for the interaction of those who are using this space, especially the elderly and retirees, making them form bonds with that space and naturally interact with the people around.
- There are squares with playgrounds for children to interact, so this space allows children to express themselves, communicate, dialogue, have fun, explore this space and play with other children.
- The public square can be the workplace for people, such as: street vendors and fairgrounds. At night this public space is transformed, in some locations and points it becomes the workplace for sex workers.
- Generally, the oldest squares in inland towns are made up of a church that is located inside a square or that is in front of a square, in most cases this square becomes the stage for meetings and religious festivals. It is important to point

out that it is not always a Catholic church, as the church symbolizes the presence of the various existing religious orders that played an important role in making up the Brazilian urban environment.

- There are squares with attractive elements, such as: gardens, architecture with modern design, fountains and fountains, green areas, among others. This space can become an imagery space, that is, an organized and beautiful space where people gather for a quick passage where the focus of the tour is to take pictures.
- There are squares with open courts for playing soccer, volleyball, handball, among other sports. There are squares with areas for cyclists and skaters, that is, we can find public spaces that constitute a language for sports.
- Sometimes what makes up the square and becomes its attractive element is its green area, a well-planted square contributes to the improvement of its microclimate, air and soil in that space and around it, have their ecological function and end up being home to birds and insects. It is necessary to have green areas in the midst of urban centers.
- There are also totally waterproof squares, an example is in ``Praça dos Três Poderes`` located in Brasília (DF). They are squares that do not have the presence of trees, that is, they are warm spaces and their contribution to the population is in the field of vision, this means that at any point the individual is in the square, everything that happens around him can be observed.
- The urban public square plays an important role for the city, it is a space where the population looks for leisure,

for a quick walk, a place where families walk with children and observe the movement of the city. This is one of the social relations that the square offers to the population, as it is an accessible place, the square becomes a good leisure option because it is a space that will offer distraction, entertainment for those who frequent it.

- Generally, at Christmas, squares in city centers are usually decorated with objects, lights and Christmas decorations so that the population can see and gather with friends or family to take pictures, it is at this time of year that the square becomes sought after.

We understood that urban squares have different roles, functions with attributions that benefit the population. The examples cited above lead us to the conclusion that the urban public square serves as a facilitator for the population to live in society, the interactions that human beings establish with that space and with the people around them demonstrate a coexistence with society.

It is important to point out that there are many more examples of the social relationship that squares can have among citizens that were not presented in the previous example. The fact is that there are countless roles, functions, charges and responsibilities that the public square allows us to play as a citizen.

One of the positive and comfort factors about social relationships is that even when visiting the square alone, we can feel accompanied by other people who are frequenting the same space. Gehl (2010) explains precisely this, the author clarifies that the public space softens the border between being alone and accompanied, and allows one to be with other people without being with someone specifically, due to the anonymity and public distance it offers, for example, the square is a healthy space where the population

that frequents it can live in society.

Oliveira and Mascaró (2007) explains that:

Open public spaces for leisure bring countless benefits to improving the habitability of the urban environment, including the possibility of social practices, leisure time, outdoor meetings and manifestations of urban and community life, which favor human and social development. the relationship between people. (OLIVEIRA, L. A; MASCARÓ, J. J. 2007, p. 60).

Sena (2021) brings the definition of “social relationship”. The term social relationship refers to the broad set of interactions that individuals establish in society. As a concept, it is explored by different fields of study, such as sociology, history and psychology.

Lefèbvre (1974, p. 121) explains briefly about the social space “the form of the social space is the meeting, the union, the simultaneity”, that is, two or more actions happening at the same moment. As for Santos (2012, p. 32) if the space were nothing more than the physical form, this would be totally true; but social space is distinguished from empty forms by the very fact of its complicity with social history. It is important to point out that the square brings with it several feelings for different types of people, the more people visit and know the space, the more links and references they have with the square, when the feeling with the square is already more familiar, the more comfort and security increases, the space becomes important and recognized for this. When you have experiences, experiences, links and references with the squares, the perception with it changes, everything that makes up this urban element inside and outside is in constant movement, the feelings and links come little by little to the people who stretch out. and wait for her.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF

`` PRAÇA DAS MÃES ``

``Praça das Mães`` is located in the city of Catalão (GO), in the São João neighborhood on Rua Augusto Neto, the square is in front of Hospital Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Catalão (GO), being a neighborhood close to the city center.

When we look at figure 1, we notice the presence of trees that make up the square and we realize that it is a comfortable space to hide from the sun and cool off from the hot climate of the city. Part of its movement was due to people who were waiting for or accompanying someone at the hospital, as well as the elderly who met to play cards. It was a space where passers-by passed to go to school or work, that is, it served as a path as well as a rest stop for some, as the ``praça das mães`` was a space well served by trees, that is, a green area in the middle of to the urban center.

The revitalization took place in ``Praça das Mães`` and was delivered to the population on Friday, May 6, 2022 in honor of Mother's Day, after the delivery of the square, singer Daniel performed in the city of Catalão (GO) on Avenida Raulina Fonseca Paschoal. It is important to understand that space is constantly changing, man molds and accelerates the environment in which he lives. The revitalization of ``Praça das Mães`` reflects on the process and the search for a spatial transformation in the city of Catalão (GO), changing the pre-existing form and content and creating new functions, restructuring the space through the “modernization of the place”.



Figure 2 – View of ``Praça das Mães`` in Catalão (GO) in the year 2019.
Source: Image capture via Google Maps, Jan. 2019 (accessed on 03.16.2023).



Figure 5 – Commercial establishment in ``Praça das Mães`` in the city of Catalão (GO).
Source: The author (03/21/2023).



Figure 6 – Playground in ``Praça das Mães`` in the city of Catalão (GO).
Source: The author (03/21/2023).



Figure 3 – View of “Praça das Mães” in Catalão (GO) in the year 2023.

Source: The author (03/21/2023).

“Praça das Mães” currently has an artificial waterfall that forms a stream that runs through the middle of the square and at the end of its route is a fountain. “About BRL 3 million were invested in the execution of the architectural project for the new square” (PREFEITURA DE CATALÃO, 2022). The existing trees were removed to make room for pergolas, benches, game tables, playground, and kiosks that will be future snack bars, the square is all lit by LED. By many, it is now called “Praça Moderna” or “Praça Contemporânea”. The revitalization of “Praça das Mães” reflects on the process and the search for a spatial transformation in the city of Catalão (GO), as it changed its form and created new functions, restructuring this space through the modernization of the place. The square that used to be full of trees, nowadays is a square dedicated to being an imagery space, complete with gardens and other attractive elements to increase the number of people in that space.

The public square has a very large social role in the life of the city. It is essential to take care of the squares because human interaction will always be the most fundamental factor of social assistance in the city, so the square must always be clean, well lit, have a good floor, that is, have a good maintenance of that space, and above all they have to be the focus of security. There are many possibilities to take advantage

of the squares, so we must have a very special affection for the squares in our city.

A SOCIAL STUDY ABOUT “PRAÇA DAS MÃES” IN THE CITY OF CATALÃO (GO)

Fávero (2004) explains “that the Social Study is an instrument of competence of the Social Worker. Its purpose is to know and interpret the social reality in which the object of the professional action is inserted, that is, the expression of the social question or the event or situation that gives rise to the intervention”.

Lacerda (2023) says that “It is through observations, interviews, documentary research and bibliographies that a social study is built”. This way, the present study will be followed through documentary research, in particular, working through photographs taken in “Praça das Mães” and thus making an analysis of this public space, understanding how “Praça das Mães” contributes to the social function of the city of Catalão (GO).

The public square, as Rodrigues (2018) explains, is a place of consumption and passage, but not just that; it brings together sensations, perspectives, interactions between the past, the present, fauna, flora, access and seclusion.



Figure 4 – Table with board game in “Praça das Mães” in the city of Catalão (GO).

Source: The author (03/21/2023).

There are 2 (two) tables for games with boards in the ``Praça das Mães``, since, before the revitalization that took place in the square, the elderly and retirees used to meet to play chess, checkers and cards. The proposed idea is that this practice does not disappear among the elderly who were. We understand that this activity and custom is a social relationship, that is, living in society, however, this part was completely forgotten due to the lack of places to hide from the sun. Before the revitalization, ``Praça das Mães`` was a green area in the middle of the urban center, the tables and benches it had been under the trees, a comfortable space that provided shade and sheltered the habitat of birds and insects. These tables are currently located under open pergolas.

It is worth mentioning that the trees of the mungubas species (*Pachira aquatica*) were removed due to pests caused by beetles, Fonseca (2010) explains what types of pests are caused by beetles: Spotting bug (*Dysdercus* sp); Cochineal (*Pseudococcus setosus*); Beetle (*Dryoctenes scrupulosa*); Beetle (*Steirastoma breve*); Metallic beetle (*Euchroma gigantea*). Fonseca (2010) clarifies by exemplifying that the beetles, particularly in the larval phase, fed on the trunks and roots of trees, mainly on mungubas (*Pachira aquatica*) and paineiras (*Ceiba speciosa*).

Based on analyses, studies, surveys and technical visits carried out by the Municipal Secretariat for the Environment of Catalão (SEMMAC) in ``Praça das Mães``, they arrived at the diagnosis that it would be necessary to cut the trees due to the great damage caused by pests by beetles. The technical report on the authorization to remove trees in ``Praça das Mães`` is available through the Catalão City Hall website (2021) which was released to the population on June 14, 2021, that is, one month after the square was completely delivered. revitalized.

Bussola and Orlando (2017) point out that when we refer to the reproduction of the urban space that has been modified, changing architectural projects over time and creating new forms, meanings, symbols and uses. The imaginary, the discourse and the arguments for the creation of urban parks are the most diverse: quality of life, leisure, nature, mitigating the negative effects of pollution, stress, etc. With regard to this set of strategies.

In ``Praça das Mães`` there are two private establishments, it is important to clarify that since the revitalization of the square these future establishments have never been opened. This is a great example of private spaces encroaching on public spaces. according to Martinho (2021) these spaces “mix public and private spaces, disguise urban infrastructure and integrate with buildings, thus reacting to the issues of modern cities without losing their essence as a focus of activities in the middle of an urbanized zone”.

These establishments were built with the intention of profiting and moving even more the ``praça das mães``. Tables and benches were placed at strategic points to contribute to being a comfortable space and drawing attention and observation to this place.

In the ``praça das mães``, for the fun and leisure of the children, there is a playground that has 1 (one) triple swing (3 to 12 years old), And there is also 1 (one) individual slide (3 to 12 years old). In figure 5 we can see the wear and tear on the floor carried out through frequent visits and use.

Analyzing the ``praça das mães`` through the visual aspect we realize that it is a beautiful square, which draws attention to everyone who passes around it. The square has a lot of attractive elements and after its revitalization, its attendance has increased, the movement in most cases becomes greater at night. ``Praça das Mães`` is a space that brings together many people, the square contributes to being

a social, peaceful, illuminated, imagery space. Unfortunately, we found some deteriorated and graffitied spots in less than 1 (one) year of revitalization. Another positive point to be mentioned is the “Projeto Praça Digital”, a project in the city of Catalão (GO) that provides free internet, this project can be found in “Praça Duque de Caxias”, “Praça Getúlio Vargas” and “Praça das Mães”. It is a project that contributes to digital inclusion with social inclusion.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Thus, it is important to continue with this research theme, that is, how this space contributes to the city and the population and how it influences the use and movement of the population in these urban public spaces, as these spaces collaborate so that the population can live in society. Bringing the importance of doing a study on the squares, on their space, the landscaping, on their architecture and on the movements. It is necessary to understand the importance of carrying out a study on the transformations and urban reforms of urban public spaces, especially the squares that have undergone major revitalizations, and to better understand this whole space in which we live, the space we frequent, and how it works.

“The square is a public asset for common use by the people” (CC, Art. 99, I). Therefore, the squares are promoters of this sociability

by allowing encounters with other unknown people. However, the existence of public squares characterizes the concept of prioritizing the population’s quality of life. With this, it is understood that the square is being constituted to be a good option for leisure, meetings, and are powerful tools of social and political expression, it is a space where everyone gathers.

It is important to understand that the scenery throughout the day in urban public spaces transforms and changes and in “Praça das Mães” it is no different, the scenery changes little by little as the day goes on, due to the absence of shadows during the period. In the morning and in the afternoon, there are few people. The square is well lit at night, a factor that contributes to people passing by and feeling more secure in that space. With the realization of this research, we realized that the squares are one of the best options for leisure, meetings and any other social relationship, but this space ends up being exchanged for places like shopping and other private places that have access to the internet, the squares end up being frequented as a quick walk. That is why it must be important that this space is well maintained and clean, public squares must be a space where people can feel safe and comfortable. “Praça das Mães” is a space that has accessibility for everyone to enjoy so that it can create bonds and its community.

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