Project No. 1-4c

Region: Americas
Country: Brazil

Project: Project Axé – Brazil

Project Description:
With “education on the street” as its organizing principle, Project Axé began on 1 June with the aim of encouraging young people at risk to return to school. The project promotes education for those who live in exclusion, and it has clear political and instructional aspects. Its foundation is to offer the best education possible for the poorest.

The project resources and capacity are devoted to social groups in extreme poverty in Bahia, Brazil. These are groups who live in absolute precariousness at a survival level, and whose situation is made worse by racial/ethnic discrimination.

In this context, Project Axé pays special attention to youth who have been deprived of their rights, especially those who live outside their families and the school and community environment, but who have an inestimable value for society and for themselves, as representatives of their culture.

The educational activity of the project is carried out through an instructional method that takes culture as its theoretical base and places the ethics of human rights and the aesthetics of art and culture at its centre.

This instructional method is based on a concept of the person to be educated as one who has wishes, knowledge and rights – dimensions that are seen to be complementary and inseparable in the practice of teaching and in real life.

It is based on the supposition that it is not possible to offer a forum for expression, statement of wishes and apprenticeship without the perspective of societal inclusion of the person being educated, so that young people can recognize themselves and be recognized as participants in constructing their own future.

The project acts as reference for education as a liberating force in the Brazilian context, working with art in its various forms, such as dance, music, theatre and visual arts, while resting on a solid political/philosophical and theoretical basis.

In this regard, the political/educational process developed by Project Axé aims at meeting the challenge of training competent citizens, capable of confronting difficulties in a globalized world, critically addressing technological and social change. Society’s educational demands today call for creativity, capacity for critical thought, resolution of problems and development of critical thought. The project originally depended on support from Terra Nuova, an Italian NGO involved in international cooperation and the National Movement of Street Youth.

Over time, the project has grown and has joined forces with others. Currently, the Ministry of justice, the Ministry of Welfare and Social Assistance and the Ministry of Education participate and provide financial support from the federal Government. The State Government is involved through the State Council on the Rights of the Child and the Adolescent, the Secretary of Labour and Social Action, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Planning, Science and Technology, among others.
In the municipal government, the Municipal Council on the Rights of the Child, the Secretariat of Education, the Municipal Secretariat of Labour and Social development, the Secretary of Heath and the Secretary of Transport are participating.

International-level organizations supporting this initiative are the ILO, UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Union, together with the Governments of Italy, Canada and the United States. ILO/CINTERFOR has been present during the stages of monitoring and evaluation and in providing technical advice to support the programme.

In addition, various national NGOs work in collaboration with the project, such as the Ayrton Sena Institute, the Boston Bank Foundation, the Women's Institute and the Movement for Community Organization, among others.

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