

49 - HIGH CLASS WOMEN IN SOCCER: THEIR REPRESENTATION ABOUT THIS PRACTICE

CARLOS MELILLO
SEBASTIÃO VOTRE
GAMA FILHO UNIVERSITY, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
kksports@hotmail.com

Introduction

The discussion concerning the social aspects of the feminine soccer in Brazil must contemplate analyses that collaborate for the agreement of the most significant influences on the context of the participation of the woman in the national sport.

With effect, it has some decades they were forbidden to participate of any sportive activity of combat, or that she could provoke damages to the feminine physical integrity, as the text of the Decree nº 3,199 of 14 of April of 1941 (art. 54) - "will not be allowed the practical of incompatible sports with the conditions of its nature to the women" - the social representation detached in the woman its fragile body, the differentiated feelings of the men and the conditions of maternity, among others values.

On this form, the gender depends on as the society sees the relation that transforms a male into man and a female in a woman. Inside of this perspective it can be said that a woman is not born woman, however she becomes woman, as well as a man is not born man, but he becomes man (STREY, 1998).

In final 70's and the beginning of 1980, social-cultural transformations, as the politics opening, the end of the military dictatorship, the revocation of the law that hindered the woman to compete in some sports, the dissemination of the contraceptive pill and the increasing participation of the woman in the most diverse sectors of the society, also promoted significant changes in the sport and the access of the woman practical on it.

According the supposition there was no not even on history from emancipation sporting from Brazilian woman, explicit confrontation, of territorial fight, **and yes a slow process of infiltration**, that consolidates more in the practical of the interaction exercise, frequently with support guarded or opened of the brighten men in our society, but with a control normative what insert the woman on this practice without allow her an emancipation for practice of activity physical-sporting. (MOURÃO, 1998)

In soccer matters, there are stories of feminine participation in the decade of 1920, in a match realized on the city of São Paulo between young ladies "tremembenses" versus young ladies "cantaneirenses" and the first international game between selections of England and France (MOREL & SALLES, 2005).

After decades of various manifestations of the women in the soccer of various segments, as the beaches, the courts and the society fields and official field, years 1980 had registered a notable advance of the feminine soccer, with the sprouting of teams as *Guarani* from *Campinas*, *Bangu* and *Clube Radar*, in Rio De Janeiro, that during some years, this last one, represented Brazil in international competitions.

Without arrest, this advance was of such order that, in the last two decades, the Brazil feminine soccer got the conquest of expressive results in the world-wide scene, as the Silver medals in Athens (2004) and Beijing (2008), the bi-championship in the Pan-American of *Rio de Janeiro* (2007), with record of public of more than 60,000 spectators and the vice-championship of the World Cup of Feminine Soccer, in China (2007). Keep records, that *Marta da Silva*, main top scorer¹ of the world cup, was decorated by the FIFA (from French: Fédération Internationale de Football Association), with the merit of best world player of the year for two times.

On the other hand, there isn't been observed in Brazil, organized efforts in order to structuralize the feminine soccer, to reveal new talents, to make possible new conquests and to value the possibilities of contribution for the development.

Far from this, it can be affirmed that the feminine soccer follows in Brazil as discriminated sport, being considered, for many football controllers, as a sport without income technician and financial perspectives, opposing to the mysticism and to the value of this sport for the masculine sex and its increasing popular acceptance in all the country.

Still thus, has been observed an increase of the adhesion and permanence of practitioners in this sport, as probable consequence of one renewed conjuncture of social values, in which relatives and friends stimulate the feminine participation in official games of soccer, or as physical activity, with elevated benefits for the woman.

The soccer, popular sport in our country, presents a low class feminine predominance, mainly in respect to competition. In this unfavorable social-economic overall situation, the participation of these women in public squares, matches of lowland², for teams that do not possess financial resources, fits to survive with small support of small companies³ and works volunteers⁴ and socials.

The *Nova Iguaçu* city is a place where the soccer configures itself in peculiar way, as it presents about fifty women, (adults, youngsters, adolescents and children), what practice the soccer in pleasant way, equaling this modality with masculine preference, to the others sporting modalities in high class club of the city.

In order to certify this characteristic we elected the question: Which are the main factors in high class women to practice the soccer?

Nova Iguaçu places in *Baixada Fluminense*, the region integrated for 13 cities in the Metropolitan Area of *Rio de Janeiro*. It is the biggest city of the *Baixada Fluminense* in territorial extension, and the second one in population, estimated in 830 thousand inhabitants, by IBGE. It has high demographic density, 1,449.60 inhabitants/km². The population is mainly feminine (52%), young (average of 29 years old), formed by blacks and mediums brown (55%). Occupies the 45^a placement into the ranking state at the Index of Development Human. But the city experiment accelerated course of development, with diverse real estate enterprises, reorganization of the tourist potential (Atlantic bush vegetation, with 67% of the closed areas, as forests protected by the IBAMA). Counts with developed industry and commerce and there are 300km of highways (federal, state and municipal).

All the data of the City show the conjuncture of income share of the country, and that in *Nova Iguaçu* is not different. The stimulation of high class people to look for institutions as particular clubs, academies and condominiums, grows parallel to the growth of the economic and social problems of the country. The searched Club is a civil society of private law, non-profit-making, of undetermined duration, founded in years 1950. The club has for its purpose to promote meetings and events of recreational, sporting, social, cultural and ecological character. To be admitted as a membership, the candidate, beyond good social, moral and professional concept, it will have to have its proposal approved by the Managing Advice and to satisfy the delimited conditions.

Amongst many recreational activities and sporting⁵ the soccer (masculine) was always present since its foundation until the current days. Already the feminine soccer, the first team appeared at the beginning of this century, created for the researcher formed only with adolescents, who had participated on the activities per one year. Two years later, some associates (youngsters and adults), some adolescents of the initial group and some visitors had still formed a new group, more mature and committed with the practical regularity of the soccer, which persists until the current days with the need to hire one more professional. In this context, under orientation of the same researcher, a bigger group formed itself, with children up to ten years old, which participate until the current days.

The objectives are to identify and to interpret the main reasons that lead to the participation of the high class woman in practical of the soccer, considering its speeches and the context of the practical. It is the approach on the subject of the questions of gender, based on the line of the Theory of Social Representations, adopting the ideas and the concepts considered for Mourão (1998-2005).

Sample and Methodology

17 high class women (youngsters and adults) who practice soccer in private club had been searched. It was made a survey of the practitioners, with attention for variable as social class, ages, professions, time and reasons of the practical.

After the survey, had been carried through interviews of the elite with three women of the studied group. And at the last moment, interview of the focal group, with six participants. The methodological approach of Analysis of the Speech of the Collective Citizen operates a "dialogue" between the speech of the individual citizens, the collective citizen and the results of the ethnography, with the objective to provoke greater density in the ideas where it has consensus and greater clearness in the discords (Cavalcanti and Cavalcanti, 2007).

From the choice of the subject, the initial questions appear that guide the formularization of the objective. The definition of the amostral group allows to identify the elite informers, who bring given significant on the subject. These are interviewed individually, with questions of half-structuralized script, which correspond to the raised questions and take care of the nucleus of the objective. The interviews are transcribing and a explanatory synthesis of short periods is produced.

The procedure to follow is the organization of a focal group, of four of the twelve participants, compromised to the subject, contends the interviewed informers of the elite preferential. A period of the explanatory synthesis is read to provoke the opinion of the group on the question. Depleted the quarrel, the interviewer introduces another period for new quarrel, until all the synthesis to be argued. The interview in focal group is transcribing, and the parts that answer to the questions of the study are selected.

After detailed analysis of the selected parts, the researcher produces an edition of the stretches where the members of the focal group produce excellent information for the effect of the project. For this edition, the researcher suppresses the parts that do not contain important information and that they are produced to lead the flow of the ideas. It counts: repetitions, false starts, restarts, stammering, hesitations and expansions. The speeches are grouped without definition from the interviewers, since that is related of the discourse of the subject collective.

A synthesis of the joined data is carried through, for posterior interpretation of the results in relation to the subject. For being new a methodological proposal, fits to the researcher to describe the results of the use of the method.

Therefore, the flow of the work, in this methodology, is the following one: subject, objective, corpus, central questions, and election of the elite informers, writing, transcription, "illumination" and synthesis from the talks of these informers. Definition of the focal group, reading of the periods of the synthesis, with invitation to the quarrel, recording from the talks, transcription, edition, synthesis and final interpretation.

Synthesis of the elite interviews

The practical of the soccer is only in the club. The Practical is done one or two times per week. The women participate with friends associates. The practical in the club was initiated before theirs seven years old. The first time it was played varies very: from six, from sixteen and at the forty six years old. The soccer was initiated as leisure in the beach and the proper club. It started with incentive of familiar and friends. The main motivations come from the familiar ones, of the ability for the game, the place and the quality of proportionate life. The easiness's are the taste for the soccer, beyond the structure that the club offers. The difficulties are the incumbencies of the family, the work (study), the lack of time, laziness and the gender discrimination.

Edition of the interview in focal group

The interview was realized into the Club at the 08h45m pm, after ending of the training, in the proper field, all seated in "circle" in the stalls. The interview got the participation of two youngsters and three adults, and later it counted with the participation of plus an adult, mother from a young, what arrived and did observations of the determined moments. Beyond the teacher, who followed the focal group?

ALICE - Female Doctor, 45 years old, two children and wife of also doctor and politician. She is one of most experienced in the soccer. Although her daily tasks, she rare lack the days of trainings. She has certain ability. She is a opinion maker. RAQUEL - Teacher of Physical Education, 50 years old, two children, wife of also physical educator. Good participation. She has good coordination and agreement, however little ability. She has great importance in the group due her motivation and dynamism. ZUMIRA - She works with her husband in dental doctor's office, 36 years old, and two children. She makes soccer as its valve of escape. Rare lacks. She doesn't have ability. Shy, however participative inside the focal group. GRAZIELA - Student at a college, 14 years old. Daughter of an entrepreneur. She is one of the most recent of the group. She has good frequency. Technique not yet initiated. It is glad in the group, but it has certain shyness. JULIA - Student at a college, 16 years old. Daughter of an Physical Education and entrepreneur and politician teacher. Rare she lacks the trainings. She is most skilled of the group. She already participated in teams outside the club. Glad and participative (however, she did not like that the teacher ended the training 10 minutes early for the accomplishment of the interview). ROSINHA - Mother of Julia. It was one of the "founders" of this group, and responsible for the initial organization and invitation the majority of the adult women. She is not participating currently. Opinion Maker and special friend of the adults and youngsters, for being reputed Physical Education teacher of the city and wife of entrepreneur and politician of the region.

LUCIA - she is the current teacher of the group. She was athlete of ex - team of lowland formed for the first researcher. Today formed in Physical Education, she substituted her cousin in this work has one year.

The interview with the focal group allowed to evidence that it has a consensus enters the speech of the individual citizens and the collective citizen with regard to the participation of the high class women, in sight of the easiness given for the fact of the soccer to happen inside of a private club:

Socialization. This space here in the club is highly important. To participate together in an activity with our

son. I never looked to place none. A person guiding is very important.

The adhesion and permanence in the soccer come from the taste for the sport and the benefits to the feminine body:

It was leisure and I did for emaciate. I started with the sand soccer, it was as leisure. I continue being leisure.

For the taste, for the physical activity that is well aerobic. Mainly is not to be fat. To Staying at forms. I like.

By possessing women of diverse ages (of 14 the 50 years of age) a "shock" of generations was perceived when an accomplishment of matches versus other invited teams and people:

We prefer to play with us instead of bringing outside teams. Injure. Sometimes we invite outside people.

With everybody. It's all the same to me. Like with all.

It was evidenced the disagreement among the discourse from the interviewed, individual at collective, when the incentive of fathers and husband as to the participation of his daughters and wives in practice of the soccer:

In general relatives do not support. My father hates that I play soccer. Normally the parents did not support.

The relatives, in the direction, that they are here in the club, are not that they support people to play ball.

In the Revelação, with the mother here. The Raquel's daughter played, my son played, the Raquel son sometimes plays and Rosinha play with her daughter.

Amongst many difficulties that follow the feminine soccer as the start from practice late, the question in conciliating the days of trainings and the commitments of study and work proves the familiar and professional priority, leaving the pleasure in second plain:

He is lost in the field, nobody passes the ball. When it starts does not touch the ball.

People work the entire day, have to have disposal to come. My difficulty is only related to the children. When the children cannot come, I do not have whom to leave them with. When there is exam. Only when there is exam week.

Results

The interview confirmed the reasons that take this group of women to practice the soccer. Amongst them there are the chance and the easiness that the club offers. Even with the conception change on the feminine soccer, the women face some adversities, as husbands or parents who are against the participation, other teams that participate with different objectives than to the pleasant soccer practiced by the group. The biggest difficulty comes due to the familiar commitments from day by day, and also due to the professional in first place as the studies, courses and works, that make impossible the practical of the soccer.

Final Considerations

The group searches, as objective, the practical of the physical activity inside of the collective sport. The liking for the soccer is supported in the chance that is offered by the club, regarding to the place, security, privacy, and schedule, didactic and professional material. These easiness's are directly linked on the motivations to be practicing a beneficial physical activity, pleasant and, next to this, close to its familiar and friends. The non participation in determined periods is due to social commitments, as well as study, work and attention for the children.

The methodological proposal of construction of the speech of the collective citizen from the speech of the individual citizens shows productive in the identification of new data, not verbalized in the elite interviews. Favoring the feminine self-criticism on participation of the soccer and contrary to supposition according to the soccer is a sport of reserve masculine.

Notes

1 Athlete who makes the biggest number of goals in the same competition.

2 low, plain and fertile Land, in the edges of a water course; vargem. (*Aurélio Dictionary*). Place where fields of soccer for leisure and amateur competitions are "constructed";

3 Generally they are companies of the district where the team carries through its games and training, as small markets, bakeries, bars, stationery store among others.

4 People, who like, live or already had participated of the soccer in some way. They create bows of familiar friendships. And over all helps the sport.

5 The club has: soccer, futsal, beach volleyball, basketball, swimming, hidroaerobic, judo, Jujitsu, capoeira, official pool, tennis, dances (indoor, the womb, lambaeróbica, jazz, ballet), bodybuilder and gymnastics. Beyond the social activities as sauna, room of aesthetic, card game, choral and events.

Key Words: feminine soccer, social representation, adversities.

Bibliographic References

BOOTH, W. C.; COLOMB, G. G.; WILLIAMS, J. M. A Arte da Pesquisa. 2 ed. São Paulo: Martins Fontes, 2005.

CAVALCANTI, F. L. E CAVALCANTI, M. C. (2007). Discurso do sujeito coletivo, complexidade e auto-organização. *Revista Ciência e Saúde Coletiva*. v. 6, p.166.

MOREL, M.; SALLES, J. G. C. (2005). Futebol Feminino. In: DaCOSTA, L.P. (Ed.). Atlas do Esporte no Brasil: Atlas do esporte, educação física, atividade físicas de saúde e lazer no Brasil. Rio de Janeiro: Shape.

MOURÃO, L; MOREL, M. (2005). As narrativas sobre o futebol feminino: o discurso da mídia impressa em campo. *Revista Brasileira de Ciências do Esporte*, Campinas, v. 26, n. 2, p. 73-86.

MOURÃO, L. (2003). Exclusão e inserção da mulher brasileira em atividades físicas e esportivas. In: SIMÕES, A. C. (org). *Mulher e esporte: mito e vaidades*. São Paulo: Manole

MOURÃO, L. (1998). A Representação Social Da Mulher Brasileira Na Atividade Físico-Desportiva. Da Segregação À Democratização. Tese Doutorado em Educação Física, Universidade Gama Filho, Rio de Janeiro.

STREY, M. N. (1998). *Gênero: In; Psicologia Social Contemporânea*. Petrópolis: Vozes.

<http://www.ibge.gov.br/>

<http://www.nicc.com.br/>

Margarida Alvarez Street, 175. Downtown, Nova Iguaçu/RJ.

Zip Code: 26255-590

+55 (21) 3046-1677 / +55 (21) 9611-2239.

kkssports@hotmail.com

sebastianovotre@yahoo.com

HIGH CLASS WOMEN IN SOCCER: THEIR REPRESENTATION ABOUT THIS PRACTICE**Abstract**

This document evidences the participation of women in practical of soccer, having as it shows a group of 17 women, young and adults, who carry through the activity two times per week, in a private high class club in the City of *Nova Iguaçu, Baixada Fluminense*, state of *Rio de Janeiro*. The objective is to identify and to analyze the motivations that take women of these social class to practice this sport said popular in our country, the easiness's that they find and the difficulties they confront. The methodology consisted of participant comment, interviews of the elite, and press conference with the focal group, aid of the critical theories of analysis of the speech. The results evidence that the participation of the women of high class in the soccer constitutes evidence against the hypothesis that the soccer is sport of masculine reserve.

Key Words: feminine soccer, social representation, adversities.

FEMMES DE CLASSE ELEVEE EN FOOTBALL : REPRESENTATIONS SUR LA PRATIQUE**Résumé**

Ce travail met en évidence la participation des femmes à la pratique du football. L'échantillon étudié est composé d'un groupe de 17 jeunes filles ou femmes adultes, qui pratiquent ce type de sport deux fois par semaine, dans un club privé de classe moyenne/haute, dans la ville de Nova Iguaçu, situé dans la banlieue de Rio de Janeiro (RJ Brésil). L'objectif du travail est d'identifier et d'analyser la motivation ayant mené des femmes de cette classe sociale à pratiquer ce type de sport, dit populaire au Brésil, mettant en évidence les facilités et les difficultés qu'elles ont rencontrées dans leurs parcours. La méthode est basée sur l'observation participative, des entretiens personnels et collectifs avec le groupe étudié, en utilisant les théories critiques d'analyses du discours. Les résultats obtenus montrent que la participation des femmes de classe moyenne/haute à la pratique du football constitue une évidence contre l'hypothèse selon laquelle le football reste un sport exclusivement masculin.

Rédiger touche: football féminin, représentation social, adversités.

MUJERES DE CLASE ALTA EN FUTBOL: REPRESENTACIONES SOBRE LA PRÁCTICA**Resumen**

El estudio pone de relieve la participación de la mujer en la práctica de fútbol, tomando como muestra un grupo de 17 mujeres y niñas que están llevando a cabo la actividad dos veces por semana, una clase alta club privado en la ciudad de Nova Iguaçu, Baixada Fluminense, estado Río de Janeiro. El objetivo es identificar y analizar las motivaciones que llevan a las mujeres a la práctica, estas clases sociales dijo este deporte popular en nuestro país, son las instalaciones y las dificultades que se enfrentan. La metodología consistió en la observación participante, entrevistas de elite, y la conferencia de prensa con el grupo especial, con la ayuda de las teorías de análisis crítico del discurso. Los resultados muestran que la participación de las mujeres en alto el fútbol es la clase de pruebas en contra de la hipótesis de que el deporte del fútbol es masculino reserva.

Palabras tecla: fútbol hembra, representación tertulia, adversidades.

MULHERES DA CLASSE ALTA NO FUTEBOL: REPRESENTAÇÕES SOBRE A PRÁTICA**Resumo**

O trabalho evidencia a participação de mulheres na prática de futebol, tendo como amostra um grupo de 17 mulheres, jovens e adultas, que realizam a atividade duas vezes por semana, num clube privado de classe alta no Município de Nova Iguaçu, Baixada Fluminense, estado do Rio de Janeiro. O objetivo é identificar e analisar as motivações que levam mulheres dessas classes sociais a praticar este esporte dito popular em nosso país, as facilidades que encontram e as dificuldades com que se defrontam. A metodologia constou de observação participante, entrevistas de elite, e entrevista coletiva com o grupo focal, com auxílio das teorias críticas de análise do discurso. Os resultados evidenciam que a participação das mulheres de classe alta no futebol constitui evidência contra a hipótese segundo a qual o futebol é esporte de reserva masculina.

Palavras - chave: futebol feminino, representação social, adversidades.