163 - BODY AND URBAN VIOLENCE: AN ESSAY ABOUT THE PRACTICE OF MARTIAL ARTS IN THE CONTEXT OF RIODE JANEIRO CITY.

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Abstract

One of the most serious problems related to Brazilian society is the urban violence with many sides and many forms; it invades our social spaces and modifies people's way of life. A phenomenon that confirms this picture is the existence of "*gangs of young people*". They are generally formed by adults and adolescents from the highest classes of the society united to practice the most violent acts against people and properties. News from the media says that the phenomenon has something in common with young people's behavior and one of these behaviors is the systematic practice of martial arts. So, this study aims to investigate the forms of social interaction of the practicers of martial arts. From this perspective, data will be collected so that urban violence may be mapped through the analysis of police archives and wit a structured interview with these practicers to verify if there is a relation between these two variables, besides observing *in loco* to see if there is a unification between the instructor and the practicers in terms of language and behavior. We understand that data collection will allow the structure of intervention proposals based on interdisciplinary strategies, principally in sociological and psychological areas.

KEYWORDS: urban violence, martial arts, media

Introduction

Human beings are born with self characteristics that make them different from other animals. Considering man as an integrated process with biological, psychological and social characteristics - a biopsychosocial being, it is demanding that we be worried with the relations between human beings and the contexts where they are inserted.

Thus, from a human health perspective, it is possible to verify gradual changes along the decades. At first, the focus was on the concept of disease, the person who wouldn't have any disease was considered healthy; however, this concept spread to be related to its opposite - health - through a set of indicators such as wellness, life quality, among others stated by World Health organization (WHO)

We chose to highlight the indicator life quality, which though may show subjective characteristics, encloses all the factors leading to human wellness.

From this perspective, we can consider sports activities in three dimensions: the "*sports-participation*" ("with playful principles aiming to give the participants moments of pleasure"); the "*sports-performance*" (involving complex organization, hard investments, with responsibility passing to the hands of private companies) and the "*sports-education*", which cannot be confused with the other two, according to TUBINO, 2001.

However, as every means of social interaction, concepts of ethic and moral should be considered. According to Beresford (1994), "the word moral is related to costumes, values and rules of specific behaviors from a determined society or culture, while ethic takes into consideration the human behavior from a valuable and normative perspective".. Nevertheless, it is common to have, in our society, facts related to sports that are not according to these concepts. One of the most serious problems related to Brazilian society is urban violence. With so many sides and disguised under so many different forms, it invades the social spaces modifying the people's way of life.

Journalists have given so much space to talk about the constraints suffered by people in the big urban centers. A phenomenon that confirms this picture is the existence of "*gangs of young people*". They are generally formed by adults and adolescents from the highest classes of the society united to practice the most violent acts against people and properties.

Concerning the violent conflicts, Ceccheto (2003) talks about the "emotion of the fight" as a way of moral rite: they are decisive moments for these groups´ reputations. Some of them are public and take place on the way out of halls, under other people's observation.

Even though moral and ethic constraints are not dependent of the sports modality, media are always inclined to link the phenomenon to the practice of martial arts. Martial arts should be considered as one of the types of interventions in Physical Education and they don't stimulate violence as people might think. They could even develop concepts related to the body, mind and spirit leading to an interior balance if well conducted by the instructor.

Yet, despite all the teaching about philosophical concepts, it is common to see practicers of martial arts using the techniques in fights against other people on the streets or at the exit of parties and shows. Nevertheless, these modalities are organized based on their historical way. That is, what was a war art in the past now is a game, so its practicers should be called "players" or "athletes".

In sports, the body should also be perceived as a whole - physical and mental -, so that a psychologist could act with the accumulated emotions that may lead to impulsive attitudes.

But this intervention should not be the role only of Sports Psychology. An interdisciplinary analysis will contribute with the interpretation, understanding and prevention of the phenomenon especially in areas such as Social Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Law, Sports and Education.

The theoretical context

It's undeniable the relevance of sports practice in contemporary societies. Inserted I the context of social phenomena, sports is a factor influencing in life styles, however, under this perspective, it's possible to observe the establishment of a dual context once it is also influenced by Law, politics, economy etc. According to Tubino (2001), it's possible to understand it with the "involvement of its relations, principally because of the conceptual change in the last decade when it is understood from an educative and pleasant perspective instead of only by a performance perspective.

It's possible to identify within societies new forms of living originated or intensified by the practice of sports. Perhaps because it's a rare opportunity of leisure, sports are inserted in a world concept of health, and health nowadays means life quality. So, the time for the practice is imperative of a way of life with the aim of prevention opposing the challenges and aggressions of a global world whose pillars are production and utilitarism.

Conceived as a product the ciphers involving sports in the market universe most times break the necessary ethic criteria.

According to Vargas, 2001, sports, like any other phenomenon of wide reach, has a crucial importance to fundament and reproduce the *status quo,* sometimes imposing itself and watched by the ethic system that justifies it. It has to be considered that media has become, in the last thirty years, a strong ally in order to manipulate the public opinion.

Combat sports are one of the most sensible forms of social intervention in Physical Education, once they prompt in young people the fascination for the challenge of the limits from the optics of the body mechanics, however, the use of the techniques should be plenty of values which could lead to practice according to educational and health objectives.

Sportive media not always allow us to put this modality in the moral and social field and thus they turn to be symbols of violence and marginality and the media tend to be a powerful means of reproduction of these symbols and many times they are very negative.

We have to consider that these practioners are victims of the false practioners of combat sports. They consider themselves as sportists and maculate the true sense of this modality. Nonetheless, it is demanding that control mechanisms be created in a way to minimize the negative effects of marginal practices broadcasted worldwide.

Undoubtly, combat sports are inserted in a context of physical activities aiming health, education e the development of the sport as a competition and thus they should be included in a politics of people's quality of life.

Methodological proposal

Due to the lack of literature in this area and no strategy to control this problem, this research becomes very crucial so that data could be available for those interested in this issue.

Thu, this study aims to investigate primarily the social interaction of practioners of sports combat.

To this, data were collected with questionnaires and interviews and systematic observations were made to check the occurrence of these violent episodes and investigate if there is a relation between urban violence and martial arts practioners, observe if there is or not a unification in language between instructors and practioners and if there is any violence incitation during the classes

The subjects were martial arts practioners and instructors in clubs and gym clubs of Rio de Janeiro city.

Police reports were also investigate to check episodes of urban violence in this city and a social-economic questionnaire were also applied to the subjects so that their daily habits and social position could be checked and compared with data collected.

Results

The great majority of the subjects were male ones (89%) which shows the great predominance of this gender practicing sports combat. Besides the predominant age is up to 21 (50%).

Considering the socio-economic data, almost half of the subjects study and work which shows the intellectual development of the subjects collated with their violent practices.

When we consider there involvement with martial arts we observe that only 8% practice this activity systematically against 48% which practiced the activity for only one month and then quit.

Conclusion

We conclude that violent practices within Rio de Janeiro's urban society can't be related to martial arts systematic practioners. Those involved in such practices are people who name themselves as martial arts practioners but are more inclined to be involved in abominable violent episodes.

It is demanding, thus, the adoption of social interventions even among means of communication so that we can change this current situation.**Referências Bibliográficas**

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CORPS ET VIOLENCE URBAINE : ESSAI SUR LA PRATIQUE DES ARTS MARTIAUX DANS LE CONTEXTE DE LA VILLE DE RIO DE JANEIRO

Un des problèmes les plus sérieux liés à la société brésilienne est la violence urbaine avec beaucoup de côtés et beaucoup de formes, il envahit nos espaces sociaux et modifie la façon de vivre des personnes. Un phénomène qui confirme cette image est l'existence des "troupes des jeunes". Ils sont généralement constitués par des adultes et des adolescents des

classes les plus élevées de la société unie pour pratiquer les actes les plus violents contre des personnes et des propriétés. Les nouvelles des médias indiquent que le phénomène a quelque chose en commun avec le comportement et un des jeunes de ces comportements est la pratique systématique des arts martiaux. Ainsi, cette étude vise à étudier les formes d'interaction sociale des practicers des arts martiaux. De cette perspective, des données seront rassemblées de sorte que la violence urbaine puisse être tracée par l'analyse des archives et de l'esprit de police une entrevue structurée avec ces practicers pour vérifier s'il y a une relation entre ces deux variables, sans compter qu'observer dans le fou pour voir s'il y a une unification entre l'instructeur et les practicers en termes de langue et le comportement. Nous avons appris que la collecte de données permettra la structure des propositions d'intervention basées sur des stratégies interdisciplinaires, principalement dans des secteurs sociologiques et psychologiques.

CORPO E VIOLÊNCIA URBANA: ENSAIO SOBRE A PRÁTICA DAS ARTES MARCIAIS NO CONTEXTO DA CIDADE DO RIO DE JANEIRO

Resumo

Indubitavelmente um dos problemas mais graves relacionados à sociedade brasileira diz respeito à violência urbana. Assumindo várias faces e camuflada de formas diversas, ela invade os espaços sociais e modifica cotidianamente o *modus vivendi* dos cidadãos. Um fenômeno que corrobora para compor este quadro diz respeito às chamadas *"gangs de jovens*" que ocupam-se de praticar atos de vandalismo concretizando as mais variadas formas de violência, desde o envolvimento em Rixa até a destruição de bens materiais, como casas comerciais, automóveis e etc. As notícias dos órgãos de comunicação social, denunciam que o fenômeno demonstra alguns pontos comuns entre os comportamentos dos jovens e dentre eles, está a prática sistemática do desporto de combate ou o que comumente denominamos de "Artes Marciais". Portanto, o estudo objetiva investigar as formas de interação social entre os praticantes de artes marciais. Dentro desta ótica, procuraremos coletar dados que mapeem a violência urbana através do levantamento de registros policiais e de uma entrevista estruturada com estes praticantes de modo a verificar se há correlação entre estas duas variáveis, além de utilizar a técnica de observação *in loco*, com o intuito de observar se ocorre ou não a unificação de linguagem e de comportamento entre professor-aluno e, ainda se ocorre incitação à violência durante o treino. Entendemos que a coleta de dados possibilitará a estruturação de propostas interventivas alicerçadas em estratégias interdisciplinares, sobretudo com relevância nas teorias sociológicas e psicológicas.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: violência urbana, artes marciais, mídia

CUERPO Y VIOLENCIA URBANA: UN ENSAYO SOBRE LA PRÁCTICA DE ARTES MARCIALES EN EL CONTEXTO DE LA CIUDAD DE RIODE JANEIRO.

Resumen

Uno de los problemas más serios relacionados con la sociedad brasileña es la violencia urbana con muchos lados y muchas formas, invade nuestros espacios sociales y modifica la manera de la vida de la gente. Un fenómeno que confirma este cuadro es la existencia de las "cuadrillas de la gente joven". A los adolescentes de las clases más altas de la sociedad lo forma generalmente los adultos y unida para practicar los actos más violentos contra la gente y características. Las noticias de los medios dicen que el fenómeno tiene algo en campo común con el comportamiento de la gente joven y uno de estos comportamientos es la práctica sistemática de artes marciales. Así pues, este estudio apunta investigar las formas de interacción social de los practicers de artes marciales. De esta perspectiva, los datos serán recogidos para poder traz la violencia urbana con el análisis de los archivos y del ingenio del policía una entrevista estructurada con estos practicers para verificar si hay una relación entre estas dos variables, además de la observación en loco para ver si hay una unificación entre el instructor y los practicers en términos de la lengua y el comportamiento. Entendemos que la colección de datos permitirá la estructura de las ofertas de la intervención basadas en estrategias interdisciplinarias, principalmente en áreas sociológicas y psicologicas.