

THE PRACTICE OF SCOUTING AND ITS PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL AND SOCIOENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OBSERVED IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Patrícia de Albuquerque Sobreira¹
Lucimar Pinheiro Rosseto²
Vivian da Silva Braz³

SUMMARY

The theme of the study is the practice of scouting and its psychoeducational and socio-environmental benefits observed in children and adolescents. This investigation will encompass the historical relationships of the Scout Movement; a field study will be conducted at the Bernardo Sayão Scout Group and observations will be made regarding the scouts' concern with environmental issues and sustainability through the "Tribe of the Earth" activity. The psychosocial benefits of children participating in camping with outdoor activities in nature and the perception of their families will be verified. Through the obtained results, a data triangulation will be conducted to better understand its objectives. The theoretical framework will be based on the concepts of Scouting, Child and Adolescent Rights, Environmental Law, Education, Ecological Psychology, drawing on different theoretical contributions and engaging with various authors. The methodology will be a research with a qualitative-quantitative approach, hermeneutic method, data collection at the Juvenile Court, analysis/research of legislation, questionnaires, fieldwork, and content analysis technique. Diagnostic studies will be important to visualize the current scenarios that these initiatives face and to envision perspectives and strategies capable of enhancing them. Considering that scouting plays an important role in the construction of values and socio-environmental awareness among participants, this research aims to understand the psychosocial benefits arising from proximity to nature and to verify the restorative effect that natural environments provide to children and adolescents.

Keywords: scouting; environmental education; children's and adolescents' rights; ecological psychology.

INTRODUCTION

Scouting began in 1907, with the British Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, a lieutenant-general who intended to test whether his training methods were

¹ Doutoranda no Programa de Pós-Graduação em Sociedade, Tecnologia e Meio Ambiente (PPG STMA) da Universidade Evangélica de Goiás - UniEVANGÉLICA, E-mail: patriciadeasobreira@gmail.com.

² Doutora em Ciências (UNICAMP), Coordenadora e Docente no Programa de Pós-Graduação em Sociedade, Tecnologia e Meio Ambiente (PPG STMA) da Universidade Evangélica de Goiás - UniEVANGÉLICA, E-mail: lucimar.rosseto@unievangelica.edu.br

³ Doutora em Ecologia (UNB), Docente no Programa de Pós-Graduação em Sociedade, Tecnologia e Meio Ambiente (PPG STMA) da Universidade Evangélica de Goiás - UniEVANGÉLICA, E-mail: vsbraz@gmail.com

interesting to boys and could be used by some youth organizations of the time. The test was conducted with 20 boys aged between 15 and 17 at a camp on Brownsea Island, England, and, after its success, Baden-Powell published the book *Scouting for Boys*. This book led to the voluntary and independent organization of various youth groups that adopted the name Scouts (SOTOTUKA; SILVA, 2017).

The scouting movement is made up of children and young people from the following sections: Beaver (6.5 years to 10 years), Scout (11 to 14 years), Senior (15 to 17 years), and Pioneer (18 to 21 years).

The Scout Movement is characterized as a global, educational, voluntary, non-partisan, and non-profit movement. Its proposal is the development of the youth through a system of values that prioritizes honor and is based on the Scout Promise and Laws. Through the practice of teamwork and outdoor life, it encourages the young person to take charge of their own growth, becoming an example of fraternity, altruism, responsibility, loyalty, respect, and discipline (BADEN-POWELL, 1982).

Nature is the principle of all things, that is, a priori, everything starts from it. The act of educating, on the other hand, is a movement of personal improvement and transcendence. Scouting, being a non-formal education, is a way to educate the young people who are part of it through constant learning with nature. In this sense, this research focuses on the children and adolescents of the Bernardo Sayão Scout Group, located within the Antônio Marmo Canedo Environmental Park – Parque da Matinha - in the municipality of Anápolis/GO.

This work is justified by the importance of conscious citizens acting effectively in favor of environmental issues that have affected planet Earth and thus contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as advocated by the 2030 Agenda of the World Health Organization.

In 2018, the World Scout Bureau created the Scouts for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiative, and all initiatives of the Better World platform began the process of aligning their educational proposals with the 17 SDGs and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including the eight key competencies for sustainability and the Essential Characteristics of Scouting as a framework for

non-formal education. And this year, 2022, it published the Earth Tribe Manual - Environmental Education for a Global Community that Protects the Planet.

The aim of carrying out outdoor activities is to offer other learning spaces, beyond home and school, in contact with nature, since during these activities, one learns about the development of life, experiences new ways of interacting with others and the environment, helping children and adolescents transform experiences into learning and developing the sense of ecological citizenship.

The psychosocial benefits arising from proximity to nature and the restorative effect that natural environments provide to humans have been evidenced in different studies (KAPLAN; KAPLAN, 1989; LOUV, 2016) and that contact with it is a means to build emotional bonds with this world (BARRACHO, 2001).

It is for this reason that this research plays an important role in that community, but also in other spaces, as by designing a local reality and thinking about paths to be built collaboratively, in favor of sustainable environmental education, it is also contributing to a conscious planetary citizenship and the psychosocial benefits and restorative effect that natural environments provide to human beings.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research is the result of a doctoral thesis that is currently under development. It will present a quali-quantitative approach, with a hermeneutic interpretative approach, developed simultaneously at certain moments during data collection and analysis.

The approach contained in the collection and analysis of data established through open-ended questions represents a characteristically qualitative focus, as well as the transformation of data through categorical measurement and the application of statistical tests, in order to provide greater security and reliability to considerations related to data analysis.

Questionnaires and interviews will be used as data collection instruments, which will be applied to scout leaders and youth members to verify how scouting can contribute to socio-environmental behavior. Seven participants from the movement

will be chosen among institutional leaders and scout leaders, and 30 children and adolescents from the Scout and Senior Sections. In this way, we disregard the Cub Scout and Rover Scout sections as they are not within the age range for activities related to adventures and challenges. The project will be submitted to the Research Ethics Committee involving human beings.

For data collection, a bibliographic research was conducted on the subject addressed, with references including, among others: Baden-Powell (1975; 1982); Pelicioni (2002), Maciel (2022). Consultations of documents, manuals, and booklets, such as those from the Union of Scouts of Brazil. Also, on the theories of ecological psychology. And research in the SciELO database, the CAPES journal portal, and the database of the União dos Escoteiros do Brasil (UEB).

In addition, fieldwork will be conducted, observing the children and adolescents in their activities both within the Scout Group and outside its headquarters during their camp to be held at Fazenda Santa Branca.

RESULTS

The research is ongoing, but it is expected to demonstrate that the Scout Movement cares about and engages in activities related to environmental and sustainability issues, such as climate change, promoting sustainable habits for an ecological and healthy lifestyle, and connecting with nature through initiatives that seek to protect it.

Furthermore, demonstrate that the Scout Movement works on the development of skills in children and adolescents, encouraging them to reach their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual potential as responsible and active individuals and citizens in their local, national, and international communities.

CONCLUSION

Up to the present moment, it can be concluded that scouting represents an important milestone in society considering that it is capable of awakening in young

people, in addition to physical, psychological, and moral development, socio-environmental awareness, discipline, responsibility, unity, respect, honor, leadership, solidarity, humility, and loyalty.

These reflections are perceived through care for nature, the proper use of natural resources, knowledge of ecosystems, recycling, reuse, and repurposing. Moreover, it draws attention to the idea of respecting everything and everyone, passing this ideal from one to another.

THANKS

The present research is being conducted with financial support from EJUG/TJGO.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BADEN-POWELL, R.S. **Scoutmaster's Handbook**. Curitiba: Scout Publisher, 1982.

BARRACHO, C. **Social Psychology: Environment and Space**. 2nd ed. Lisbon: Instituto Piaget, 2001.

KAPLAN, R.; KAPLAN, S. **La experiencia de la naturaleza: Una perspectiva psicológica**. Cambridge University Press, 1989.

LOUV, R. **The Last Child in the Woods – Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder**. São Paulo: Aquariana, 2016.

SOTOTUKA, C.; SILVA, R. **Analysis of the contribution of long-duration activities in the scouting movement to the environmental education of young people**. Journal of Environmental Education, 2017.

SCOUTING UNION OF BRAZIL. **Educational project of the scouting movement**. Curitiba: Union of Scouts of Brazil, 1996.

SCOUTING UNION OF BRAZIL. **Earth Tribe – Environmental education for a global community that protects the planet**. 1st ed. Curitiba: Scouts of Brazil, 2022.