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Comunidade
Solidária

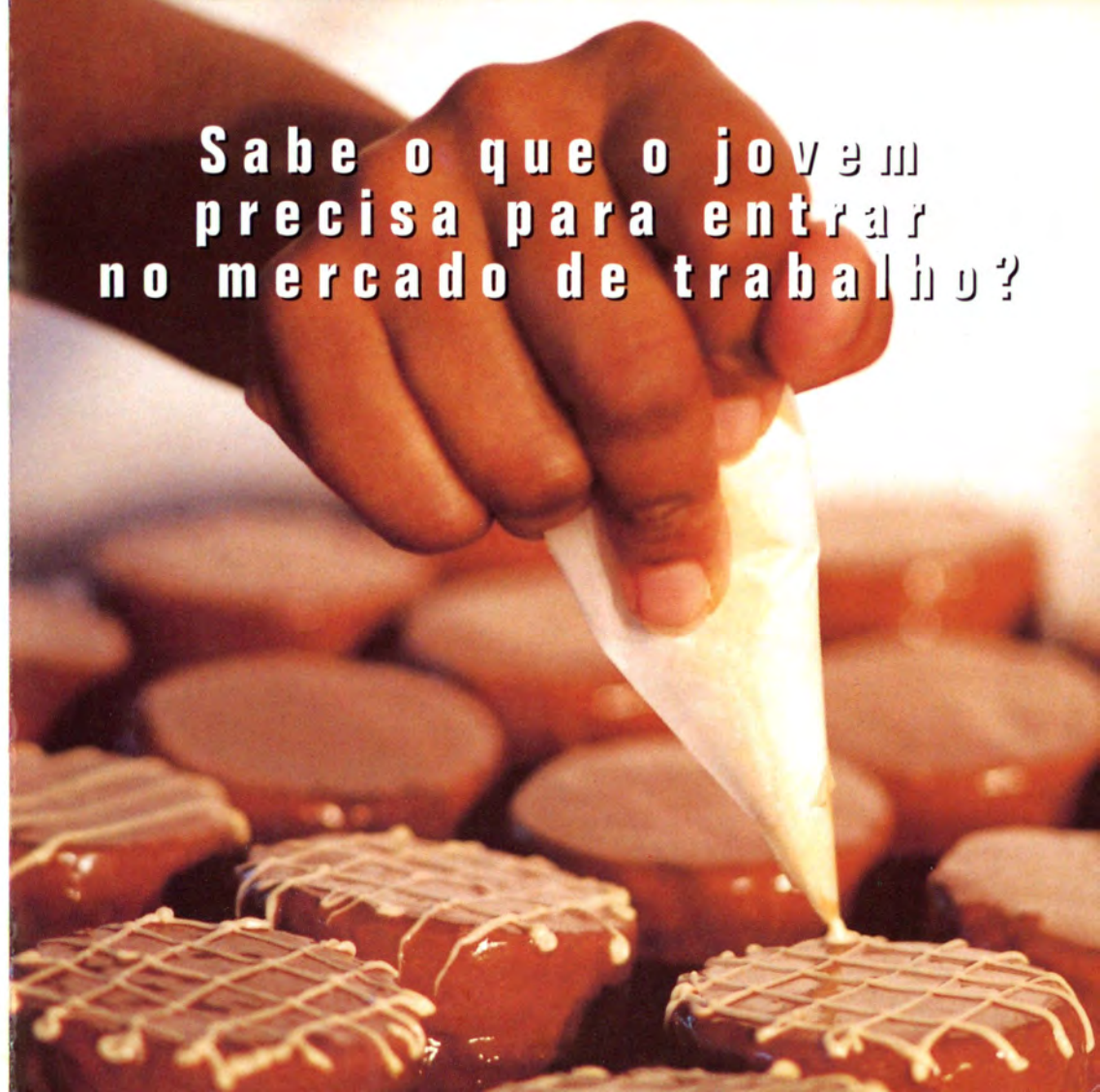


Associação
de Apoio ao
Programa
Comunidade
Solidária

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Comunidade Solidária Council

BRAZILIAN SOCIETY WORKING TOGETHER
AGAINST POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

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Prefeito
Solidário

O Papel dos Parceiros na Comunidade Solidária



Comunidade
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Comunidade Solidária Council

BRAZILIAN SOCIETY WORKING TOGETHER
AGAINST POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

YOUTH LITERACY PROGRAM

Dear friends,

Studies have made it clear that illiteracy today in Brazil is at an unacceptable rate. The increase of literacy is progressing, but slowly, and with enormously different results from region to region within Brazil. Our goal is the promotion of a movement of national solidarity, so that by the end of the century, we will be able to see a significant decrease in this form of social exclusion.

The Youth Literacy Program already exists in 120 municipalities, reaching 40,000 students, thanks to the support of our partners - businesses and universities.

Our experience has confirmed that we are on the right track.

Ruth Cardoso

INTRODUCTION

The Youth Literacy Program is a program to combat illiteracy in Brazil. The program is based on five essential principles:

The first is the promotion of a national mobilization. The program has unleashed a national movement that provides space for the participation of the Brazilian society as a whole. The program, that works with the material and technical support of the Federal Government, respects the diversity of concepts and models available.

The second principle is that the program model is initially tested as a pilot project. For this model to be applied on a large scale, it has to be duly followed up on, evaluated, and in the end, improved upon in its pilot phase.

The Pilot Project consisted of 38 municipalities with illiteracy rates over 55% in the population between the ages of 15 and 19 years old. This model serves as a reference point for anyone in Brazil wishing to work with literacy projects. Given the low costs, the program is easy to set up and reproduce.

The third element is involving new partners and stimulating their participation. Social problems as acute as illiteracy will only be solved with the Brazilian society working as a whole.

The Government participates actively and vigorously. However, a great portion of the program depends and counts upon the support of the partners, who are indispensable.

This program functions with the idea of consolidating a solidarity model as it were, uniting five partners: the Federal Government, acting through the Ministry of Education; the Council of *Comunidade Solidaria*; businesses; universities and local authorities.

The fourth concept is evaluation. Without proper evaluation, continuity and constant follow up and improvement, social programs cannot be serious or efficient, and leave no long lasting results. A permanent evaluation, carried out with the help of the universities, and a constant and consistent observation of the program itself and of the student's performance and perspectives for the future, ensure the continuity and the good results of the literacy program.

Last and certainly not least, the fifth principle of the program is the mobilization of the young people who will be involved. Those who receive priority to be trained as literacy teachers will be young people from the targeted municipality who are currently in high school or junior high school. They receive scholarships, and are thus provided with paid employment, and above all, mobilized to attack a large social problem in Brazil.

The Youth Literacy Program is a new program. The program, however, does not create new bureaucracy, nor does it create new government positions. The program works through the existing structures of the Ministry of Education, who, together with the partners, stimulates a movement of national solidarity in the battle against illiteracy.

SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF ILLITERACY IN BRAZIL

According to 1991 Census statistics, in the beginning of the decade close to 2.2 million Brazilian children and 1.3 million Brazilian teenagers didn't know how to read or write.

The general rate of illiteracy in Brazil is 19.6% for children above the age of 7. The rate is slightly lower for teenagers between the ages of 15 and 7 - 12.4%.

Since 1980, the rates of illiteracy have been declining, but UNICEF estimates that at this pace Brazil will take 20 years to arrive at the rates of its neighbors. Neighbors like Argentina and Uruguay, that have illiteracy rates that are lower than 3%.

Illiteracy rates vary greatly from region to region within Brazil. The highest illiteracy rates for children and teenagers in Brazil are found in the Northeast. The lowest are found in the Southern Region. While in the South merely 3.7% of teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17 are illiterate, in the Northeast this number can reach 26.1% (see Table 1). This is more than double what we find in the country as a whole (12.4%).

TABLE 1	
Illiteracy rates by Region	
Youth between 15 and 17 Years of Age	
• Northeast - 26.1% • North - 15.2% • Central - 6.4% • Southeast - 4.6% • South - 3.7%	

Source: IBGE - Brazil - 1991

THE PROGRAM

The program was developed by surveying and studying existing models and methods . From the moment they are analyzed and approved by the Ministry of Education, these projects are incorporated into the larger solidarity program, and receive support through the reproduction of existing educational materials.

There is no restrictions on the age of people who wish to participate, nevertheless, the main focus of the initial phase is on young people between the ages of 12 and 18.

The greatest advances that characterizes the program will be:

- Monthly on-site evaluations, made by teachers and professors from high level educational institutions, about the progress of the program;
- Evaluations at the end of the course to verify that the student is literate and deserving of certification;
- Six months after the termination of the course, an evaluation of the program and the participating students is made to verify that the student has returned to school, or entered the job market, utilizing their new acquired knowledge.
- Re-evaluations will also be made 12 months after the termination of the course, with the same objectives used in the previous evaluations, to confirm the program's results;

In the final stages of the implantation of the program, the main objective is to make sure that the literate student returns to a regular school or becomes involved in activities where he can make use of his newly acquired knowledge;

DURATION OF EACH MODULE - 6 MONTHS

- 1 month of training
- 5 months of course work
- 3 classes per week

PROGRAM GOAL

To reduce in two years the illiteracy rates in these municipalities to that of the national average.

HOW BUSINESSES CAN PARTICIPATE

Businesses will join the program by adopting one or more municipalities and providing the necessary funds to pay for costs cited in the partners' attributes section.

Businesses, as well as other partners, are encouraged to publicize the results of the program's development in their adopted municipality.

The estimated cost of the program for each student per month is, R\$34.00, of which R\$17.00 is paid by the private sponsors. The duration of the course is six months.

THE PARTNERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The *Comunidade Solidaria*

- To coordinate and articulate the program.

2. The Ministry Of Education

- To provide 50% of the student's monthly costs: R\$17.00 To provide and supply educational and support materials.

- To select and appoint a Technical Administrative Coordinator in each municipality, who will be responsible for the program's progress and for the control of the hours worked by the literacy instructors

- To guarantee the incorporation into the program of those who are currently promoting literacy projects in Brazil, reproducing educational material that has been approved by the Ministry of Education.

- To assure, with the support of the universities, the permanent evaluation of the program's activities.

3. Council of Directors of Brazilian Universities

- To guarantee the mobilization of the universities.

4. Businesses

- To provide resources for the payment of expenses such as meals and lodging for the Coordinator and the Instructors, during the training period.

- To provide resources for the payment of scholarships for Coordinators (1 per municipality) and of the Instructors, respectively R\$200.00 and R\$112.00.

- To provide resources for the payment of students' meals during the program.

- To appoint a person that will be responsible for accompanying the program.

5. Municipalities

- To mobilize, following the criteria established by the Ministry of Education, young people in the municipalities who will be selected as Instructors in the program, preferably amongst graduates from high school or junior high school, or those currently enrolled in a higher level educational institution.

- To guarantee the installations necessary to the implantation of the program in the municipalities.

- To mobilize and recruit the targeted group - illiterate young people between 12 and 18 years of age - for the program.

6. Universities

- To select the Literacy Instructors.

- To train and qualify the Literacy Instructors.

- To stimulate the production of academic research projects and dissertations, as well as of educational material on literacy.

- To evaluate and accompany the program's development.

YOUTH LITERACY PROGRAM - PILOT PROJECT (1997)

States	Municipalities	Universities	Illiteracy rate	Businesses
AL	Craibas	Univ. Tiradentes	57,72	VOTORANTIN
AL	Porto de Pedras	Univ. Mogi das Cruzes	55,59	VOTORANTIN
AL	Olho D'Água Grande	Univ. do Rio de Janeiro-UNIRIO	56,50	VOTORANTIN
AL	Joaquim Gomes	Univ. Brás Cubas	55,21	VOTORANTIN
AL	Jaramataia	Univ. do Grande Rio	55,41	VOTORANTIN
AL	Branquinha	Univ. de Guarulhos	62,91	VOTORANTIN
AL	Campo Grande	Univ. Federal de Viçosa	53,26	VOTORANTIN
AL	Igreja Nova	Univ. Est. do Oeste do Paraná	55,44	VOTORANTIN
AL	São José da Tapera	Univ. Federal de São Paulo	59,98	VOTORANTIN
AL	Traipú	Univ. Federal de Alagoas	60,95	VOTORANTIN
AL	Mata Grande	Univ. Federal de Minas Gerais	55,41	VOTORANTIN
AL	Canapi	Univ. Federal de Santa Catarina	55,74	VOTORANTIN
AL	Inhapi	Univ. Estadual de Campinas	60,71	VOTORANTIN
AM	Pauini	Univ. São Marcos	81,65	VOLKSWAGEN
AM	Itamarati	Univ. Fed. de Roraima	76,82	FIESP
AM	Envira	Univ. São Marcos	65,88	UNESCO
AM	Japurá	Univ. Cruzeiro do Sul	63,60	FIESP
AM	Tapauá	Univ. de Nova Iguaçu	62,52	IPIRANGA
AM	Maraã	Univ. Católica de Petrópolis	60,86	IPIRANGA
BA	Ribeira do Amparo	Univ. Ipirapuera	57,68	BOVESPA
BA	Ajustina	Univ. Estadual de Feira de Santana	56,52	BM&F
BA	Pedro Alexandre	Univ. Est. do Sudoeste da Bahia	73,00	BM&F
BA	Cel. João Sá	Univ. Federal da Bahia	72,75	BM&F
CE	Salitre	Univ. Federal do Ceará	57,21	BM&F
MA	Araioses	Univ. de Brasília	55,63	INST. CULTURAL GM
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PB	Dona Inês	Pont. Univ. Católica de Minas Gerais	53,47	BOVESPA
PB	Itapororoca	Univ. Católica de Brasília	57,18	BM&F
PB	S. J. da Lagoa Tapada	Univ. Reg. do Rio Grande do Norte	53,97	BOVESPA
PB	Santana de Mangueira	Univ. Federal de São Carlos	59,20	BM&F
PE	Buique	Univ. Castelo Branco	54,20	SESI-PE
PE	Itaiba	Univ. Federal Rural de Pernambuco	57,86	SENAI-PE
PE	Inajá	Univ. do Rio de Janeiro - UNIRIO	60,02	SESI-PE
PE	Tupanatinga	Univ. Católica de Pernambuco	57,72	SESI-PE
PI	Simões	Univ. Federal do Piauí	62,75	BOVESPA
PI	Jaicós	Univ. Salgado de Oliveira	54,06	BOVESPA
RN	Lagoa de Pedras	Univ. Fed. do Rio Grande do Norte	54,08	COTENE
SE	Poço Redondo	Univ. Federal de Sergipe	57,16	BOVESPA

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