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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

DOUBLE LOSS: THE REALITY OF INMATES WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

A DUPLA PRIVAÇÃO: A REALIDADE DE APENADOS COM DEFICIÊNCIA FÍSICA

LA PÉRDIDA DOBLE: LA REALIDAD DE RECLUSOS CON DISCAPACIDADES FÍSICAS

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RESUMO

Objetivo: compreender o conhecimento e a vivência da deficiência física de caráter permanente para os apenados. ***Método***: estudo transversal, descritivo, de natureza quantitativa e qualitativa, desenvolvido em quatro penitenciárias do Estado da Paraíba. Foi utilizado como referência o instrumento de Facchini utilizando-se da seção referente às barreiras arquitetônicas para pessoas com deficiência; empregou-se ainda a entrevista semiestruturada e o diário de campo. O processo de análise correspondeu à análise descritiva do perfil sociodemográfico e a caracterização das penitenciárias no que concerne às barreiras arquitetônicas; também, foi efetuada a Análise de conteúdo das entrevistas. O projeto de pesquisa foi aprovado pelo Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa, sob o CAAE 0400.0.133.000-09. ***Resultados***: a partir da Análise de conteúdo temático, emergiram-se as categorias: 1) Significado da deficiência física permanente para os apenados; 2) Deficiência física versus segurança e 3) Ações sociais promovidas para pessoas com deficiência física. ***Conclusão***: torna-se imprescindível a criação de políticas e o aprimoramento dos serviços já oferecidos nos presídios, de modo a promover a humanização da pena. ***Descritores*:** Pessoas com Deficiência Física; Prisões; Direito à Saúde.

ABSTRACT

Objective: understanding the knowledge and experience of physical disability of a permanent nature for inmates. ***Method:*** a cross-sectional and descriptive study, of a quantitative and qualitative nature, developed in four prisons in the State of Paraíba. It was used as reference the Facchini the instrument using the section related to architectural barriers for people with disabilities; still employed a semistructured interview and a field journal. The analysis process corresponded to the descriptive analysis of the sociodemographic profile and characterization of prisons in relation to architectural barriers; it was also performed the content analysis of the interviews. The research project was approved by the Ethics Research Committee, CAAE 0400.0.133.000-09. ***Results:*** from the thematic content analysis, the following categories emerged: 1) Meaning of permanent physical disability for inmates; 2) Physical disability versus safety and 3) Social actions promoted for people with physical disabilities. ***Conclusion:*** it becomes essential to create policies and improvements of services already offered in prisons, in order to promote the humanization of punishment. ***Descriptors:*** People with Physical Disability; Prisons; Right to Health.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: comprender el conocimiento y la experiencia de la discapacidad física de carácter permanente para los internos. ***Método:*** estudio descriptivo y transversal, del tipo cuantitativo y cualitativo, desarrollado en cuatro prisiones en el Estado de Paraíba. Fue utilizado como instrumento de referencia el de Facchini utilizando la sección con respecto a las barreras arquitectónicas a las personas con discapacidad; empleó se, todavía, la entrevista semi-estructurada y el diario de campo. El proceso de análisis correspondió al análisis descriptivo del perfil sociodemográfico y la caracterización de las cárceles en relación con las barreras arquitectónicas; también se realizó el análisis de contenido de las entrevistas. El proyecto de investigación fue aprobado por el Comité de Ética en Investigación, CAAE 0400.0.133.000-09. ***Resultados:*** desde el análisis de contenido temático, emergieron las categorías: 1) El significado de la incapacidad permanente para los internos; 2) La incapacidad física versus la seguridad y 3) Las acciones sociales promovidas para personas con discapacidad física. ***Conclusión:*** es esencial para crear políticas y mejora de los servicios que ya se ofrecen en los centros penitenciarios, con el fin de promover la humanización del castigo. ***Descriptores:*** Personas con Discapacidad Física; Prisiones; Derecho a la Salud.

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INTRODUCTION

The view of disability has become throughout the History of mankind. Each period was attributed to the poor a place in society. These different conceptions created for people with disabilities, generate discriminatory acts that are manifested by prejudices, which hinder the integration of this population and the relationship with society.[1]

Prejudices, stigmas and stereotypes for people with disabilities, have strong influence on the way these people will act in society. These meanings surpass even the inherent limitations to the disability and cause social exclusion of this population.[2]

According to the 2010 Demographic Census conducted by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE, more than 45,6 million Brazilians have declared a disability, representing 23,9% of the population. Visual impairment was the most prevalent with 18,8%; motor disability came in second, with 7% of Brazilians, while 5,1% had hearing impairment and 1.4% have mental or intellectual disabilities. The largest percentage of these people is in the Northeast, with 1.045.962 of those people with a disability residing in Paraíba.[3]

These numbers are quite significant, as this population has historically plagued by prejudice and exclusion, besides living in poverty and social inequality, compromising the quality of life. Such conditions are even more aggravating when it comes to a population group already stripped of their identity, [4] as is the case of inmates with disabilities that exist in the Brazilian prison system. There are a large number of inmates in the country with mental disorders and physical disabilities (paralytics and semi-paralitics).[5]

The environment of the prison is unhealthy[6], presenting cells with a number of people exceeding their capacity, not fulfilling the role of resocialization and rehabilitation of inmates, still showing that a significant portion of these people cannot study or work as a result of the insufficient number of vacancies and still face difficulties in exercising the right of defense. In addition, some condemned serving sentences in places that are not suitable. In this context, it is crucial noting that because they are prisoners in closed regime, people with disabilities should be deprived of their liberty, but of their human dignity, it is visible the degrading effects on people with disabilities who are in compliance with shame brought on by poor housing conditions and hygiene of prison environments, in addition to bad food offered.[7]

By the above, the objectives of this study are:

- Characterizing the prisons that have integrated health unit structure, with respect to architectural barriers for inmates with physical disabilities.
- Describing the sociodemographic profile of inmates with physical disabilities.
- Understanding the knowledge and experience of physical disability of permanent nature for these inmates.

METHOD

This is a transversional and descriptive study, of a quantitative and qualitative nature. The subjects who participated in the research were selected from a convenience sample, for convenience. Thus, in the study directors from four prisons in the State of Paraiba, and 22 inmates with a permanent physical disability, prisoners in these prisons, and sentenced to secure detention, as well as those who were in the prison unit for at least six months agreed to participate. The data collection was conducted from March 10th to April 19th, 2012.

It was used as the reference the instrument of Facchini [8], which has adapted to the reality of prisons, being adopted by the project "Evaluation of Health Services rendered to the prison population in Paraíba", adopted by the edict 002/2009 - MS/CNPq/FAPESQ/SES. This instrument, applied with all directors of prisons who composed the study were used the section related to architectural barriers for people with disabilities.

Still, it was employed semistructured interviews with inmates and field journal to record impressions related to the experience of people with disabilities, considering the physical facilities and rules of discipline imposed. These search techniques are fundamental and can be employed in an integrated or isolated form.[9]

The process of data analysis consisted of two stages: the first corresponded to the descriptive analysis of the sociodemographic profile of inmates with physical disabilities and characterization of prisons in relation to architectural barriers. In the second stage was performed content analysis of the interviews. Thus, the quantitative data were organized into spreadsheets Office Excel 2003 and its consistency assessed by using the Validate application of the v.6.04b Epi Info program. Finally, the variables compose a database in

SPSS 11.0 package to allow the intersection and the statistical analysis.

The analysis of the data from the interviews took place as the technique of analysis proposed by Bardin[10], which is configured to categorize the responses to guide the interpretation of the statements of the research participants. This technique of content analysis involves some steps, such as pre-analysis, material exploration or coding, processing and interpretation of results[10].

All methodological procedures met the standards set by the National Health Council, in Resolution 196/96[11], which deals with guidelines for research involving human subjects, underwent assessment of the Paraíba State University Research Ethics Committee, under the Certificate Presentation of Findings for Ethics - CAAE - 0400.0.133.000-09.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

♦ Characterization of prisons in relation to architectural barriers

It is observed that the physical structure of the prison and its health units are not adapted for people with physical disabilities, as three directors said that the building of prisons does not allow the safe movement of people with physical disabilities, as well as wheelchair users. Moreover, they all revealed that within the prisons there are no ramps and handrails to facilitate the movement and performance of activities of these inmates.

As for the bathrooms, three directors responded that the doors do not allow adequate access for users of wheelchairs, as well as the space is insufficient for performing maneuvers by these people. Regarding the availability of wheelchairs three prisons have this equipment.

According to field observations and reports of convicts, it was found that use of wheelchairs is not released inside the pavilions and cells, for security reasons, because inmates can make sharps instruments with metal material of the chair, as looked at the excerpt from the speech of the convict:

> *The inmates "handle" this chair here, cutting "everything" and make spits, isn't it? [...] Well, then why I'm here in the infirmary (B-1).*

The wheelchair users, who are hospitalized for health treatment in prisons that have wards at health facilities, can use the chair during the treatment period.

Still, according to the records in the field diary and the interviewees' statements, only the penitentiary "D" allows the use of crutches/canes for inmates with disabilities within the pavilions and cells. The other people in the other three prison inmates do not have access to this tool essential for mobility support, as talking:

> *In the pavilion can stay in the "mullet" No, it is forbidden to even [...] (C-8).*

Before this scenario, helper objects such as: crutches, canes, prosthetic leg and wheelchairs are essential tools for people with physical disabilities who have difficulty getting around independently as a result of motor impairment.[12] Thus, the use of these instruments facilitates or even enables the autonomy and independence to these people with this type of disability.

♦ Socio-demographic profile of the subjects

The arithmetic average age of inmates was equivalent to 36,72 years old, while in relation to marital status of the subjects, of the total of 22, 12 are single (54,5%), married 5(22,8%), stable union 4(18,1%) and 1 widowed (4,5%), corroborating with the data from the 2010 Census population by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE[3], according to which 55,3% of people aged 10 or older are single.

When asked about the level of education, it gave the following picture: 4(18,1%) of inmates are illiterate; 2(9%) are literate, 15 (68,1%) had incomplete primary education and 1(4,5%) the completed high school.

Regarding the form of physical disability, the study revealed that 9(41%) of inmates amputated one or more members; 2(9%) had paresis, 1(4,5%) have paraparesis, 1(4,5%) is with congenital deformities of the upper limb, 7(31,9%) have acquired deformity in any member and 2(9%) have paraplegia of the lower limbs.

The causes suggested by the subjects who got physical impairment included infection: 1(4.5%), stroke: 1(4,5%); fall: 2(9%); genetics: 1(4,5%), physical agression: 2(9%); diabetes: 1(4,5%), congenital malformation: 1(4,5%); infantile paralysis: 1(4,5%); accident on grid security the prison: 1(4,5%); automobile accident: 2(9%) and shooting a firearm: 9(40,1%). The time of living with disability corresponds to an arithmetic average of 11, 2 years.

Another aspect raised the profile of the inmates was exercising the professions before entering the prison system. The listed were: military police: 2(9%); stone batter: 1(4,5%), car washer: 1(4,5%); agriculture worker: 6 (27,2%); student: 1(4,5%); standalone: 2(9%); cartwright: 1(4,5%); mototaxi driver 1(4,5%); mason: 2(9%); painter: 1(4,5 %); truck loader:

1(4.5%); hodman: 1(4,5%); charge of general services: 1 (4,5%) and plumber: 1(4,5%).

With regard to benefits received through Social Security, 4(18,1%) of inmates with physical disabilities reported receiving disability retirement, 1(4,5%) retirement by age and the majority 17(77,2%) reported not having access to any benefit, data that can be explained by the fact that most subjects had not exercised works with signed and not to fit in as optional or individual contributors.

With respect to activities undertaken in the prison, we found the following realities: 1(4,5%) attends school and works with crafts, 1(4,5%) only performs the activity of crafts and 1 (4,5%) only attends school. Whereas 19 (86,3%) do not conduct activities in the prison unit.

Regarding the leisure activities that are accessible to inmates with physical disabilities, it was found that 3(13,6%) have access to sun bath, 1(4,5%) sunbathing and television, while 18(81,9%) said they did not perform any leisure activity. In general, the data show that most people with disabilities do not practice leisure activities.

♦ The meaning of permanent disability for inmates

Reflecting on the meaning given to disability, the experience of disability is influenced by several factors, including: subjective, objective, material and symbolic[13]. Thus, feeling poor is subject to the social context of the subject as well as your personal experience with disability, in which identity is constructed, absorbing or contesting some attributes.

> *Being poor is very "hard" too "hard". (...) Especially in a place like this, or know what it will do in life. (C-R3, limb amputation: top right and inferior right).*

About this aspect, the amputation of a limb produces changes in the lifestyle of the affected people, which can no longer be included in the standards of normality recommended and appreciated by modern society. Thus, associated with the loss of part of their bodies, these people also lose body efficiency and "normal" life they had before the episode that triggered the failure. [14]

Another important fact is the dependence that some people with disabilities experience to perform their daily activities in jail due to their limitations to perform such tasks that require more physical effort, such as: washing, making the cleaning of the cell or the pavillion. Having, therefore, to resort to help other inmates or even pay for performing these services included in your routine prison unit, as suggested by the fragment of the speech of the convict with physical disabilities:

> *It is sad! We live in such a situation, it depends everything on the "others", "what" has anything to ask please the others (A-7, paraplegia of the lower limbs).*

In this regard, in situations of "disability", the disabled person to carry out their activities, the aid and support of others or technical assistance to carry out their everyday tasks is necessary. Furthermore, the total reliance has the possibility of being transformed or even prevented, if these persons have access to suitable space and service. [15]

It is also imperative to analyze the meaning of work for inmates with disabilities, because the same before joining the Penitentiary System of Paraíba exerted varied professions that depend on the use of physical force to their practice, as are low-skilled services, also known as "labor services".

Thus, the impact and acceptance of disability acquired for this group become more difficult because of the adaptation to new conditions and remoteness of the work formerly performed. In this sense, it can be recognized that "work gives useful way to existence and gives the recognition of man in the external world to him" [16:75], as found in the fragment below:

> *It is very difficult both working, as some "people", right? Discriminates, give nicknames, right? (B-2, amputation of the left arm).*

Another important point concerns the attitudinal barriers that inmates with disabilities face in the environments of prisons, which are expressed by means of discrimination, prejudice and stigma.

> *It isn't normal, right? Totally different, right? One of the "other", right? One calls "a crippled" a lame horse and thus gives life to lead (B-5, acquired deformity in the left lower limb).*

The prejudice appears as a perpetual shame that the ex-convict will meet in their future. So we can say that inmates with disabilities may face "double bias" after obtaining freedom, one concerning a disability and others relative to ex-convicts.[17]

Analyzing the discourse of inmates with disabilities, it can be said that the meaning assigned to be deficient and is interpreted to be trapped by these people as being an, the first inherent clumsiness "double deprivation" for being poor and the second related to incarceration the prison environment.

> *[...] Because to be deficient and is stuck is well said to take two "chain", right? Because one and another stucks because they cannot*

do what you want, as well as a physical thing, nothing (C-8).

This conception of incapacity evidenced by inmates with physical disabilities has also been identified in other studies, in which the deficiency was assigned the meaning of disability, and demonstrated a stigmatizing view of itself.[18]

Still on the experience of being poor and living in a prison inmate, was possible to follow the displacement of some inmates with physical disabilities from the main gate of access to flags/cells to the prison health unit. What caught our attention was that these people move around in the area of the pavilions and the cells are "dragging" the floor, due to the lack permission to use wheelchairs, for security reasons, in these areas, although the chairs are available in health services in prisons.

♦ Physical disability versus security

The convicts are concerned about their safety and risk perception is common among them.[19] This concern with the physical integrity is related to involvement in conflicts and arguments between groups formed inside the prison, as expressed in the speech:

Committed because in time, the time of flight, escape and when has "rebeilião" is that running all that stuff, "where is" I can defend myself, "where is" I can run. (C-3)

About the riots that occur in prisons, compromising the safety of prisoners, especially people with physical disabilities who have difficulty getting around or perform defense, it is important to highlight that have occurred frequently in prisons in Brazil, due to the clashes between the prisoners; disputes between criminal groups, claiming their rights, deprivation of materials and due to the precarious situations of physical infrastructure and services in prisons 20. In contrast, some inmates with physical disabilities expressed the fact that being disabled does not compromise safety:

Because there is one there; I really respect him [...] and says the "little room" then nobody abuses it does not! (D-2).

It is important clarifying that disability can be a compromising factor for physical security of the individual entered the prison environment, even for those who do not recognize. Therefore, the fact that some inmates with disabilities believe that their safety is not affected in situations of rebellions and uprisings that perhaps will happen, can be justified being part of the group leader is in charge for them, and for this reason, feels safe.

♦Social initiatives promoted for people with physical disabilities

The fact that the inmates have committed crimes does not imply on restriction of their rights as a citizen, either to be plunged into misery and prison in the lack of respect to the principle of human dignity, because as a citizen, should have access to health, education, culture, work, leisure, and legal assistance. [21]

In spite of social initiatives developed for inmates with disabilities, they said that in the period they are prisoners in the prisons of the Penitentiary System of Paraíba, never occurred specific actions.

No, in my presence, where I've been taking from the chain, here, the prison system has never done me this benefit. And usually for those who are disabled is "hard" is "hard" even "hard" for free!(C-5)

According to the statements of informants, it was found that the absence of social actions for inmates with disabilities is seen by them as another obstacle that interferes with the living conditions and the inclusion and reintegration into society.

In this field of discussion, in practice not all prisons becomes effective which provides in Article 83 of the Law on Execution of Criminal Sentences, n. 7.210/84, which regulates the prisons, according to their nature, will ensure spaces and services designed to offer assistance, work, education, recreation and sports practice.[17]

The Failure to follow these actions and services undertakes the process of resocialization of the inmates, because it is through recreational activities, education, job opportunities and an environment with appropriate conditions for dignified survival that reeducation will be reintegrated into society.

FINAL REMARKS

The scenario of the study revealed that there are many barriers experienced by inmates with permanent physical disabilities in prisons in the state of Paraiba, which directly influence the adaptation process and the inclusion of these subjects, which represent the "minority" in prisons. It was found that the physical structure and facilities of the four prisons are not adapted to provide accessibility and meet the unique needs of this group, as well as the experience is hampered by overcrowding, jeopardizing the lives and health.

For inmates who have lost limbs, the meaning of being a disabled person is revealed

as a difficulty or a feeling of sadness because of the loss of a limb and aesthetic changes caused in your body. However, the way the person will conceive and accept the condition of poor depend on the form of physical disability, the degree of dependence resulting from impaired motor and cause that triggered the failure. Have the meaning assigned to be poor and be arrested, was unveiled as a "double deprivation".

By analyzing the relationship established between the inmates with disabilities and other prisoners, disabled or not, it was found that to have a good relationship, it is essential to respect the hierarchy established by the prison inmates who assume the leading role in " Prison society".

With regard to people with disabilities and their safety in prison, it was found that situations of conflict between groups in prison jeopardize the safety and physical integrity of all inmates, and especially people with disabilities, depending on the form of disability, will not have the same dexterity than other inmates to protect themselves.

Finally, we believe that this study may contribute to the development of proposals and actions aimed at providing better living conditions for people with disabilities who are inmates in the prisons of Paraíba. From the knowledge of the reality experienced by this group, it is possible to sensitize society and the authorities about the need for change in the prison system, so that all persons deprived of their liberty have the ability to access their rights to full form without any restriction or repression.

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