Young people in politics: participation, protagonism and experiences

Jovens na política: participação, protagonismo e experiências

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Resumo

A participação política da população é um elemento que não raramente é alvo de estudos, com diferentes focos como, por exemplo, buscar compreender as diferentes dinâmicas dessa participação. O público jovem também tem sido alvo desses estudos, sobretudo porque, em linhas gerais, pode-se imaginar que tal público não apresenta interesse por política. Nesse sentido, o objetivo deste artigo é trazer reflexões acerca da promoção de diálogos com os jovens sobre política para que estes se reconheçam como seres políticos por meio de suas

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ideias e ações sociais. Para isso, realizou-se duas rodas de conversas com abordagens específicas atreladas ao tema central “Jovens na Política”. Ambas foram abertas ao público e realizadas via canal do Youtube, oportunizando a interação dos participantes via chat, onde apresentaram perguntas e comentários promovendo o diálogo proposto. Após a realização das rodas de conversa, como reflexões gerais, acreditamos que aproximar os jovens das discussões políticas oportuniza o exercício de uma cidadania crítica, do voto consciente e ético e especialmente possibilita o protagonismo juvenil na atuação e/ou representação política.


**Abstract**

The political participation of the population is an element that is not rarely the target of studies, with different focuses, such as, for example, seeking to understand the different dynamics of this participation. The young public has also been the target of these studies, above all because, in general terms, it can be imagined that this public does not show any interest in politics. In this sense, the aim of this article is to bring reflections about the promotion of political dialogs with young people so that they recognize themselves as political beings through their social ideas and actions. To this end, two rounds of talks were held with specific approaches linked to the central theme "Young people in politics". Both were open to the public and held via Youtube channel, opportunizing the interaction of participants via chat, where they presented questions and comments promoting the proposed dialog. After carrying out the wheels of conversation, as general reflections, we believe that bringing young people closer to political discussions opportunizes the exercise of a critical citizenship, the conscious and ethical vote and especially makes possible the youth protagonism in political action and/or representation.

**Keywords:** Democracy. Political Participation. Young People.

**Introduction**

The concept of politics arises, from Greek philosophy, roughly as a form of transforming the reality and guaranteeing equal rights between different members of a society and thus trying to avoid conflict and improve institutions of power.

It is common to come across common-sense speeches that consider political issues boring, unnecessary or even those unconnected from the daily life of the citizen. In other words, because it does not understand the role and impact of politics, not just party and
institutional politics, in personal life and above all in social life, many citizens restrict political participation to attending elections from time to time.

Such behavior, which is not uncommon, is a justification for the realization of this article, even reinforced when we remember the sentence that Francisco Weffort (2011) quoted in the introduction of "Osestes na Política", namely: "the misfortune of those who are not interested in politics is to be governed by those who are interested" (p. 9). From this perspective, even if we can imagine that, in general, the population does not have so much appreciation for the theme, this may be more common among young people for the most different reasons, among them, as already mentioned in the past, the erroneous thought that there is a separation between politics and our day-to-day life.

In the light of these initial considerations, it is worth mentioning that the Boa Vista West Campus, where the project that originated this article, as the integral unit of the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Roraima (IFRR), has as its vision, provided for in the Institutional Development Plan (PDI) 2019-2023, "To be excellence, in the Amazon Region, as an agent of social transformation, through teaching, research, extension and innovation". This institutional vision can be realized, among other possibilities, through practices such as the development of projects of the research, of the teaching and the extension, including seeking to promote integration between these axes.

In this sense, the aim of this article, in line with the project that originated the present project, is to bring reflections to young people about politics so that they recognize themselves as political beings through their ideas and their social actions, opportunizing and contributing to the integral formation of young students, as well as engaging with IFRR graduates, family members and the community at large interested in the search for a dialog that leads to reflection on the political action of citizens in favor of socio-economic transformations that aim at the common good.

Methods

This article originates from an extension project, in which the focus is to promote reflections on young people in politics, considering specifically participation, protagonism, and the experiences experienced by this public.

To this end, the reflections presented here, in line with the benchmark set up in the framework of the theoretical discussions raised, emerge from two (2) wheels of talks that took place in the months of November and December 2020. Due to the moment of the COVID-19
pandemic, the project has already been thought of in online format and, therefore, the wheels of conversations have thus been carried out.

In general, the two wheels of virtual conversations were related to politics, and the specificities were addressed later when presenting the results given the origin of the proposed article.

The conversation wheels were conducted through the platform Rede Nacional de Ensino e Pesquisa (RNP) and transmitted to the participants by the video platform of Youtube, specifically on the channel of Campus BoaVista ZonaOeste, one of the units.

The first Wheel of Conversation, with the theme "conscious vote and young people in politics", was held on November 13, 2020 and had three (3) guests, two (2) young people with experience in the program Brazilian Youth Parliament (BIB) and the legal advisor of the presidency of the Regional Electoral Court (TRE) of the state of Roraima.

The second Round of Conversation was held on December 4, 2020, with the theme "the importance of the participation of young people in politics", also counting with three (3) guests, two (2) young candidates for the municipal elections in 2020 (councilor/a) in the city of Roraima capital city of Roraima, and one (1) professor of the Federal University of Roraima (UFRR), which works with the theme. It is worth mentioning that the date of this second round of talks was thought of just after the first round of elections, having in view the elections.

The conversation wheels, which had a maximum duration of 24333 hours each, were opened activities to the public, in general, (opportunising the dialog of the public with the guests, through questions that were made by the chat available on YouTube. In addition, the participation also generated certification, by signing the

Theoretical Reference

The political participation of the population is an element that is not rarely the target of studies, with a focus, for example, on trying to understand the different dynamics of this participation, as well as such aspects as Of these aspects, representativeness is a point addressed. From this perspective, one question that is always necessary, in order to promote reflections and enable the adoption of strategies that can contribute to encouraging greater participation of the population, including the young, in political-related aspects is: Although this question has already been, or is, widely studied, including in different contexts (BAQUERO, 2001; BAQUERO; BAQUERO, 2007; MOISÉS, 2008), and even though he already has an answer which, it seems obvious, it is necessary to reflect constantly
on it, in different perspectives such as, for example, the transfer of responsibility of action, the practice, once again quem vota, from a representativeness perspective, for example, it transfers to the other - who receives the vote - such a responsibility, as if their political participation were no longer necessary, restricting itself exclusively to the practice of voting - voting as an exclusive practice, and, it seems, only necessary, of the exercise of citizenship.

Furthermore, when one thinks of the young population, this questioning becomes even more of the sort, above all, just because some of the public has revealed the high lack of interest in politics.

In this sense, political education, including seeking the involvement and engagement of young people, is of fundamental importance for the country's democratization to be strengthened, and, above all, not to be merely considered in the light of the quantitative aspect of the "wins the most votes". Regarding political education, specifically in the context of the dictatorship, Baquero and the Baquero (2007, 142) highlight that "in Brazil, in the time of the military dictatorship, political education was developed as the moral education.

It should be noted that the importance of youth for democracy is highlighted on the website of the Supreme Electoral Court (TSE, 2020) when he emphasizes that "participation of youth in public life is one of the factors that contribute to strengthening democracy and increasing the richness of debates on national challenges and problems". Thus, it is necessary to educate young people politically so that they get acquainted with politics and, from this knowledge, seek to engage in it.

This "lack" of political education may be a factor that contributes to the fact that the youth does not get involved with politics not necessarily because he does not want to, but because he does not want to know. From this perspective, Pedreira (2015) points out that young people are not necessarily out of interest for politics, instead, they have little knowledge about it and, in this way, would not have effective conditions to choose whether or not to engage with it. This can create, in this audience, an atmosphere of dissatisfaction which, to a greater or lesser extent, leads it to see politics as something that, shall we say, should be resolved, discussed, by older people, who have years of experience and who, roughly speaking, have knowledge about the issues that are proposed.

According to Costa (2018), in an article entitled "Without the young, future of politics is bleak", published in Estadão, "Brazilian youth is dissatisfied with the country. This nonconformism can be tied to different factors - among them, the lack of political education, but possibly corruption and the constant fight between political parties, often promoting a real "dance of the chairs" - politicians changing parties, not for an ideology, but for strategic
issues - are quite significant aspects in this process.

In addition to the possible contribution, for example, of corruption in being a significant aspect that promotes the alienation of young people from politics - much information they receive about politics may even be passed on by their parents during their development - it is not uncommon to imagine that, roughly, unfortunately, this (politics) is not a subject that attracts the attention of young people, especially because, coupled with the lack of political education, as Augusto (2008) points out, young people have a tendency to view politics as something that happens institutionally, that is not perceived as something that will impact/affect their lives.

Barros et al. (2019, p. 116), from the perspective of the non-interest of young people in politics, emphasize that "[...] generations more engaged and more civic would be replaced by younger, more individualistic people, mainly focused on their professional activities and their private life". We can even consider that this individualism can corroborate with the idea that young people, as highlighted above, see politics as something that does not interfere with their lives, in their day.

On the other hand, this lack of attraction of young people for politics may be (possibly) - and (possibly) being - compensated for by the "boom" of technologies / digital media, something that, without a shadow of a doubt, is in the interest of young people and that, by table, can make this public end up getting involved with politics, realizing how attractive the theme can be / is and, mainly, what important is engagement - not necessarily linked to partisanship, but political engagement in its various forms of mobilization, such as, for example, through participation in academic centers.

We will not go into this merit, but about the partisan engagement and the engagement of politicians, Brenner. (2011, p.

Returning to the digital media element, it should be pointed out that in the party-oriented sense, this has been one of the great strategic needs: the attraction of the young. We stress that some parties have "young wings" up to considered very traditional - as is the case of the Partido Socialismo e Liberdade (PSOL), which in 2017 was the Brazilian party with the highest proportion of young people among its affiliates, reaching the mark of 39.36% affiliated between 16 and 34 years old (PSOL, 2017) -, while others try to capture young people by novelty, seeking to modernize, through the use of new colors, the adoption of new discourses, etc., for example.

The strength of digital media is so expressive and has been winning each time. In the case of the PSOL, for example, Oliveira (2020) emphasizes that the use of social networks-
not only Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, but also Tik Tok - in the campaign of candidate Guilherme Boulos, to the city of São Paulo, made him lead among young people from 16 to 24 years old, since it was perceived greater engagement of this public.

Thus, the development of practices that are related to political education such as, for example, dialogs, courses, discussions, debates, the power of digital media and social networks, can be - and has been shown to be - a significant strategy for attracting young people to politics.

**Results and Discussion**

Two (2) Conversation Wheels were held, specifically promoting two (2) approaches tied in with the theme correspondingly central, which (a) conscientious and young people in politics; and (b) the importance of youth participation in politics (Figure 1).

![Figure 1. Arts used in the dissemination of Conversation Wheels.](image)

Source: IFRR team responsible for communication.

On the two (2) talking wheels the guests had a moment to perform their talks and then the dialogs were then held, on the basis of the questions submitted by the participants at the At the time, the guests had the opportunity to clear some related specific related questions, for example, the practice of the of the candidates to run for political office, among others.

It should be noted that in both, there was a greater participation of young people, including students belonging to the internal community of the CBVZO, in addition to the participation of servers of the

Although approaches were defined for holding the 2 (two) wheels of conversations, during the performance of both participants they could ask questions to the guests, even if such questions were not necessarily attached, in a
It is important to point out that the first wheel of conversation was held 2 (two) days in advance of the first round of elections. The date was thought, as well as the guests for this initial moment, just in the sense of (for example) contributing, within the existing limitations (like the short dialog time), to know instruments that make it possible to fully experience citizenship, as well as to make it possible to understand how to make effective the protagonism of young people in the consolidation of democracy in our country. In summary, generally speaking, how would the impact be to contribute to a political awareness.

In spite of preceding this moment of voting practice, by means of the first round of the election, the effectiveness of the young protagonist would not necessarily be tied to the question of the vote itself, in other words, but also of his/her Not for nothing, in this first round of conversation, we counted on the participation of two (2) representatives of the Brazilian Youth Parliament, one from Roraima and the other from Paraíba, including with the objective of, focusing on the young public, bringing together this experience that they had lived through from the young representatives who were participating in the event, in the sense that they would perceive the importance of engaging.

We stress that when we mention engagement, we do not necessarily deal here with the partisan engagement of young people, but political engagement, in the sense of young people's interest in politics, whatever, for example, the type of mobilization that it integrates as, even, a student movement - academic centers, central directory of students - regardless of which political party it makes - and also if it turns out to be-

The date of the second round of talks was also thought out strategically, being held after the first round of elections in 2020, given that two (2) guests were candidates for councilors in elections for the city of Boa Vista, capital of Roraima.

In this way, bring them later to the first alternate of the elections would avoid any possible linkage with political campaigning. On the other hand, in line with the engagement of young people already addressed in the first round of conversation, through the talks and dialogs promoted by the young representatives of the program Young Brazilian Parliament, the participation of two young candidates for the position of councilor in the capital of the state of Roraima was of extreme importance for the young people who participated in this second round of conversation to be able to see, in practice, examples of political engagement, through the experiences passed on by the guests.

Both (the two recent guests), together with the visiting Professor, made speeches and responded to questions that, in general terms, corresponded to an understanding about the Brazilian political system, even though the focus was on the state of Roraima, more
specifically the capital Boa Vista, as well as reports about vices and misconceptions of political representatives.

Participation in the discussion wheels was considered significant, especially because it serves the purpose of promoting the dialog on the issue, including by encouraging young people to pursue politics in a higher or lower degree, giving it the importance it deserves in our lives.

In addition, we believe that bringing young people closer to political discussions provides the opportunity for the exercise of a citizenship criticality, of the conscious and ethical and especially makes youth protagonism possible in political action and/or representation, making them part of the solution of the problems that afflict society, either through the occupation of elective positions, representation in management councils/public policies, or even as an active and participative citizen in the day-to-day life of your city.

**Final Considerations**

This article aimed to bring reflections about promoting dialogs with young people about politics so that they might recognize themselves as political beings through their (ie),

Thus, by holding two (2) wheels of policy conversations, with specific approaches, it is possible to consider that the objective has been achieved and that the young participants in the events are interested in the topic or, at least, have taken an interest in participating in the events and, from them, can start to become effectively interested in politics, whatever the engagement of each one.

In addition, we consider it appropriate to emphasize that the strength of young people - especially thinking of young people who have an appropriate and experienced knowledge of the Brazilian politics - may contribute to the promotion of major transformations in Brazilian politics, even though our history is not one of the most encouraging. But, as dreaming is free,

Finally, we suggest carrying out research that might, in some way in a way, measure the participation of young people in politics, identifying and analyzing the reasons that lead to this participation. We also suggest and encourage the carrying out of teaching and extension activities, which may even unfold into scientific articles, seeking to promote discussions on politics and youth, with a focus on a political education.
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