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# PUBLIC SECURITY AGENDA FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OF THE NORTHWEST SEMIARID

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### **ABSTRACT**

Having as an object of analysis the public security agenda and aiming at the sustainability of the peoples and communities of the northeastern semiarid region, in particular, of the village Caiçara I, rural area of the city of Paulo Afonso-BA, this paper aims to discuss how such settlements Humans perceive the practices developed by public security institutions, such as the performance of this service sector in the alluded village. To conduct the research, bibliographic material was used; participant observation; applying the form and conducting an interview. The participant observation was conducted with members of the Caiçara I Irrigation Project Association; The applied form was structured with closed questions, with dichotomous and multiple choice answers and interviews were unstructured. For better research development, the use of field diary and video recorder was made. It was found, with the analysis, that it is indispensable the approximation between public security institutions and the communities to which the service is provided, in order to stimulate these peoples to have more in-depth discussions on the subject, enabling greater participation, either individually, collectively or through representatives, aiming, perhaps, for the development of a model appropriate to the factual reality observed.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Issues related to rural communities in the northeastern semiarid region have historically been relegated to the background in political discussions, with the fight against drought and assistance policies, mostly of conjunctural character, representing the few concrete actions observed aiming at maintaining the settlement and economic activities in the Northeast (SILVA, 2007; DINIZ; LIMA, 2017) and consequently improve the quality of life of these communities. According to Araújo (2011), almost every semiarid region of northeastern Brazil is located "at low latitudes". Thus, the mentioned region has low thermal amplitude; It is not uncommon, for example, that temperatures exceed 26 ° C in the depression are Franciscan. Already Oliveira; Cestaro (2016) points out that these characteristics of the region produce long periods of drought, whether classified as hydrological drought (reduction of surface and subsurface

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water resources), agricultural (low soil moisture and deficiency in the development of agricultural crops), meteorological (degree of dryness of a region). However, the drought that most affects the northeastern semi-arid population is the socioeconomic drought, which affects the communities living with this biome, impacting human activities, such as agricultural production and service activities, directly and indirectly (BRITO et al., 2017). The rural communities of the agrarian semiarid as well as the small producers pointed out by Diegues (2000) originated from the miscegenation between the native indigenous peoples, the black slaves and the white colonizers. These communities have occupied the Brazilian semiarid for centuries and even though this space is the most populous and rainiest in the world, it was necessary to develop mechanisms of coexistence to enable the survival of the human species in this space (COSTA et al., 2017) (a) diverse and plural. At this point, a striking challenge is seen in the improvement of a sustainable model of coexistence with the semiarid that prioritizes the principles of social and environmental sustainability with the need for economic development; when "an interrelation between social justice, quality of life, environmental balance and supported

development" occurs (COSTA; TEIXEIRA, 2017); condition that would make it possible for the rural man to maintain his place of origin, the integrity and traditions of the community by fighting what Machado (1984) conceptualizes as maladaptation<sup>1</sup>. Understanding public policies as the stage at which leaders transform their purposes into tangible and measurable concrete actions in the real world (AGUM et al., 2015); It can be stated that the public security agenda pursued by the bodies that make up the social defense system, as a state activity, materializes the political view of how social conflicts should be addressed in a context that is requiring social pacification (ESTEVAM et al., 2018; ESTEVAM; AZEVEDO, 2019a). Likewise, security, understood here as the state's public security apparatus, is fundamental to the life of man and the community, and the organs of the State, in the form of the law, are responsible for the satisfaction of this need, and are no longer seen as only Police Assistance and come to be understood as an Institution that is on the side of Community, dialoguing and contributing to its sustainability (BRASIL-SENASP, 2008). The Bahian public security agenda is currently guided by the National Public Security Plan-PNSP (BRASIL, 2018); by the Strategic Plan of the State System of Public Security / Bahia 2016 to 2025 (BAHIA, 2017a) and by the Strategic Plan of PMBA 2017 to 2025 (BAHIA, 2017b) and in the last context, directed to the subjects and area object of this study, by the Operational Directive No. 006 - COPPM / 2017 - Operation District (BAHIA, 2017c).

Thus, the National Public Security Plan (PNSP) is a broad legislation that establishes the general objectives, priority programs and governance structure composed by the National Council for Public Security and Social Defense and the Executive Plan Governance Committee (BRAZIL, 2018) constituting an evolution of the previous National Public Security Plan. The Strategic Plan of the State System of Public Security / Bahia 2016 to 2025 (BAHIA, 2017a) and the Strategic Plan of PMBA 2017 to 2025 (BAHIA, 2017b) align with the PNSD guidelines regarding "the preservation of public order and of the safety of people and heritage "(BRAZIL, 1988), materialize the state view on public safety, having as elements of differentiation aspects of particular managerial nature the institutions that elaborated them. Operational Guideline No. 006 - COPPM / 2017 - Operation District (BAHIA, 2017c), differs from the above as an operational document aimed at standardizing and standardizing the actions of the Military Police Units that perform the Corporation's end activity. The mentioned plans focus on addressing the social problems arising from large urban agglomerations; not that these are less important, but make little or no reference to the reality and challenges experienced by rural communities; that due to the rapid and constant growth of urban urbanization and the consequent increase in the influence of communication vehicles, they are increasingly

<sup>1</sup>Abandoning traditions and replacing or perverting culture, breaking community unity, also lead to maladaptation. The media, particularly television, carry everywhere prevalent cultural patterns in the metropolises. Populations tend to absorb those patterns, reproduce that lifestyle. We are moving towards perverse standardization, ruthlessly destroying the identity of communities. New aspirations are stimulated that have nothing to do with immediate reality. It is a violence and a cruelty. Discovering that in his habitat he will not find satisfaction for his new aspirations, man migrates. And you will find that you will not be satisfied with new or old aspirations, crowded in the slums, easy prey to temptation to violence, prostitution and drugs. It loses the little it had and it does not achieve the much that was suggested by the television. (MACHADO, 1984, p.109)

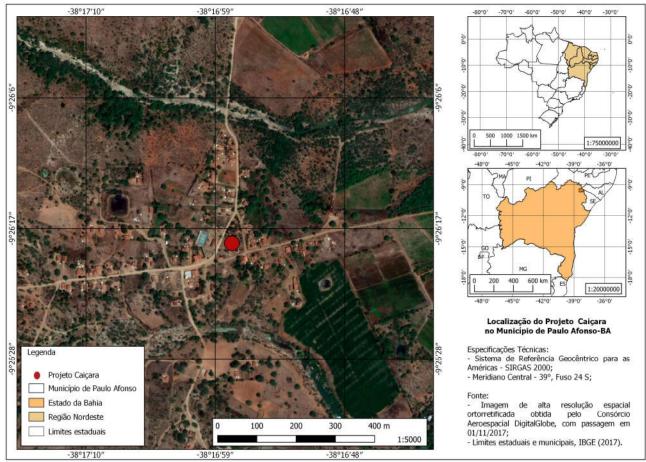
influenced by urbanization, abandoning their origins in the pursuit of meeting these new needs (MACHADO, 1984; FERREIRA JUNIOR et al., 2016). Due to the growing social conflicts; problems linked to drugs and violence, the need for policing in small towns and rural areas, the research that focuses on area analysis, such as these object of this study, should focus on the philosophy and strategies of community policing, among others, they are Community Oriented Policing (COP), can be put as an alternative to traditional policing; focused on compliance with the law and the constitutional rule of law, since they presuppose greater empowerment of the community, which effectively and horizontally participates in the decisions of police agencies (BAYLEY; SKOLNICK, 2006; BRASIL-SENASP, 2008; ROSENBAUM, 2012; RUKUS; WARNER; ZHANG, 2018). In this perspective this article aims to discuss how the rural communities of the northeastern semiarid observe the practices developed by public security agencies; how do they identify the existence of a public safety agenda that meets their needs and, furthermore, how can the public safety system contribute to the sustainability of the community studied here, and how do they relate to this reality.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Study area: The city of Paulo Afonso, State of Bahia, Brazil, located in the Northeastern Sertão, from phytogeographic point of view presents as predominant vegetation, the caating that according to Leal; Tabarelli; Silva (2003) from the biogeographic point can be found "tree or shrub" vegetation extracts, especially "low trees and shrubs, many of which have thorns, microfilia and some xerophytic features" (p.23). According to Azevedo (1997) the area that delimits the municipality and which includes the area object of this study "[...] is characterized by a semi-arid climate of the BShs type in the Köeppen classification. The low rainfall throughout the year results in an average annual rainfall of 500 to 600 mm". The population of Pueblo Caiçara I, rural area of the city of Paulo Afonso is mostly distributed in the core area of the village; The sale of surplus subsistence agriculture, mainly through the sale of corn (Zea mays) and string beans (Vignaunguiculata) and livestock (goats, sheep and cattle) are the main traditional sources of community income. (LINS-NETO; PERONI; ALBUQUERQUE, 2010); which (for a portion of the local population) are added to income from wage labor and government benefits and income distribution programs. Based on Albuquerque's lesson; LinsNeto and Lucena (2010) regarding the choice of research subjects; Among the members of the Caicara I village community, members of the Caicara I Village Irrigation Project Association, which consists of 35 lots, were selected to participate in the research. The phase of the field research was carried out from November 2018. and April 2019.

# Data collect

The data collection methods used in the research were participant observation (informal conversations); applying the form and conducting an interview. Participant observation was held at meetings held by members of the Caiçara I Irrigation Project Association; The applied form was structured, with thirty closed questions, with dichotomous and multiple choice answers; The interview was unstructured with the use of field



Source: (ESTEVAM; AZEVEDO, 2019b, p.360)

Figure 1. Caiçara Village 1

video 2007; diary recorder use (PRESTES, 2010: ALBUQUERQUE; ALENCAR; LUCENA, RICHARDSON, 2011; MINAYO, 2016). For the selection of participants, intentional sampling or rational selection of the non-probabilistic type was used as technique when the informants were previously selected (ALBUQUERQUE; LINS-NETO; LUCENA, 2010) having as inclusion criterion to have lot (s) in the Project. Irrigation Caiçara I and work directly on the same (s) and be of legal age. Community information; socioeconomic profile, fragility, quality and satisfaction with public safety service provided were obtained through the data contained in the form, interview and informal conversations (SANTOS; SANTOS, 2018).

**Data analysis:** Data collected from the forms were analyzed using the GNU PSPP *Statistical Analysis Software version* 1.0.1-g818227 software. The statistical results obtained were qualitatively articulated based on the conclusions derived from the participant observation, the interviews and the theoretical framework, established through integrative systemic bibliographic research. These methods and techniques were used when analyzing and interpreting globally the data collected during the field research, which sought to reach, in this case, the necessary factors to the description and discussion of the studied question, within a logical and correlated sequence.

**Ethical and legal aspects:** Regarding the ethical and legal aspects, the authorization for the field research was obtained from the Research Ethics Committee (CEP) of the State University of Bahia (UNEB), under number 2.948.771, CAAE.: 94020718.3.0000.0057.

In the same way, the research objectives were presented to the interviewees before the application of the forms and the individual conversations, being requested permission to use the data obtained through the signing of the Informed Consent Form (FICF) and the term of authorization of the use. of picture and sound.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The Caiçara I Irrigation Project Association has thirty-five irrigated plots distributed among twenty-eight lenders; Of these, twenty-six (92.86% of the total) were selected to participate in the research because they worked directly in the real estate and two (7.14% of the total) were excluded because they were squatters but did not work. directly with agriculture or livestock. Thus, the survey reached all the members of the Association that fit the inclusion criteria of the survey. The social profile of the interviewees is shown in Table 1. The data collected confirm the relationship between education and occupation of people in rural areas; where more educated people tend to have non-work related occupations in agriculture as Campos had already observed; Medeiros; Albuquerque in 2016. When asked if they observe the existence of police rounds in the community where they live and / or in the area of the Caiçara Irrigation Project, local people explain the following: By analyzing the data on how police presence in the locality is observed by most of the population; however, taking into account concepts of traditional or professional policing, of which police garrisons attend a planning of rounds that prioritize the rapid emergency response with prompt response to the crime or the rounds on

Table 1. Social profile of respondents in the Caiçara I Irrigation Project Association in the city of Paulo Afonso-BA

Sex	Number of respondents	in absolute value and (%)
	Absolute No.	(%)
Male	18	69,23
Feminine	5	19,23
Did not answer	3	11,54
Age		
18 to 25 years		00 (0,00%) -
26 to35 years	1	3,85
36 to 45 years	8	30,77
46 to 55 years	7	26,92
Over 55 years	8	30,77
Did not answer	2	7,69
Natural of Caiçara I Village		ŕ
Yes	15	57,69
No	9	34,62
Did not answer	2	7,69
Home state		. ,
Bahia	19	73,08
Pernambuco	4	15,38
Did not answer	3	11,54
Marital status	3	11,51
Single	2	7,69
Married	16	61,5
Divorced	1	3,85
Widowed	3	11,54
Did not answer	4	15,38
Level of education	4	13,38
Elementary level in complete	14	53,85
Elementary level in complete	1	3,85
Incomplete Medium Level	2	7,69
	3	
Complete Medium Level	1	11,54
Upper level in complete	1	3,85 3,85
Upper level complete Did not answer	4	
	4	15,38
Own residence	23	99.46
Yes	23	88,46
No Did not on some	3	- 11.54
Did not answer	3	11,54
How many people live in your house	1.5	57.60
Upto 4 people	15	57,69
4 to 6 people	3	11,54
More than 6 people	2	7,69
Didnotanswer	6	23,08
What is your profession or occupation		0.4.62
Agriculture	22	84,62
Animal husbandry	1	3,85
CLT employee	1	3,85
From home	1	3,85
Did not answer	1	3,85
How long have you been a farmer or farmer?		
Upto 5 years	-	-
05 to 10 years	2	7,69
11 to 15 years	1	3,85
15 to 20 years	4	15,38
Over 20 years	16	61,54
Did not answer	3	11,54

Source: Field research conducted from April 2018 to May 2019.

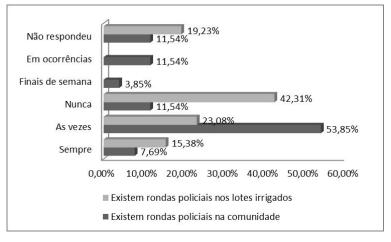


Figure 2. Existence of Police rounds Community X Irrigated Lots in (%)

days and times of highest occurrence (BAYLEY; SKOLNICK, 2006; BRAZIL-SENASP, 2008; ROSENBAUM, 2012).

Regarding the way police approaches are taken in rural areas, survey participants claim that:

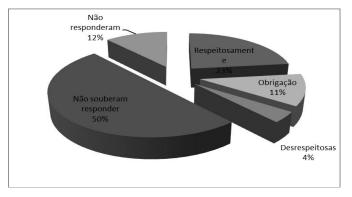


Figure 3. People's perception of police approaches in the Community

These data highlight the fact that 23% of the community understands that the approaches of police officers are respectfully performed in contrast to the sum of the options "Could not answer, Disrespectful and Obligatory", which total 65%; This demonstrates the distancing of public security agents from the Community, a posture that is not in line with what is recommended by the philosophy of community policing, approaching the currently adopted model of public security, professional policing (MOORE, 2003). When asked if they have already been a victim of crime in the Community and / or if they have ever needed to seek assistance from a public safety agency, please note the following Figure 4:

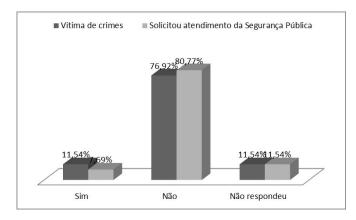


Figure 4. Victim of Crime X Request for Attendance

When asked about how the public security organs were treated at these opportunities, respondents stated:

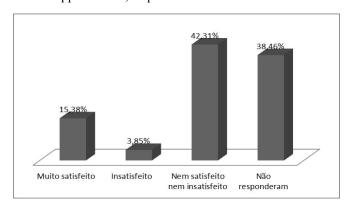


Figure 5. Satisfaction with the occurrence attendance in (%)

The responses collected from the forms indicate that a small portion of the population surveyed (11.54%) claims to have been a victim of crime (Figure - 4), which in the first analysis demonstrates the existence of a quiet perception of the community. However, when comparing these data with those collected in informal conversations, it is observed that the number of victims of crimes, especially theft and animal theft, is much higher than reported. Such a disparity between the answers provided and the observed data, as Rukus would say; Warner and Zhang (2018) may stem from a number of factors, such as distrust of the police and fear of reprisals. The data collected as a result of the responses to the form still indicate that for the interviewees the crime considered as the biggest problem of the Community is theft / robberyof animals (38.46%) of the answers, followed by car sound (15.38%), and drugs (3.85%), and 42.31% chose not to answer the question.

In terms of public safety contributions to community sustainability, the survey participants state:

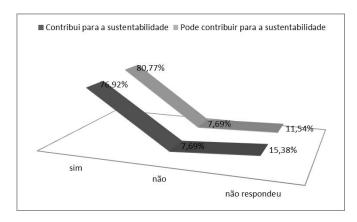


Figure 6. Public Safety X Community Sustainability in (%)

It is thus demonstrated that the Community understands the importance of security for the development of its daily activities, especially in reducing social tensions. The lack of a sense of security in a community compromises individual and collective human coexistence across their points of contact with reality in their biopsychosocial elements (BRASIL-SENASP, 2008).

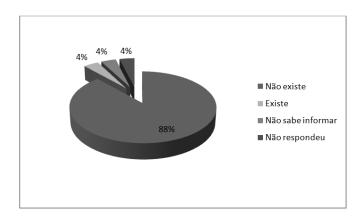


Figure 7. Existence of Community Public Safety Council in the Community

However, when it comes to the theme of Community Policing; 80.77% report that so far none of the Police Corporations had scheduled a meeting to address public safety in the community, 7.69% have no recollection of any meeting and 11.54% have not responded. Of those interviewed, 11.54%

stated that the Military Police was the Corporation that had already held a meeting with the community, 15.38% did not respond and 76.92% reported that no Police Institution maintained contact with the community (Figure 6). Similarly, when asked about the existence of a Community Security Council or similar body in the community, the survey participants demonstrate (Figure - 7)

When expressing themselves about public safety activities, as they are currently being developed, meet the needs of the research community, the data are as follows:

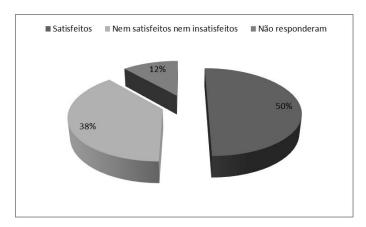


Figure 8. The Public Safety agenda meets the needs of the Community

Stopping exclusively in the analysis of the collected data, the thought proposed by Rukus; Warner and Zhang (2018) about society's distrust of the police and the fear of reprisals can be reproduced in the variables shown in Figure 6. At this point, it is observed that the researched population is symmetrically divided between those who chose not to respond. Questioned and the sum of the other options. In contrast, what is observed in informal conversations is that the traditional model of policing Moore (2003) has not been meeting the needs of the Community; since it is restricted to punctual handling of police occurrences and not in partnership with the Community in defining their real needs and in appropriate strategies to address them (RUKUS; WARNER; ZHANG, 2018).

When asked about the quality of the requests handling compared to the delay in the service it is observed the following:

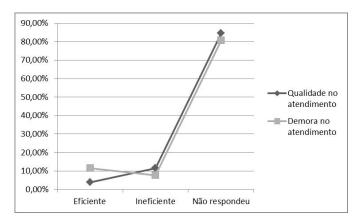


Figure 9. Quality of care X Delay in care in (%)

The analysis of these data, added to those previously confronted, demonstrate the insecurity and / or distrust of the Community in expressing itself about how the security service

is provided to the population. The same reasoning applies to the questions previously presented.

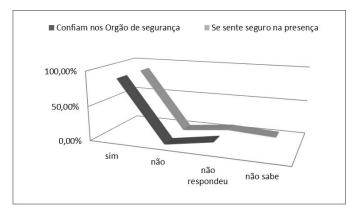


Figure 10. Community perception of the presence of public security organs in the Community

Analysis of the data on trust in the Security Bodies and in the presence of a public official of these institutions in the Community complement the data on Community policing; however, it was found during the observation phase and in the informal conversations that the notion of Community policing in the Community is mixed with the image of the establishment of a police station, or police station as some refer, in the locality. Thus, the data corroborate what Bayley taught; Skolnick (2006) exposes the existence of blatant confusion about the concept of Community Policing, even among members of the Social Defense System (Figure - 8).

#### **Final considerations**

The research demonstrates, without exhausting the theme, the community's perception of the public security agenda existing in Paulo Afonso, a municipality in which the researched population is inserted. It denounces the need to bring the organs that make up the local Social Defense System closer to society, especially the rural communities. It also points out that the security agencies in the city of Paulo Afonso follow the national and global trend by prioritizing their activities in the large urban centers over the regions that border these and the extensive rural areas in the country. The research shows the discomfort of the research participants when asked about factual elements of the relationship between the Community and the security agents, punctually regarding the way the approaches are performed, quality of care and reliability of the population in the Institutions. Thus, the present study proposes the use of the community policing philosophy as adequate for the empowerment and improvement of meeting the needs of rural communities. However, it is clear that in order for the proposal to be viable in the existing scenario, it is essential that security institutions approach the Community by stimulating further discussions on the subject, enabling greater Community participation, either individually or through representatives, and development of a model appropriate to the observed factual reality.

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