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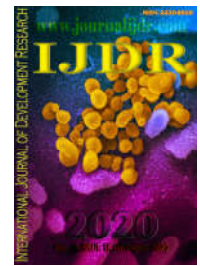
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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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ILHA DO MEL: A PARADISE AND ITS QUALITY OF LIFE

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ABSTRACT

Quality of life: Approach in the communities of Ilha do Mel, belonging to the municipality of Paranaguá, on the coast of Paraná. The population lives in a constant search for improvements in the quality of life, always aiming to better meet their needs before society. The objective of the study was to estimate the residents of Ilha do Mel quality of life. The tool used was a questionnaire with open and closed questions, where 225 interviews were obtained within the four chosen communities. Among the results achieved, it was possible to observe that their quality of life is within the subjective standards, being considered a satisfactory index with regard to socioeconomic and environmental aspects, differently from the standards estimated in the urban region of the municipality. Thus, the quality of life is subjective, varying from one individual to another, mainly because they present completely different views in several aspects. For this, this study implies the survey of the real situation in which the residents of Ilha do Mel are installed, and what is their level of satisfaction about the life in which they are submitted.

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INTRODUCTION

Located at the entrance of Paranaguá bay, central region of the state of Paraná coast, Ilha do Mel is separated from the mainland (Ponta Inácio Dias, in Pontal do Paraná) by approximately 2,800 meters. Its eastern face is bathed by the Atlantic Ocean, where the Palmas and Galheta Islands are found. To the north are the Ilhas das Peças and Superagui; to the west it is bathed by the so-called Mar de Dentro and is close to the Ilha das Cobras, Cotinga and Rasa da Cotinga (MARQUES; BRITZ, 2005). Marque and Britz (2005), point out that the shape of Ilha do Mel resembles an "eight poorly drawn", wider in the North than in the South and with a 35 km perimeter, being the territory of Paranaguá municipality, and which houses the Ilha do Mel State Park. Under the jurisdiction of the former Paraná Environmental Institute, today Instituto Água e Terra do Paraná, linked to the Paraná State Secretariat for the Environment, it is accessed by sea, with boarding points located in the Pontal do Sul resort, in Pontal do Paraná, or in the historic center of Paranaguá. According to the 2010 demographic census conducted by the Brazilian Index of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Ilha do Mel is composed of 1,094 inhabitants. At the beginning of the 20th century, there was a high demand for the destination by high-class families from Curitiba, who frequented the island

during the summer period on the coast. The places of greatest demand were Fortaleza or Farol das Conchas beach (KRAEMER, 1978). As the demand grew, the community adapted its infrastructure to meet the needs of these people who were beginning to see a tourist attraction in Ilha do Mel. According to SEMA / IAP (1996), with the installation of electric light in 1988, and with the implementation of the boat service for transportation, the population of Ilha do Mel started to have greater access to consumer goods, making the population changed old habits to the urban lifestyle. The island was gaining more and more value and recognition as one of the most beautiful places on the coast of Paraná, attracting an increasing number of tourists, especially in the summer. In this way, the population started to take more advantage of tourism as its main economic activity, providing various services to tourists. Among the services related to tourism, we can highlight transportation, accommodation, leisure, information center for visits to tourist spots within the island, in addition to health care, supermarket, luggage transportation and a series of other services. According to Telles and Gândara (2012), these economic activities, in the village of Encantadas, have characteristics of informality and even illegality, for the most part, they are not registered with the Ministry of Tourism, as well as they do not have proper management. For investments in community demands, Ilha do Mel had financial resources

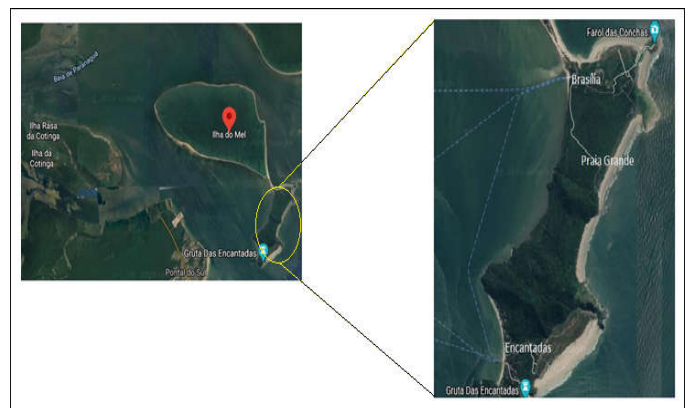
originating from the Visitation Fee established by Ordinance No. 010/98 / IAP / GP, which is not used, due to the lack of planning and budget by the Council Local manager (SPERB; TEIXEIRA, 2006). In this way, it is possible to observe the existence of gaps in public and private activities related to the economic activities performed in Ilha do Mel, which generates a direct impact on the quality of life of residents. The mentioned aspects interfere in the accessibility they have to other goods and services, which will supply their individual and collective needs. According to Almeida *et al.* (2012), the universe of knowledge with quality of life, is expressed as a multidisciplinary area of knowledge, encompassing various forms of science and popular knowledge and concepts that permeate the lives of people as a whole. Understanding the quality of life as a human form of perception of one's own existence, from spheres and subjective perspectives, is a way to clarify this field of knowledge.

Quality of life is a term used in two ways, the one that deals with a daily language, by the population in general, professionals from different areas and managers linked to public policies, and the one that is related to scientific research in different fields, such as: economics, sociology, education, health and other areas (BOWLING; ROGERSON, 1995). According to Seidl and Zannon (2004), only the individual himself will be able to analyze the situation in which he is inserted and its variables. In this way, the collection of data on the current situation of the Ilha do Mel community, with regard to socioeconomic aspects by the residents themselves, can provide the population with a comprehensive view of the place where they are inserted. Thus, enabling the population to perceive their needs in the individual and the collective, as well as the search to satisfy them. With this, there is a need to collect economic and social information about activities related to Ilha do Mel, due to the low availability of literature listing the social and economic requirements, which can contribute to improvement in the community. Measurement can be done individually or collectively, but as far as the residents of Ilha do Mel are concerned, a collective survey is the ideal method, given that most residents make up their own business, usually with a family structure. The quality of life index serves to bring to society, and especially to the residents themselves, the real situation in which they live within a given location. For this reason, it was necessary to measure aspects of needs such as access to public services, regarding sanitation, health, electricity and security, leisure, their mobility and distance in which they are subject to transportation. Even how and when their transportation works, in addition to their children's access to education and mainly what are the trends of these residents about the future of your children. The study was based on the search for leisure and housing on Ilha do Mel, considering that the place is one of the most sought after tourist spots by society on the coast of Paraná and abroad. Raising the quality of life of residents and entrepreneurs who are installed there is of utmost importance for those who wish to acquire land to settle there. In addition, the research was totally aimed at Ilha residents, where all the procedures and indicators of the way in which these residents live were measured. The general objective of the research was to estimate the quality of life index of families living in Ilha do Mel. In addition, estimating the profile of the local residents, as well as analyzing the socioeconomic aspects of each resident, checking the availability of public services for the communities that make up the location and measuring the

residents' expectations regarding the future of their children inside or outside Ilha do Mel.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was applied in the Ilha do Mel region, municipality of Paranaguá / PR, in the communities of Praia do Farol or Farol das Conchas, Praia Grande, Encantadas and Brasília (Figure 01). According to the Environmental Institute of Paraná (IAP), the community of Brasília is the point of arrival for passengers heading to the northern part of the island, with access to Praia Grande, Fortaleza, Farol das Conchas and Brasília itself. The community of Farol is characterized by good tourist infrastructure, where it is located close to Morro do Farol, and close to it, there is the community of Praia Grande. The enchanted community, on the other hand, is located in the south of the island, also with a landing point with an 80-meter wharf for docking boats, with a large number of residents and a small space available.



(Source: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Island+do+Honey>)

Figure 1. Satellite overview of Ilha do Mel and demarcation of the studied communities

The tool used in the study was a structured questionnaire with open and closed questions, totaling 225 completed questionnaires, of which 141 were applied in Encantadas (south side), 37 in Praia do Farol or Farol das Conchas, 31 in Brasília and 16 in Praia Grande. that these three communities make up the north side. The questionnaire was adapted from Rochadelli (2007), which refers to the estimation of the quality of life index (QLI). In this context, family aspects were measured, with regard to the daily lives of residents in the region. Also, the conditions in which these residents are subject to public health, basic sanitation, access to public transport, destination of produced waste, enterprises for economic activity, leisure, their children's future perspectives, social integration and education, as well as the size of their homes (Table 01). In order to estimate the quality of life index (QLI) as a percentage with a maximum score of 100%, the result obtained was divided by 10, thus obtaining the result of the interviewed family, from 0 to 1. In a second moment, the result obtained was compared to Maslow's theory of needs, where Maslow's pyramid was subjectively quantified that each need represents a hypothetical value of 0 to 1. Thus, the first basic or physiological need started from 0 to 0.20, the second need for safety starts from 0.21 to 0.4. The third need for association or social, starting at 0.41 to 0.6, the fourth need for status or estimation, begins at 0.61 to 0.80 and finally, the fifth of the needs idealized by Maslow, that of self-realization, which was hypothetically assigned values with variables from

Table 1. Quality of Life Index (IQV)

INDICATORS	DESCRIPTION	NOTES				
		0	1	2	3	.
Sanitation (water supply + sanitary type) / 2	water supply		mine, source, etc. manual operation	common well with manual operation	common well with electric pump	Public network
	toilet type	in the woods, in the open air	annexed to the residence	outside the residence (house type)	mine, source, etc. op. Mechanics	artesian well
Organic waste	disposal of organic waste	throws on the river	Burning	bury it	public garbage collection	RECYCLE
		1	2	3	3.5	.
Leisure	how often does the family take rest days	no vacation	Sporadic	once / 3 years	once / 2 years	once a year
		25	50	62.5	75	100
Locomotion	means of transport	No Car	bicycle and / or cart	motorcycles similar	1 vehicle (ride or utility)	more than 1 vehicle
Services (access to medical care + education) / 2	Medical care	No access	Remote Access		municipality seat	in the locality
	Education					
Housing (housing (material * state of conservation) + equipment)) / 2	Accommodation (predominant material)	0	1	2	3	.
	Accommodation State of Conservation	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
	equipment (sum / 2)	Affordable	Reasonable	Fair	Good	Excellent
			gas cooker, wood-burning stove, electric mixer, blender	refrigerator, television, landline and cell phone	freezer, stereo	Computer
SCORES	by the indicators presented in percentages where the maximum score corresponds to 100 Last: average of the scores of the different indicators in percentage / 10					

Source: Adapted from Rochadelli (2007)

0.81 to 1. This result was subsequently compared with the Human Development Index (HDI) of the municipality of Paranaguá (0.750), as Ilha do Mel belongs to this municipality. The data were treated descriptively and presented by means of graph, figure and table for better visualization of the results, as well as descriptive statistics using sums, means to represent the obtained results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The interviewees on Ilha do Mel constitute a totally broad group of residents. Among them are the natives, who were born and raised within the island itself, the caiçaras, who in addition to being natives may have migrated from another island to reside on this island and the non-native residents, with time of residence above one year. Ilha do Mel is receiving more and more tourists, and tourism is the main source of income for the families who live there. However, a point that draws the attention of residents, is the fact that the caiçara culture is less active than in previous years, causing the island to lose its traditional identity, and becoming more and more a commercial tourist spot. The profile of the residents fits in the great majority, in entrepreneurs who constitute their own business together with the family. This does not rule out the fact that there are several employees from different establishments who carry out their activities within the community who reside on the continent. The collected data imply the survey of the experience of these residents within each community, and which are procedures that are part of their daily lives. After all the necessary elements were tabulated, the average IQV of each studied community was obtained. The Encantadas community obtained an index estimate of 0.662. At the other end was the community of Brasília, with an average IQV of 0.778, which is the best estimated index when compared to the other communities.

Farol beach had an average of 0.690, while the less populous Praia Grande community had 0.626 IQV (Figure 02).

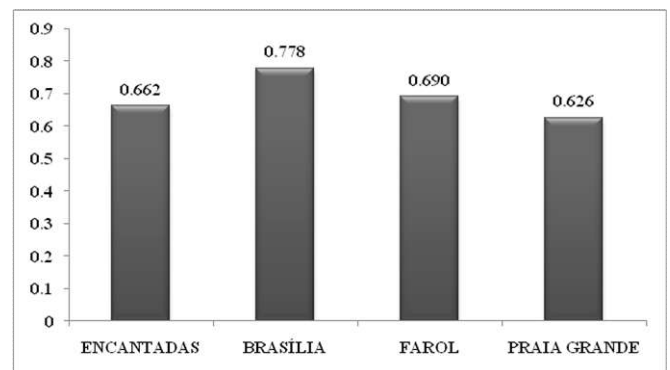


Figure 2. IQV average for the Ilha do Mel communities. Source: the author

Through the application, survey of the obtained data and observation *in loco* from the study, it was possible to observe that the largest number of questionnaires applied was in the Encantadas community, where it has a higher number of residents, when compared to the other regions studied. The Brasília community, which had the best quality of life index, is the one that most can count on public services. This can be explained by the fact that the other communities occupy the same end of the Island, such as Praia do Farol and Praia Grande. In addition, it was possible to observe during the application of the questionnaires, that Brasília is the community that has the largest number of developments, such as inns and restaurants. Another community that has large numbers of enterprises, although smaller than Brasília, is the community of Farol, where it is also composed of native anglers, who make up their family income entirely from

fishing. In this community, it was possible to observe that tourism is considered the main attraction on the Island, in view of being close to Farol das Conchas, living up to the name of the community. In the community of Praia Grande, there are a totally lower number of families residing in the region, who use access to the health unit in the community of Brasília, as well as schools and police stations, as well as the pier for boarding and disembarking passengers. Despite having a small number of installed residents, this region has considerably large areas of occupation, when compared to the other regions, mainly because it deals with housing area, and not inns and / or restaurants. In the Encantadas community, even though it has a higher number of residents than the others, it is made up of smaller areas and residences, with regard to their physical structure. Most of the residents of Encantadas are surfers and entrepreneurs who make up the family income through ferries crossing the continent to the Island, or from one side to the other side of the island, as well as some restaurants located by the sea.

Through conversations during the application of the questionnaires, most of the interviewees showed dissatisfaction when referring to the island's public administration. Many of them believe that the island has everything to succeed in the field of tourism and even housing, but the bureaucracy for repairs and improvements becomes tiring. Today, Ilha do Mel is managed by the current IAT - Instituto Água e Terra, and the biggest complaint of residents and entrepreneurs installed in paradise is that licensing for the regularization of homes and businesses goes through a considerably lengthy process, and many sometimes end up failing to complete what they had asked for. Despite the cons, the residents showed a lot of hope for improvements in all these administrative procedures, and stress at all times that the island is really considered by them as a paradise. When asking residents about the desire to leave Ilha do Mel, the vast majority reported that they never considered this hypothesis, in view of the peaceful life they lead, mainly due to contact with nature. A small number of interviewees reported that they had already thought about the possibility of a change, because they believed that on the continent the study for their children would be better, but that they did not put the idea into practice, as education within the Island improved over time of the years.

When observing the family income of the interviewees, about 20 families reported that they make up the monthly income with services outside Ilha do Mel. The other interviewees are part of their own business, focused on the hospitality industry, restaurants, cafeterias, supermarkets, transport carts, stores selling various products, as well as employees of all these types of enterprises. When asked about the conditions of the way to access public transport (ferries), all respondents reported that they have difficulty only on rainy days, but that they understand that because it is an island, there is nothing that can be done, mainly taking into account the environmental aspect that the island brings to them. A point that drew a lot of attention while the questionnaires were being applied is that most of them showed concern when reporting information about their homes, in view of the fear that the public administration might carry out a survey of possible irregularities. As already mentioned above, there is a bureaucracy considered exaggerated by residents when it comes to improvements in the physical structure of their homes or businesses.

Another point that drew attention during the interviews was that about 80% of respondents were unable to conceptualize Quality of Life. Many responded with affirmations, saying that the quality of life was good, excellent, and other synonyms. However, the objective of the question was to report what they saw as their quality of life, and what they saw from the concept of quality of life. Even among these responses, by reinforcing the explanation on the theme, it was possible to observe their satisfaction in living within these communities, thus defining in the vast majority, what quality of life is to be in contact with nature, together with their families, away from crime, being happy. Bringing to this scenario to which it makes a parallel with Maslow's theory of needs, where it brings to the human being a basis to satisfy his real needs within a society, being divided in physiological, security, social, esteem and self-level. performance, the results obtained demonstrated that the index of the four communities studied are between 0.626 and 0.778 (table 01). With this, it can be said that the communities are within the level of esteem, with Maslow subjectifying the estimate with a value between 0.61 and 0.80. It was observed then that the residents of the communities reached the physiological, security, social, esteem or status needs, but with self-realization still to be improved. Below it is possible to view the index of each community, as well as the general of Ilha do Mel.

Table 1. Comparison IQV versus Maslow's needs

COMMUNITY	QLI	MASLOW
ENCANTADAS	0.662	0.61 ~ 0.80 (ESTIMATE)
BRASÍLIA	0.778	0.61 ~ 0.80 (ESTIMATE)
FAROL	0.690	0.61 ~ 0.80 (ESTIMATE)
PRAIA GRANDE	0.626	0.61 ~ 0.80 (ESTIMATE)
Organization	0.689	0.61 ~ 0.80 (ESTIMATE)

Source: the author.

Paralleling the Human Development Index (HDI) of the municipality of Paranaguá (0.750), where Ilha do Mel belongs, the communities of Encantadas, Farol and Praia Grande fall short of the index, while Brasília was the only one community to present an index relatively proportional to the municipality. This can be explained by the residents' access to the nearest public services, bearing in mind that Brasília is today considered by the residents to be the most urbanized region of Ilha do Mel. Considering that the year 2020 passed through the Covid-19 pandemic, when interviewing the island's residents, another question was included in the questionnaire. Which implied the impact that the pandemic had on families there. The response was massive, that the main impact caused was the financial situation, some of the entrepreneurs estimated a loss of approximately R \$ 50,000.00, considering that the communities stayed exactly 6 months without receiving tourists, that is, without receiving guests, customers and visits. When talking to older gentlemen, full of emotion, they replied that the biggest impact was being away from family members who visited them frequently.

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