

# THE PERCEPTION OF THE CAATINGA AND THE LIVING OF THE SERTANEJO

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#### **ABSTRACT:**

It is an interdisciplinary project that contemplates cultural, literary and ecological memory. This work is justified by the need to associate the descriptions of the semiarid and its valorization through the studies of the works of Rachel de Queiroz. At the same time, the community encourages conservation actions aimed at stimulating and strengthening a critical-reflexive posture promoting the students' action and reaction in front of their cultural, regional, ecological and conservationist identity.

**Keywords:** Conservationism; environmental education; interdisciplinarity.

# A PERCEPÇÃO DA CAATINGA E DO VIVER DO SERTANEJO

## **RESUMO:**

Trata-se de um projeto interdisciplinar que contempla memória cultural, literária e ecológica. Este trabalho justifica-se pela necessidade de se associar as descrições do semiárido e a sua valorização através dos estudos das obras da Rachel de Queiroz. Ao mesmo tempo que estimula a comunidade ações de conservação visando estimulando e fortalecendo uma postura crítico-reflexiva promovendo a ação e reação dos alunos em frente sua identidade cultural, regional, ecológica e conservacionista.

Palavras-chave: Conservacionismo; educação ambiental; interdisciplinaridade.

# **INTRODUCTION**

The caatinga is rich in animal and plant species, many of which are still unknown. When it rains in the caatinga the landscape changes quickly. The plants are reborn and covered with leaves, giving the vegetation a green aspect again and what once seemed dry and lifeless is filled with life and beauty. (ALMANCIO et al., 2009) The lack of knowledge of this ecosystem and its importance for the maintenance of regional and global climate patterns, the availability of drinking water, arable soils and an important part of the planet's biodiversity, led to neglect of its conservation and today the caatinga is one of the most degraded. This promotes the loss of several types of species used as raw material and energy source, and even as the only means of survival in the Northeast, with a decrease in the quality of life of the population. Despite this, few students have relevant and adequate



knowledge on the subject, in such a way that they are not involved by the need for conservation for their own survival and that of other species (ABÍLIO et al., 2010).

The Sertão is a special environment, a unique ecosystem that has historically produced in the Brazilian northeast a differentiated form of contact and coexistence with nature. Its own climatic characteristics impose deep difficulties for the sertanejo, directly influencing the way these people live, making the sertanejo culture present in the cuisine, in the ways of doing, in the arts, in the rituals, in the beliefs, in the way of facing the northeastern life. In this way, the sertanejo uses animals, plants and the soil as support for food, medicine, fodder, sources of wood and energy. However, these resources are being exploited inappropriately. (KIILL et al., 2007).

#### **MAIN GOAL**

Rescue the history of the hinterland through reflection on the Caatinga considering the perception of the landscape and its valorization through the works of the writer Rachel de Queiroz.

## Specific goals

- Promote a discussion about regional identity;
- Stimulate discussion about local ecological characteristics;
- Encourage debate and the transmission of knowledge interconnected by the aforementioned speeches and reflections on sustainable development and conservationism.

# **METHODOLOGY**

This report originated from the experiences acquired by the extension program to know to conserve and restore areas of the caatinga: from Rachel de Queiroz's books to the university tripod research, teaching and extension. From the Faculty of Education, Sciences and Letters of the Central Sertão - FECLESC. From this experience, there was a need to take this knowledge to students of different levels of education, constituting a way to promote the discussion about regional identity, as well as the discussion about the local ecological characteristics, inciting the debate and the transmission of interconnected knowledge. for the speeches cited and reflections on sustainable development and conservationismAssim



deu-se origem a esse projeto que tem como público alvo as escolas de ensino fundamental e médio. O curso contém uma duração de três dias a uma semana e aborda os seguintes conteúdos: Primeira etapa leitura, interpretação e comparação de livros: "não me deixes" e "o quinze" da escritora cearense Rachel de Queiroz, acerca da fazenda não me deixes. A segunda etapa seria conhecendo as plantas e suas adaptações para sobrevivência no semiárido, que consistia em conhecer a biodiversidade, fatores que influenciam as adaptações na Caatinga.

In the third stage is the activities of conservation of the caatinga. In the fourth stage, a sensorial exhibition was prepared with objects used by the sertanejo, such as a clay pot, leather hat, pestle, old clothes iron, when there was still no electricity, in addition to wooden saints, representing the faith of the sertanejo in waiting. of rain in the sertão, also wooden spoons, among others. The public entered blindfolded into a room with a strong aroma of vegetation and country-themed music, being invited to participate in activities that, through touch, smell, taste, and hearing, stimulated an understanding of life in the sertão. It was explained the importance that objects used in cooking, work and beliefs represented in the life of a sertanejo and through the recipes contained in Rachel's book "Don't Leave Me" were offered to smell and touch various types of seasonings and spices used in cooking. typical northeastern cuisine.

## SOCIAL RELEVANCE OF THE PROPOSAL

The realization of the project is of fundamental importance in the students' learning process since it will allow students to have autonomy and a taste for research, through science, introducing reflective and investigative action through the use of the scientific method. In addition to promoting interaction between the community and the school, the project will have a direct impact on the way people see and think about the caatinga, breaking down prejudices.

## IMPACT ON THE DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AT SCHOOL

Textbooks and the media bring the Caatinga theme in a simple, quick way and as a less significant environment, addressing in its content a small text where the geographic location is mentioned, highlighting that it presents hot regions, with irregular rains and prolonged dry seasons. Reading the environment of books is presented in a limited way, as it often does not contemplate the existing biodiversity in the caatinga, nor does it arouse



in the student the interest of didactically exploring the environment in which they live. Which should be a great incentive, since it has direct contact with this vegetation. This devaluation directly influences the teaching and learning of the student, as the lack of appreciation of the region reinforces the contempt that the Northeast region, specifically the semi-arid region has. Therefore, in order to overcome the devaluation of this region, it is of fundamental importance to continue investing in contextualized activities capable of favoring the construction of an attitude of respect towards the biotic and abiotic factors characteristic of the caatinga.

#### FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The culmination of this project at the school is being an interactive experience that contributed to the integration between the areas of biology and Portuguese in order to promote reflection, action and reaction of students facing their cultural, regional and ecological identity. The project uses the great example of the writer Rachel de Queiroz who sought inspiration in our vegetation to write her works and perpetuate the value of our land. It is possible to notice that people after the workshops showed a deep interest in local cultural aspects and felt motivated to get to know Rachel de Queiroz's works and rescue their regional and ecological identity.

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