

ERGONOMIC STUDY FROM HABITAT HOME' AMBIENCE IN SHELTER

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1 Context

The model of care for childhood and adolescents in situations of social vulnerability in Brazil, underwent changes from the approval of the Statute of Children and Adolescents (ECA) in 1990 and subsequently, the law number 12,010 in 2009. There was the rearrangement of form and care facilities, leaving large institutions and using smaller models. One of the modalities created, the "institutional sheltering", attends children and adolescents of both sexes, from zero to eighteen years of age, being or not in the adoption process, with or without close or extended family, without implying in confinement and safeguarding the right to health, education and housing (BRAZIL, 1990; BRAZIL, 2009).

In the current context, Brazilian law controls the administration of institutional sheltering, but it is incipient as far the reflections on the built environment, especially in relation to the ambience and qualitative spatial attributes, important for appropriation and identity in the built environment. The results of this overview are environments built to accommodate people in the process of physical and psychosocial development, which ignore their users. Contradicting, this way, the theoretical contribution to human-environment built relationship which reiterates the various human beings' exchanges with the environment where they live.

So that the built environment has resources to promote the ambience of domestic dwelling, it is required the collection of information from the users themselves, including mostly children and adolescents. However, to collect data from these primary sources, children and adolescents, is a very difficult task because of the long period they stay in the institution, resulting in "The Evil of the Institutionalized" (SOMMER, 1973), characterized by passivity on the interactions with the environment and the difficulty of verbalizing emotions and opinions about the environment in which they live. This article describes the methodological procedures used to get valid user information, overcoming verbalization difficulties and the complexity of existing socio-environmental situations.

2 Method

The spatial characteristics that influence people's behavior are not merely from Cartesian analysis; a qualitative approach is necessary to investigate the ambience. According to the specificity of research, data collection was based on the following evaluation methods: Observation and the Images and Words Game (Rehal, 2002). The first two resulted in Spatial Reading and through the game it was possible to collect information from children and adolescents about their impressions of the institutional built environment.

The sequence of these evaluation methods had the following question to be answered: "What are the most significant ambience factors in the institutional sheltering environments?", aiming to address the behavioral dimension, especially territoriality and privacy, previously raised in the literature review as the most affected by the process of institutionalization and at the same time, most elementary in the appropriation and identity of domestic dwelling process.

The Images and Words Game, created by the Algerian architect Saddek Rehal (2002), reflects the ideas of the participants about their life experiences, using images (photographs, illustrations and / or pictures) to help them with the expression of feelings. The application comprises three stages: first, thought-provoking questions are asked; second, participants choose the images and third, respond to questions relating to why they chose those images (Rehal, 2002). During the method, the lines are recorded, to be treated by content analysis.

Images choice considered antagonistic standards, for example: full and empty space, light and dark space, tidy or untidy space). All pictures had domestic dwelling as their scenario. Data were organized in tables which showed the analyzed pictures, the participants and their lines. Data processing was done, considering the most widely chosen topics, with an interpretative character without aiming for generalizations.

3 Results

Actually, institutional shelterings are buildings adapted for this function, distributed in about 100 square meters, where emergency care (health and nutrition) is aimed. The architecture gives priority to collective ambience to manage the care services and the administrative organization. The social areas are the larger ones and are used for activities such as playing, studying and receiving visitors. Thus, an ambience with lots of toys is very common, as an attempt to show the visitors an environment where children live and where they can experience playful activities. Besides that, children have little identity with the environment, because unlike domestic dwelling they are not permitted to access to some environments (especially service and even in the kitchen).

The institutional sheltering ambience should be a place of attachment and protected intimacy, full of meanings and positive memories. To characterize individualization is important and collectivity should be rule out, making the institutional routine literally

a domestic environment, reiterating the main objective of the institution: to be a replacement (provisionally) to livingness in the family of origin.

Therefore, it is important to provide resources for domestic routine participation. Another ambience factor is related to the number of inmates. Standard environments, furniture and objects should be avoided. The domestic routine, with inmates' participation, is also an ambience factor, through the concept of accessibility to layout, furnishings and other resources. Another way to include children and adolescents in routine is having an ambience with resources that allow them to choose preferred environments, in groups or individually.

Through the observation period, it was observed that the ambience should define and characterize the rooms. The living room, for example, must be characterized as such. Whenever the room was large and without limits, the users themselves tried to characterize it, making it similar to the standard of domestic dwelling.

4 Conclusions

The environments with little ambience resources that allow users to control the space appropriation often contribute to increase aggression and other types of stress. The institutional ambience which is appropriate to the functional and psychological needs are among the factors that promote psychosocial gains and retrieval (or construction) of affective bonds.

The sequence of evaluation methods application in ergonomic study showed that care policies for children and adolescents should pay attention to the built environment of care service entities.

Finally, the institutional sheltering built environment should provide conditions for children and adolescents who live there to develop new cognitive and social competences. Thus, it is essential to reflect on the qualities and attributes of institutional sheltering spatial ambience to generate the necessary knowledge to achieve, in practice, the conditions of inclusion desired by law.

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