

# **Environmental Education as Technique to Reduction of Solid Waste and Natural Resources**

Laís Duarte Corrêa<sup>1</sup>, Ana Maria Paim Camardelo<sup>1</sup>, Nilva Lúcia Rech Stedile<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Center of Studies and Research in Public and Social Policies (NEPPPS), University of Caxias do Sul, Caxias do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, 95070-560, Brazil

Keywords: Environmental Education, Waste Pickers, Solid Waste, Natural Resources

Presenting author email: [ldcorrea@ucs.br](mailto:ldcorrea@ucs.br)

In the city of Caxias do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, the amount of solid waste generated in 2008 was approximately 450 tons per day. The total of the organic portion was about 360 tons per day and of selective waste was about 90 tons.

These wastes are taken by the company responsible for the selective collect, to the solid waste pickers associations of the city. Materials such as wood, cloths, rags and organic in general, are totally rejected. Furthermore, some materials having recyclable characteristics, are discarded because they do not arrive in good recycling conditions. This demonstrates that there is still the need to invest in knowledge and awareness in the society, about the proper segregation of solid waste with the possibility of recyclability.

Considering one of the sources of solid waste are household, were realized activities with the community workers to capacitate them on the segregation of solid waste and conscious consumption. After five months it was made a meeting to evaluate the process of dissemination of attitudes concerning the sustainability in the community in which they operate.

Therefore, this paper aims to systematize the experience of work with the community workers, the effectiveness of this work in communities and the possible impact on the environment.

The data were collected from field diaries built by researchers of the “Project to support and capacitate the activities of informal waste pickers in the city of Caxias do Sul”, which started in 2013.

The data show that although the workers have found people's resistance, they were able to start the spread of social and environmental practices

Therefore, it is understood that these environmental education beyond providing improvement to the waste pickers work, will influence on best practices of consumption and domestic segregation, decreasing the use of natural resources and also the waste reduction in municipal landfills. Because with the correct segregation, the waste will arrive with quality to the waste pickers associations.