

Community Intervention and Pedagogic Innovation in Higher Education: The Use of Active Teaching- Learning Methodologies

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Abstract

The quest for innovative training strategies, based on active teaching-learning methodologies, has had a progressively greater impact on the pedagogic practices developed at the School of Education and Social Sciences of the Polytechnic of Leiria (Portugal), where the articulation with the community takes on an increasingly predominant role. With this work/project, we intend to know the perceptions of the students studying in the Professional Higher Technical Course in Sociocultural and Sports Intervention, with regard to what they think about the importance of the methodologies that are developed in close collaboration with the community in which they are inserted, following their participation in a project carried out together with the District Hospital of Leiria. During the development of this partnership, in which the Hospital was established as a multi-referential learning space, the students were challenged to actively participate in their training process, through a logic of joint development of knowledge. Thus, at the end of the educational experiment, students were asked to write an individual, reflective report, which was considered the data collection instrument of this research. Within these reports, participants described, analysed, and reflected on the whole process that they had experienced. The data were analysed qualitatively and processed through content analysis, using categories and sub-categories. Taking the results obtained into account, the students acknowledged that this methodology of teaching-learning allows the acquisition of competencies at the level of *know-what*, *know-why* and *know-who*. Moreover, they admit that the collaboration/articulation with external institutions outside the school enables a greater acquisition and mobilisation of knowledge, allowing the development of competencies which are applicable to different situations, spaces and times.

Keywords: higher education; active teaching-learning methodologies; pedagogic innovation; community intervention; transdisciplinarity