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Formação cidadã, empreendedorismo popular e controle social: experiências de capacitações para geração de trabalho e renda no Alto Paranaíba – MG/BR

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Abstract

This article aims to analyze experiences of formative processes developed in the municipalities of Patos de Minas, Carmo do Paranaíba, and Guimarães, located in the Alto Paranaíba region, in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, with a focus on Popular Education, Solidarity Economy, and Social Control. The activities comprised the implementation of university extension courses aimed at training individuals—particularly those in situations of social vulnerability—for labor market insertion and income generation, with an emphasis on popular entrepreneurship and encouragement of formalization through the Individual Microentrepreneur (MEI). The formative processes sought to strengthen the civic and entrepreneurial protagonism of the participants by expanding social participation in programs developed in partnership with the Executive and Legislative branches, with the support of civil society and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

The methodology adopted was grounded in the principles of Popular Education, valuing local knowledge, collaborative practices, and the articulation between technical, civic, and productive training. The results indicate that the training activities contributed to the economic independence of participants and to the improvement of professional performance among those already inserted in the labor market, as a result of enhanced competencies. Furthermore, the findings highlight the relevance of extension actions as a strategic instrument for reducing socioeconomic inequalities, fostering the exchange of knowledge between the university and the community. The study also emphasizes the development of skills among the participating students, such as teamwork, communication, and commitment, in addition to strengthening their sense of belonging to the Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU).

Keywords: Popular Education; Social Inclusion; Social Transformation; Solidarity Economy; University Extension.