

NUTRITIONIST'S ROLE IN THE INSPECTION OF CONTRACTS OF A UNIVERSITY RESTAURANT: EXPERIENCE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

The University Restaurant (RU) in Federal Educational Institutions (IFEs) plays a fundamental role in student assistance, especially for students with social vulnerability. Contract inspection is crucial to ensure the quality and compliance of the services provided, especially in the collective food sector. Law No. 14,133/2021, which replaces Law No. 8,666/1993, introduces new requirements and flexibility for public management, highlighting the importance of technical inspection, in which nutritionists play an essential role. This study reported the experience of Nutrition students in monitoring the inspection of contracts in the UK of an IFES in Belém-PA, investigating the activities of nutritionists in the management of food contracts, from the verification of the quality of inputs to the monitoring of outsourced services.

Keywords: Contract inspection. Nutritionists.

INTRODUCTION

The University Restaurant (RU) represents, in the Federal Educational Institutions (IFEs), an important public policy aimed at promoting academic permanence, especially for students in situations of social vulnerability. Within this logic, the inspection of contracts becomes an essential instrument to ensure that the services provided meet the required standards, directly reflecting on the quality of the student assistance offered.

The management of public resources is guided by a set of rules and procedures that aim to ensure transparency, efficiency, and legality in the acquisition of goods and services. In the collective food sector, these guidelines are particularly important, as they involve both food

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security and fiscal responsibility in the contracting of services and acquisition of inputs (Juvino et al., 2020). Law No. 8,666/1993 was, for decades, the main norm regulating these processes, disciplining the criteria for the acquisition of goods and services, as well as for the execution and inspection of administrative contracts, ensuring principles such as isonomy, morality, and impersonality in public administration (BRASIL, 1993). However, with the modernization of the legislation, Law No. 14,133/2021 was enacted, which gradually revoked Law No. 8,666/1993 and instituted a new legal framework for bids and administrative contracts, introducing more flexible and transparent mechanisms, in addition to improving the requirements for planning and inspection of public contracts (BRASIL, 2021). Law No. 14,133/2021 establishes the phases of the bidding process (planning, disclosure, submission of proposals, judgment, approval, and contracting), in addition to regulating the execution, execution, and inspection of administrative contracts (BRASIL, 2021).

With regard to the forms of inspection, Law No. 14,133/2021 designates that the Public Administration determines professionals with technical knowledge to monitor and supervise the execution of contracts. In the context of the RUs, this new legislation reinforces the need for specialized technical monitoring, determining that the Public Administration designates inspectors and managers with technical knowledge to ensure compliance with contractual clauses, with the nutritionist being the professional qualified for this function in contracts aimed at collective food, as provided for by CFN Resolution No. 600/2018, which determines that they are part of the competencies of these professionals, working in Collective Feeding: plan, organize, direct, supervise and evaluate food and nutrition services. In this way, the correct application of Law No. 14,133/2021 in contracts related to the food sector ensures greater efficiency in the management of the services provided, contributing to the quality of the meals offered to the academic community.

In addition to ensuring legal and sanitary compliance, the technical inspection carried out by nutritionists also contributes to the prevention of irregularities, waste, and fraud in the processes of acquiring inputs and providing services. Within this context, nutritionists play a key role in the technical inspection of contracts, ensuring that the inputs purchased and the services provided comply with contractual and sanitary requirements.

In IFES, RUs generally operate in a mixed management model, combining self-management and outsourcing of some services. This type of management requires strict monitoring to ensure that the quality and safety of the services provided are maintained while complying with the legal requirements established for public procurement. Thus, the performance

of nutritionists in the technical supervision of these contracts becomes essential to ensure the full functioning of the UK and compliance with current standards (Abreu et al., 2013).

Therefore, when inspecting contracts, the nutritionist verifies compliance with sanitary and nutritional regulations, ensuring that suppliers and service providers comply with the agreed specifications. The RU, as a student permanence policy, has a central role in this context, as it contributes directly to healthy and accessible food for students, promoting inclusion and well-being, in addition to reducing inequalities in access to food, which can positively impact academic performance and student permanence at the university (UFPA, 2021).

OBJECTIVE

The present study aimed to present a report of the experience lived by students of the Undergraduate Course in Nutrition about the performance of nutritionists in the inspection of contracts demanded by the RU of an IFES, located in Belém-PA, which follows a mixed management model (self-management with own production and outsourcing of services such as labor and equipment maintenance).

METHODOLOGY

The present study is characterized as a descriptive research of the experience report type based on the experience of students of the Undergraduate Nutrition course who carried out an internship in an RU of an IFES in Belém-PA during the period from June to October 2024. The methodology adopted included the documentary analysis of the contracts in force in the UK to identify the inspection activities assigned to nutritionists. To carry out this study, a survey was made of the existing contracts in the UK, the number of nutritionist professionals involved in the inspection of these contracts, the activities assigned to these professionals, and the positive and limiting factors related to the inspection. In addition, the students carried out participant observation, following the routine of nutritionists working in the inspection of these contracts to understand the challenges faced and the strategies used in the inspection.

To ensure the veracity of the information and the confidentiality of the data collected, the documents analyzed were treated confidentially, and the names of the professionals involved were not disclosed. Participant observation was conducted in a structured manner, with a detailed record of the activities performed by the fiscal nutritionists, including the verification of the quality of the inputs received, the monitoring of outsourced services, and the preparation of technical reports. The research also included a literature review on the legislation applicable to

the inspection of contracts related to collective feeding, with emphasis on Law No. 14,133/2021 and CFN Resolution No. 600/2018.

DEVELOPMENT

The RU of the present study has 11 (eleven) nutritionists in its technical staff, in addition to extracurricular and curricular interns. These nutritionists are involved in the direct inspection of 10 (ten) contracts required to ensure the full functioning of the RU, which include: outsourced services of specialized labor in the execution of auxiliary activities in the field of food and nutrition (positions such as cooks, kitchen assistants, secretarial technicians, cashiers, maintenance technicians, warehousemen and cleaners), outsourced equipment maintenance services with replacement of parts, outsourced maintenance service of electronic turnstiles, acquisition of meat, acquisition of fruit and vegetables, acquisition of non-perishable foodstuffs, acquisition of foodstuffs from family farming through Public Call, acquisition of cleaning/disposable materials, acquisition of equipment and acquisition of utensils. In addition to these, there is a need to inspect other contracts for the assignment of space for the supply of meals on the IFES Campus and also for the acquisition of foodstuffs to serve the Institution's Student Housing. Therefore, there is currently a demand for the inspection of 12 (twelve) contracts.

Nutritionists who act as technical inspectors, whose formalization occurs through the issuance of ordinances, evaluate the quality of the inputs and the services provided, as well as the faithful compliance with the contractual clauses, with regard to the technical part (Colares, 2014). The main instrument used as a guideline for this evaluation is the IMR, which defines, on understandable, tangible, objectively observable, and verifiable bases, the expected levels of quality of products and service provision, in addition to the respective payment adequacies. In addition, inspectors are responsible for preparing technical inspection reports.

In the staff of nutritionists, there is always 01 (one) professional specifically designated for the development of activities related to bidding processes, including the preparation of documents for the internal instruction phase of these processes (Demand Formalization Document, Preliminary Technical Study, Technical Note, Risk Map and Term of Reference), given the large volume of processes to be instructed in compliance with the established deadlines. It is worth mentioning that the nutritionist responsible for this function does not participate in the inspection of the contracts that he instructed.

The mixed management system adopted by the UK allows the self-management of meal production to give the necessary emphasis with regard to compliance with regulations and quality maintenance and, at the same time, delegate and share attributions related to the services

performed through outsourcing (Colares, 2014). However, with this management model, there is a need to inspect a high number of contracts, which is a limiting factor, since in addition to the attributions of nutritionists focused on the planning, production, and distribution of meals, there is an overlap of activities aimed at the inspection of contracts. Despite this limitation, in the context of this study, the technical inspection of the UK contracts carried out by nutritionists proved to be effective in ensuring compliance with the terms referring to the management mechanisms necessary for the proper functioning of the provision of food services at IFES in accordance with Law No. 14,133/2021.

In the context of the Institutional Policy for Student Assistance and Accessibility (PINAÉ) of the aforementioned IFES, which aims to guarantee the conditions of access and permanence of students in higher education, with emphasis on the offer of quality food that is essential to promote the health and well-being of students, especially those in situations of socioeconomic vulnerability, The performance of nutritionists in the inspection of food contracts ensures that public resources are used efficiently, offering students quality meals, within nutritional and sanitary parameters. In this way, inspection not only ensures compliance with contractual requirements but also contributes to the effective execution of this important public policy. Therefore, PINAÉ is directly related to the management and inspection of administrative contracts in the UK. Thus, the role of nutritionists in the technical supervision of UK contracts is fundamental, since these professionals are responsible for ensuring that the food services provided meet the nutritional and sanitary guidelines, effectively contributing to the fulfillment of the requirements of student assistance, about the supply of meals to the university community (Brasil, 2017).

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The performance of nutritionists in the technical inspection of the contracts of the RU of an IFES in Belém-PA proved to be fundamental to ensure the quality of the products purchased and the services provided to the university community, as well as compliance with current legislation. The mixed management model, which combines self-management of the production of meals and outsourcing of services, requires strict supervision to ensure compliance with contractual clauses and the efficiency of the management of public resources. Despite the high number of contracts to be managed and inspected, the contributions of UK nutritionists in this role were effective in ensuring the quality and compliance of the services provided. In addition, the knowledge acquired during the internship about the technical inspection of contracts and management of contracts proved to be of paramount importance in the complementary training of future nutritionist

professionals, since this theme is not addressed in the curriculum of the undergraduate course, however, it has been widely demanded in the labor market, especially in the public sector.

To improve the technical inspection of contracts in the collective food sector, it is recommended that IFES invest in the continuous training of fiscal nutritionists and in the implementation of technologies that assist in monitoring and quality control. In addition, the strengthening of partnerships between inspection bodies, institutional managers, and suppliers can contribute to the construction of a more efficient process, ensuring that the services provided fully meet the contractual requirements and the needs of the academic community.

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