


CONNECTION PROJECT – HANDOUTS AS DIDACTIC MATERIAL <https://doi.org/10.56238/sevened2025.022-003>**Gabriel Garcia de Miranda¹, Adriana Macedo Patriota Faganello², Andrea Sartori Jabur³, Luiz Antonio Farani de Souza⁴ and Pedro Lucas Aoki⁵****ABSTRACT**

The Connection Project, started in 2021, promotes social inclusion through professional courses for people in vulnerable situations, especially homeless, offering education and practical training. The university, through extension, articulates teaching, research and community, democratizing knowledge and strengthening social reintegration. Standardized handouts, with accessible language, are crucial tools, allowing continuous review and practical application of content. Made available online, they expand access to learning, promoting equal opportunities. The project, with collaboration between professors and students, reinforces the social impact, training professionals and improving the local workforce.

Keywords: Connection Project. Social inclusion. Training course.

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INTRODUCTION

The university plays a crucial role in promoting quality of life through the articulation between academia and society. Morais et al. (2017) highlight that in addition to training technically, it must promote the human and integral development of its students, considering cognitive and socio-moral aspects.

University education is based on three pillars: teaching, research and extension, with the latter allowing the dissemination of knowledge beyond the walls of the institution and strengthening interaction with the community. Silva (2020) points out that university extension brings the university closer to vulnerable populations, democratizing access to knowledge.

Addor (2021) adds that the technological field seeks to integrate teaching, research, and extension to informal sectors, promoting inclusion and development.

In this context, the Connection Project emerged, whose objective is to offer educational and professional training opportunities for the population in vulnerable situations, especially homeless people served by institutional shelters.

Homeless people are one of the most vulnerable groups and face several challenges that hinder their social reintegration, such as marginalization and stigma. The lack of access to education, both basic and professional, limits their opportunities for personal and professional development. Even those with some level of education face prejudice and discrimination in the job market, hindering their employability. In addition, the absence of an effective support network, with professional guidance and continuous monitoring, perpetuates the cycle of exclusion and vulnerability of this group.

Social inclusion initiatives and educational and professional opportunities are essential and Projects such as Conexão that offer education and training, help to break the cycle of exclusion, improving the quality of life of beneficiaries and promoting a more just and equitable society.

The Connection Project has been underway since 2021 and teaches theoretical and practical courses offered by students with the direct guidance of guiding teachers, as well as the development of handouts and materials in educational videos.

The student, when participating in the extension project as the protagonist of the action, is able to integrate knowledge and experiences by creating points of connection with their curriculum, this creates opportunities to put into practice what was learned in the classroom.

According to Morais et al. (2017), the university must provide an academic environment favorable to the search for technical and professional competence, but



aspects related to the human and integral development of the student involving cognitive and sociomoral dimensions are of paramount importance.

In this last year, handouts were developed for all the courses offered by the project that work as more comprehensive guides and support materials for project participants, providing a basis on the subject addressed. These handouts are essential tools in professional courses, playing a fundamental role in learning and also to achieve greater effectiveness in the training offered by the courses.

The importance of the workbook lies in several aspects, first it ensures that students have access to standardized material, promoting equal opportunities in the educational process. In addition, the workbook allows students to review the content at any time, helping to retain knowledge and prepare for professional assessments and practices (Rosalin, Cruz; Mattos, 2017).

Another relevant point is the possibility of including practical exercises and case studies in the workbook, providing a direct application of theoretical knowledge. This is critical in vocational courses, where practice plays a significant role in developing technical skills.

A well-designed workbook can serve as a future reference for students, helping them throughout their careers. A workbook is not only a complement to teaching, but an indispensable resource that enhances learning and contributes to the training of more qualified professionals prepared for the job market (Mota, 2015).

The handouts developed for the professional courses of the Connection Project are being prepared to be made available on an online platform, accessible to the whole society. This initiative aims to democratize knowledge, allowing anyone interested to access the material for free.

By making these resources available online, the Connection Project seeks to amplify its impact, offering learning and professional development opportunities to an even larger audience. The handouts will serve as guides and support materials, contributing to the formation of technical skills and promoting inclusion and personal and professional growth.

By developing this project, it is expected to create conditions for the strengthening and expansion of the connection between the university and the community, recognizing its power, value and practice of social impact in the city.

METHODOLOGY

Initially, the project holds interactive meetings and visits to Social Institutions for the initial diagnosis of the target audience and interaction with those responsible for the



institutions. Through the first contacts, the demands are identified, and together with the project team, the courses are selected and developed by the students under the guidance of the teachers. The handouts are prepared and also audiovisual materials for the teaching of the courses.

The courses take place at the UTFPR Materials and Construction Practices Laboratory at the Apucarana Campus and also in some cases at the Institutions served.

Before the courses, the students executing the project participate in a preparatory training to develop the necessary skills, create creative materials and adapt the resources to the target audience.

The project is supervised by the coordinator and guided by the executing teachers and integrators, aiming to enhance the development of each stage.

At the end of each course, participants receive a statement attesting to their participation in the proposed activity.

Regular evaluations are carried out by students and executing professors and students of the project to identify difficulties and adapt the courses, aiming to facilitate the insertion of participants in the labor market. Institutions also keep records of the results achieved, including data on the integration of individuals into the professional field.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

At the beginning of October 2023, the project continued its activities with the formation of a new execution team. The group included the participation of 5 advisors and integrators and 10 students, responsible for the preparation of the last 4 handouts of the project.

After the interactive meetings and visits to the Social Institutions, there was a discussion about the objectives of the project, the role of each member was defined and ideas were raised for the creation of new themes for the courses. In addition, in previous editions of the project, evaluations of the courses were carried out, and the participating students themselves were invited to suggest new topics for the Connection Project.

The following handout topics were proposed: Interpretation of hydrosanitary projects; Interpretation of structural projects; Basic Mathematics II and Preparatory Course in Real Estate Painting. The choice of subjects covers a wide range of activities that can be tailored to the needs and interests of the students.

In addition, this diversity of topics allows the courses to meet different profiles and professional aspirations, increasing the chances of success for participants in the job market.



Another important factor is the immediate applicability of the knowledge acquired. Practice during the courses allows students to develop essential and usable skills in real works. This not only facilitates insertion in the labor market, but also contributes to personal and community development, with the possibility of improving the workforce in the city itself.

The preparation of professional handouts with easy and accessible language is essential to train people in vulnerable situations served by social institutions. These handouts are carefully designed to ensure that the content is understandable to everyone, regardless of previous education level. Using clear and direct language, the handouts include practical and illustrative explanations that facilitate learning.

CONCLUSION

The continuity of the Connection Project with the formation of a new team and the development of updated handouts demonstrates a renewed commitment to professional training and social inclusion.

Handouts play a crucial role in the effectiveness of professional courses, especially in initiatives such as the Connection Project, which aims to train people in vulnerable situations. They ensure that all students have access to standardized and accessible material, promoting equal opportunities and allowing continuous review of content. In addition, handouts facilitate the practical application of the knowledge acquired, essential in courses that aim to prepare professionals for the job market.

The collaboration between teachers and students, combined with the practical and accessible approach of the handouts, reinforces the project's mission to offer accessible education to people in vulnerability. The diversity of the proposed courses and the relevance of the chosen topics aim to meet the needs of students and increase their chances in the world of work. With a focus on applicability and clear communication, the Connection Project contributes to personal and community development, improving the local workforce and strengthening its positive impact on the city.

The availability of handouts on online platforms further expands their reach, democratizing access to knowledge and contributing to social inclusion. By offering these courses, the Conexão project strengthens the social role of the university, bringing academic knowledge closer to everyday reality, promoting social transformation through education and professional training.



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