The meaning attributed by tutors to experiences involving human rights in the academic environment

Significados atribuídos pelos docentes às vivências envolvendo direitos humanos no ambiente acadêmico

ABSTRACT
Introduction: Human Rights are inherent to the human condition, considering all aspects of life: the right to life, to an education, to freedom, to religion, to security and to work. Given that, it is important to nurture a Human Rights culture in educational institutions, aiming at improving inter-personal dynamics and the educational environment. The tutors' development, in this aspect, becomes fundamental.

Objective: To understand the meanings attributed by tutors to their experiences involving Human Rights situations in the academic environment as the first step to implement teacher development in this area.

Methods: qualitative study involving tutors from a college located in northeastern Brazil, which employs the Problem-Based Learning methodology, between December of 2019 and September of 2020. The collection was performed through focal groups with intentional selection. The script for the discussion was based in the National Plan for Human Rights Education, The Human Rights Education Manual, The Universal Human Rights Declaration and articles related to the discussion topic. Bardin content analysis was used. The project was approved by the Ethics Committee under CAAE number 22696919.3.0000.5569.

Results: The studied analytic categories were: gender and sexuality, communication and freedom of speech, social minorities and student self-esteem and stigmatization. During the process of reinterpreting the collected content, the following empirical subcategories were identified: ableism, fatphobia, psychophobia and interpersonal conflicts. The tutors revealed having experienced conflicts involving Human Rights, as follows: gender oppression; homophobia by students and teachers; lack of racial representativeness among the college student population; fatphobia in the academic environment; decrease in student's performance due to mental health issues. The participant tutors also expressed insecurity when it came to intervening and giving feedback in such situations, as well as some lack of knowledge about Human Rights.

Conclusion: The tutors reported episodes that demonstrated Human Rights violation practices in the academic environment and showed to be insecure about intervening in such situations, especially when these situations led to conflict between the students.

Keywords: Human Rights; Education; Problem-Based Learning; Faculty; Health Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice.

RESUMO
Introdução: Os direitos humanos (DH) são inerentes à condição humana, considerando todos os aspectos da vida: o direito à vida, à educação, à liberdade, à religião, à segurança e ao trabalho. Dessa forma, é importante incentivar a cultura dos DH nas instituições de ensino, na intenção de qualificar as dinâmicas interpessoais e o ambiente educacional. O desenvolvimento docente nesse aspecto torna-se fundamental.

Objetivo: Este estudo teve como objetivo compreender os significados atribuídos pelos tutores às vivências envolvendo DH no ambiente acadêmico como primeiro passo para instituir o desenvolvimento docente nessa área.

Método: Trata-se de um estudo qualitativo, realizado entre dezembro de 2019 e setembro de 2020, que envolveu tutores de uma faculdade do Nordeste do Brasil cuja metodologia de ensino é a Aprendizagem Baseada em Problemas. A coleta se deu por meio de grupos focais com seleção intencional. O roteiro para a discussão foi baseado no Plano Nacional de Educação em Direitos Humanos, no Caderno de Educação em Direitos Humanos, na Declaração de Direitos Humanos e em artigos referentes ao tema. Utilizou-se a análise de conteúdo de Bardin. O projeto recebeu parecer favorável do Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa: CAAE nº 22696919.3.0000.5569.

Resultado: As categorias analíticas estudadas foram: gênero e sexualidade, comunicação e liberdade de expressão, minorias sociais e estigmatização e autoestima do estudante. Durante o processo de reinterpretação das falas, identificaram-se as seguintes subcategorias empíricas: capacitação, gordofobia, saúde mental, psicofobia e conflitos interpessoais. Os docentes revelaram conflitos envolvendo DH, a exemplo das seguintes situações: oposição de gênero; homofobia por parte de docentes e estudantes; falta de representatividade racial na faculdade; gordofobia no ambiente acadêmico; queda de rendimento de estudantes por problemas de saúde mental. Expressaram insegurança em intervir e dar feedback em tais situações, bem como certo desconhecimento relacionado aos DH.

Conclusão: Os docentes relataram episódios que demonstram práticas de violação aos DH no ambiente acadêmico e se mostraram inseguros para intervir nessas situações, sobretudo quando geravam conflito entre os estudantes.

Palavras-chave: Direitos Humanos; Educação; Aprendizagem Baseada em Problemas; Docentes; Conhecimento, Atitudes e Prática em Saúde.
INTRODUCTION

Human Rights (HR) are prerogatives inherent to the human condition, considering all aspects of life: the right to life, education, freedom, religion, security, and work. It is important to establish the HR culture in educational institutions as a way to contribute to the dynamics of interpersonal relationships and, therefore, the educational environment. Teacher development on HR is essential and for this process to occur, understanding the experiences in the academic environment becomes an important step.

In Brazil, HR were institutionalized through the Brazilian Constitution of 1988, called the “Citizen Constitution”. However, even though the country has ratified most of the global and regional instruments for HR protection, there has been no effective implementation of such rights in the national territory.

Human Rights Education (HRE) would potentially enable people to respect human beings, their dignity, democratic values, tolerance, and a harmonious coexistence according to the norms of the rule of law, contributing for the population’s taking a protagonist role in their history.

In line with the World Programme for Human Rights Education, Brazil established the National Human Rights Education Committee (Comité Nacional de Educação em Direitos Humanos), resulting in the creation of the National Human Rights Programs (PNDH, Programas Nacionais de Direitos Humanos) and the National Human Rights Education Plan (PNEDH, Plano Nacional de Educação em Direitos Humanos).

According to the PNDH, HRE is a systematic and multidimensional process that guides the formation of the subject of law, articulating several dimensions such as the apprehension of knowledge historically constructed on HR, the affirmation of values, attitudes and social practices that express the culture of HR in all areas of society.

The PNDH and the PNEDH also aim to give visibility and access tools to the rights arising from the treaties and conventions ratified by the country through the axes of basic education, higher education, non-formal education, education of professionals in the legal and public security systems and education in the media.

Regarding Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), they have an evident duty to participate in the construction of a culture of HR promotion, protection, defense and repair through the inseparable principles of teaching, research and extension, aiming to train social agents committed to the future of society, with the objective of promoting development, social justice, democracy and peace.

Some HEIs are already recognized for their work on EDH since the 1990s. One example is the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RIO), through the Department of Law, which established the topics of HR, ethics and citizenship as a line of research, implemented HR at the discipline level, and created associations with foreign institutions, such as the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. However, it is worth mentioning that in the researched databases: Medline, SciELO, Lilacs and Cochrane, using the following descriptors: direitos humanos (human rights), educação em direitos humanos (human rights education), DH (HR), no studies were found that addressed the issue of HR and HRE in HEIs in the health area.

It should be noted that for the establishment of the HR culture in the HEIs, it is essential to have the participation of a faculty that understands and respects not only HR but also fundamental freedoms and personal and collective responsibilities, knowing how to differentiate episodes of violence and social vulnerability with autonomy and critical sense, developing, based on this distinction, actions to promote (education and culture), protect (norms of coexistence, mediations and knowledge of rights and duties) and defend such rights in the academic community; this importance is even more accentuated when the HEI uses Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as a teaching methodology, since working in small groups expands the tutors’ perception of HR issues among the students during a tutorial group.

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is an active methodology in which the students must develop proactivity and autonomy to become the protagonists of their learning. The PBL is carried out in small groups, called tutorial groups, consisting of 10 to 12 students and a tutor, whose main role is to facilitate the learning process. There are four fundamental educational principles that support this methodology and translate into learning: constructive, collaborative, autonomous/self-directed and contextual. This methodology proposes the development of other skills beyond the cognitive domain, such as communication, learning to learn, group work, interpersonal relationships and respect for others, among others.

Therefore, contributing to the culture of HR in HEIs is essential to establish a good educational environment, in which the learning processes are effective for the training of technically competent, ethical and humane professionals. In this sense, the objective of this study was to understand the meanings attributed by tutors to experiences involving HR in the academic environment as the first step towards establishing teacher development in this area.

METHODS

A qualitative study was carried out, in which a speech space was offered for the tutors to express the meanings attributed to their experiences involving HR issues in the
academic environment, more specifically in the development of the tutorial group.

The study was carried out at Faculdade Pernambucana de Saúde (FPS) which uses the Problem-Based Learning methodology. In order to continuously improve the performance of tutors and coordinators, FPS has implemented the Teaching Development Committee (CDD, Comité de Desenvolvimento Docente), which is responsible for preparing the tutor for the exercise of their functions, tasks, and so forth, being one of its current goals to implement the culture of HR in the academic environment. The study was carried out between December 2019 and September 2020.

The data collection was carried out through Focal Groups (FG). For operational reasons, due to the current health situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, two FGs were held with three participants each, one in person and the other remotely, using the Cisco Webex platform. Therefore, in the end, a total of six tutors participated. Despite the small number, since FPS has 73 medical tutors working in tutorial groups, the idea that, in qualitative studies, the representativeness of the speeches is taken into account is reinforced, that is, the information provided by people involved in a research topic can represent the group of people from the community to which they belong and experience the same context, involving the object of study.14

The two groups used the same script and the same moderator and external observers participated. FPS tutors were selected intentionally, who were regularly exercising their tutor role during the FG. Aiming to maintain the study confidentiality, we chose to use aliases in the results/discussion sections of the article to preserve the participants' identities.

The FGs took place according to the following steps: resources were provided: appropriate space, consisting of a neutral territory and of easy access to participants, protected from noise and external interruptions. Required equipment: two recorders, whose use was subject to the express permission of the group's participants. Duration of the FG: the degree of controversy related to the aspects under discussion and the need of the group were considered, but the duration varied from 90 to 110 minutes15.

The moderator's role and the dynamics of the discussion: moderator: the starting condition is that they have substantial knowledge of the topic under discussion so they can lead the group adequately. A person with experience in the subject of HR and external to the group of participants was invited. External observers: they do not manifest during the discussion and seek to capture and record the participants' reaction. Two external observers with experience in conducting FGs were invited. Moderator duties: introduce the discussion and maintain it; emphasize to the group that there are no right or wrong answers; observe the participants, encouraging each of them to speak; look for thematic opportunities of the discussion itself; build relationships with the informants to individually develop the responses and comments considered relevant by the group or by the researcher; observe the non-verbal communications and the participants' own rhythm, within the time allotted for the debate15.

The group's objective was clearly expressed at the time of the opening of the activities, signaling the central issues on which the discussion would focus. After the participants' presentation, the basic rules of groups operation were specified, clarifying the moderator's role.

The following basic list of rules was adopted: only one person speaks at a time; prevent parallel discussions; speak what you think freely; prevent any members of the group from dominating the discussion; maintain attention and discourse on the addressed topic.

The moderator also ensured that all participants had previously signed the Free and Informed Consent Form (FICF), which included the reference to the use of recorders or cameras.

The theoretical analytical categories16 were predefined based on the adopted theoretical framework, that is, in the PNEDH, The Human Rights Education Manual (CEDH, Caderno de Educação dos Direitos Humanos), in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in articles addressing the topic17-23. These categories were maintained as they were identified in the analysis of the participants' speeches. The empirical analytical categories refer to speech contents that were not previously identified, but which were considered relevant to the apprehension and understanding of the meanings brought by the participants in relation to the study topic24.

After the full transcription of the contents recorded during the discussion in the FG, their analysis were carried out based on the adopted theoretical framework17-23 (Figure 1), and the following steps were followed, according to Bardin content analysis technique in the thematic modality24,25: Pre-Analysis: organization of the material produced through interviews and theoretical material; immersion in the raw data to be impregnated by their content; identification of concepts from which the materials were assessed and referenced based on the study analysis objectives (individual/vertical depth); Exploration of the material: the content of the speech was organized by categories, as well as recurring, similar aspects (horizontalization), illustrated by transcriptions, cores of meaning and central topics with subcategories (cross-sectional analysis of the material). Treatment of the obtained results and interpretation: the researchers made inferences and interpretations of the speeches based on the theoretical framework24.
The interpretation was carried out, with careful and permanent discussion by the researchers, favoring the subjectivity apprehended from the context of the speeches and always anchored in the adopted theoretical framework. Therefore, the material was analyzed and discussed, seeking saturation.

Sampling closure by theoretical saturation is operationally defined as the interruption of new participants’ inclusion when the obtained data start showing, based on the researcher’s assessment, a certain redundancy or repetition, with data collection being considered non-relevant from then on.

The assessment of theoretical saturation based on a sample is carried out through a continuous process of data analysis, starting at the beginning of the collection process. Bearing in mind the questions posed to the interviewees, which reflect the research objectives, this preliminary analysis seeks the moment when the addition of data and information does not change the understanding of the study.

Therefore, the development of two different FGs, using the same theoretical categories, did not harm the present study. It can be observed that none of the speeches is the same as the other; however, they all have elements in common. Initially, the addition of information is more evident among the speeches. Subsequently, such addition fades away until it ceases to occur.

The study complied with the ethical criteria of Resolution n. 510/2016. The project was approved by CAAE under number: 2269619.3.0000.5569.

RESULTS / DISCUSSION
The study sought to understand the meanings attributed by tutors to their experiences involving HR issues in the academic environment. In total, six tutors participated, five females and one male, of which three were from the medical course (Freire, Anita and Raquel), one from the Pharmacy course (Anália), one from the Nutrition course (Maria), and one from the Physiotherapy course (Cecilia).

The analytical categories were defined based on the theoretical framework related to HR, according to PNEDH, CEDH, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in articles dealing with the topic, comprising the following: gender and sexuality, communication and freedom of expression, social minorities, and student stigmatization and self-esteem. During the process of reinterpretation of the speeches, the following subcategories were identified, considered to be empirical: ableism, fatphobia, mental health, psychophobia and interpersonal conflicts.

Below are the tutors’ statements, their interpretations according to the identified categories and subcategories of analysis and the articulation with the adopted theoretical assumptions related to HR.

Figure 1. Data analysis flowchart.
Category 1: gender and sexuality

Femininity is the set of characteristics attributed to women for belonging to the female gender, such as sensitivity, passivity, understanding. While masculinity includes adjectives such as aggressiveness, domination, insensitivity\(^{27}\).

In this sense, Anita reported a discussion involving a divergence between students as an example of the lack of embracement of differences and, at the same time, promoting a gender conflict, through the use of the voice, resulting in oppression: “[...] he had a very strong voice [...], and then there was this girl, who was a skinny girl, who talked a lot about religion and, he, who had his own religion... You could see that he clearly overpowered her using his voice and he would not let her finish [...]”.

The imperative use of one’s voice and/or behavior as a way of imposing one’s ideology can constitute a type of violence, since violence is not limited to physical aggression, but also manifests itself through verbal, psychological, moral or patrimonial attitudes\(^{27}\).

From the perspective of sexuality and its definition as a set of biological, psychological and social aspects, diversity comprises ways of experiencing and expressing sexuality\(^{28}\). In this context, sexual orientation and gender identity are social determinants of health for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transvestite and transsexual individuals (LGBT). Consequently, discrimination and prejudice aggravate suffering and illness, as the health problems of this population segment are complex and their demands are numerous\(^{29,30}\).

However, a major obstacle is the prejudice reproduced by the health professional, which discourages seeking for medical care by the LGBT population and induces the lack of truthfulness regarding the information collected in the anamnesis. This is evident when 40% of women do not mention that they are lesbian or bisexual when seeking medical care. Moreover, among those who did mention it, more than 50% reported discriminatory or surprise reactions by the professional\(^{29,31}\).

In this context, Cecília mentioned a situation in which the student stated that he would refuse to care for homosexual couples. She was worried, as she would often not know how to handle these cases:

“[...] we were talking about the therapist-patient relationship, and if they had to treat patients who were homosexual couples, and then this student said they would not accept it, they would not assist them[...] these are issues that are raised in tutoring that we often don’t even know how to deal with [...]” – Cecília

Assuming that one of the purposes of higher education is to maintain a relationship of service and reciprocity with society\(^{4}\) and that one of the principles of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS, Sistema Único de Saúde) is universality, which comprises “guaranteed access to health services for the entire population [...] without prejudices or privileges of any kind”\(^{32}\), it becomes necessary for students attending courses focused on health to be encouraged to free themselves from prejudice while attending undergraduate school\(^{33}\).

Cecília also stated that she was unprepared to deal with issues related to HR, especially with the conflicts that may occur due to divergent beliefs. She stated that she sees tutorship as an opportunity to address these issues, even if they are outside the objectives previously stipulated according to the curriculum matrix: “[...] I would like to have an opportunity to say: now, let’s talk about this here! It is over, let’s do a tutorial about it, we are going to discuss it from here, it wasn’t, necessarily the objective, that wasn’t the objective of that tutorial”.

The tutor seemed willing to discuss HR during the tutoring session but did not do it. This may reflect a lack of familiarity with the topic. In this sense, it is essential that educators be instructed about the culture of respect for human rights because, through this knowledge, they will be able to perform a better critical interpretation of the academic environment, aiming to detect scenarios and intervention opportunities and guarantee the applicability of the principles contained in the national guidelines\(^{2}\).

Category 2: communication and freedom of expression

Interpersonal communication is an essential tool for coexistence in society. It can be expressed both verbally and non-verbally\(^{34}\). The Constitution of 1988 guaranteed the right to freedom of expression of intellectual, artistic, scientific and communication activities, as long as there is no disrespect to the other guaranteed rights\(^{35}\). Thus, it can be observed that communication and freedom of expression are connected and that some expressions or gestures are loaded with prejudiced and discriminatory meanings.

During the FG, Freire addressed the topic of interpersonal communication, addressing some situations of misunderstanding generated by misinformation: “[...] sometimes I perceive more as a matter of misinformation, and then some things come out, like, socially accepted, but wrong from the point of view of respect [...]”.

Words, phrases or comments that sometimes seem naive can have undesirable and offensive effects\(^{36}\), such as: the word homosexuality in Portuguese (homossexualismo) in which the suffix “ismo” which is compatible with “ism” and has a pathological connotation\(^{37}\); the word “nightstand” in Portuguese (“criado mudo”), which refers to the slave who used to stand by the bed of their owners or masters in the colonial days\(^{38}\). Therefore, it is imperative that the Freedom of
Expression that we are allowed through communication does not become disrespectful.

On the other hand, the correct use of terms and expressions when referring to minority social groups can help to legitimize these social movements, in order to fight stereotypes and respect individualities.

In another sphere, Cecilia suggested that the political topic should be encouraged and debated among students as a learning tool. She stressed that this approach must be a healthy one, while maintaining respect, aiming to take politics to something that is beyond a polarizing debate.

“I think we could talk more about this, OK, politics in the broad sense, right, us, education, health, all of this is politics [...], if we talk more about it, I think we are more aware of the rights, you know, of duty, of citizenship, which is also a role, isn’t it, of the College [...]” - Cecilia

The HRE aims at the full development of the individual, their preparation for the exercise of citizenship and work qualification. Since the 1988 Constitution, the foundations of the government are based on citizenship, human dignity, and political pluralism. These foundations, in line with the current conception of HR, encompass not only political and civil rights, but also economic, social and cultural ones. Therefore, it is important that there be a construction of values based on HR so that an active citizenship can be exercised, in which the citizen is aware of the rights, you know, of duty, of citizenship, which is also a role, isn’t it, of the College [...]” - Cecilia

Subcategory 3.1: Race and Ethnicity

Brazil is a multicultural country and its origin lies in the coexistence of three races: black, white and indigenous. Historically, since the existence of black slavery in Brazil, society has created and ideologically legitimized the subjection of black people to white values. Therefore, racism, negative behavior related to minorities, is still present in the Brazilian society.

On this topic, Anita reported that, in her experience, the absence of diversity (blacks, indigenous people) in the group prevented the students from experiencing a situation of this type of prejudice: “[... I don’t think there were any blacks in our group and I think there never were any indigenous people either [...] certainly, if they said they had never suffered any prejudice it would be strange [...]”.

An educational environment lacking racial diversity is an example of the historical marginalization and social and racial segregation that persists in the elitist and conservative culture and structure.

In another group, in the diversity module, Raquel brought a report by a female student who contrasted with the experience reported by Anita: “[... there was a black student who complained, who said she suffered prejudice [...]]”.

The presence of a black student reporting the existence of prejudice legitimizes the cause that is often neglected, as there are not many central subjects of the topic in elite environments, and this ends up reproducing social and racial segregation.

Raquel, on the other hand, highlighted the importance of having a space for discussion within the college and gave as an example the activities carried out during the ‘Week of Black Awareness’ developed by the Center for Accessibility and Inclusion (NAI, Núcleo de Acessibilidade e Inclusão) of the HEI: “[... The college itself stimulates them to think about it, during the Week of Black Awareness, even those posters that were affixed to the... Speaking about the data on the black population, you know, mortality, violent death, everything else, I think it already inspires some of that [...]”.

Since 2008, the need for applying an ethnic/social criterion in teaching environments since basic education has been established by law aiming to fight existing prejudices regarding race/ethnicity in our society. The feasibility of spaces in educational environments that allow discussions...
and discourses about race and ethnicities benefit the positive struggle of certain collective identities⁴⁵.

**Subcategory 3.2: persons with disabilities (PWD) and ableism**

The expression PWD was chosen to represent people who have some type of disability, whether physical, sensory, mental or intellectual⁴⁶. This is because disability is not inherent to a type of body that deviates from current standards but arises from the interaction between PWD and the behavioral and environmental obstacles of society, which prevent the full and effective participation of these individuals, as well as equality of access to opportunities⁴⁷.

Historically, PWD are treated as incapable and their bodies as inferior or incomplete. Within this context, ableism emerged, a term related to the discrimination aimed at people with disabilities⁴⁸.

Regarding ableism, Maria reported the trajectory of a person with a physical disability as an undergraduate student at FPS. She states that, because FPS is an HEI that defends empathy as an educational tool, the student did not suffer any losses during undergraduate school: “In nutrition, we had a student in a wheelchair [...] and the group she was part of [...] welcomed her very well [...] she went into the residency [...] but some groups of students [...] are not being friendly at all […]”

In this sense, when HRE occurs adequately, an ethical, empathetic, critical professional emerges, who works with autonomy. Such values may be born inside the HEI but go beyond the walls of the institution. The HEI must position itself regarding HR in its physical structure, guaranteeing accessibility to all students⁴⁸-⁴⁹.

**Subcategory 3.3: Fatphobia**

Fatphobia is a neologism used as a form of structured and widespread discrimination in several social contexts against fat people and their bodies. This discrimination generates a stigma that the fat body is the result of sloppiness, laziness or failure, and that their social and professional capabilities would be limited by their body characteristics⁵⁰.

Based on this assumption, Maria reported a series of episodes of stigmatization of the fat person and fatphobia in the academic environment in the nutrition course. In one of the episodes, the student was asked about her ability in the course and in the job market for being fat.

“[…] one of the students suffered a lot of prejudice […] because she was overweight, […] they asked several times […] how could she be a chubby nutritionist, right? because she went to a bakery close to the institution and bought a doughnut […] this had an impact on the study group” – Maria

Fatphobia is related to beauty standards that have changed over time and, currently, the body that is seen as beautiful and healthy is a thin and athletic one⁵⁰. In this context, young women are the most vulnerable to sociocultural patterns, in which the cult of the body is associated with the image of power, beauty and social mobility⁵⁰. This stigmatization of the fat body makes overweight and obese people the targets of prejudice, which sometimes socially marginalizes them⁵⁰.

Prejudice against fat and obese people is experienced daily and is identified in many health professionals. The cult of the thin body affects both patients in health services and professionals in the field⁵⁰.

**Category 4: student stigmatization and self-esteem**

**Subcategory 4.1: mental health and psychophobia**

Human rights are considered fundamental rights for everyone, so it is essential to pay attention to factors that prevent individuals with mental health (MH) problems from having all their rights guaranteed. In the educational field, students must have quality learning and psychopedagogical support, if necessary. Among medical students, problems related to mental health have a high prevalence⁵¹, which reinforces the need for attention to these students, who still suffer with psychophobia, a term recently used to define prejudice against people who suffer from psychological disorders⁵².

When the topics of mental health and psychophobia emerged in the FG discussion, Cecilia reported that certain situations can lead to a decrease in concentration or difficulty in participating in daily activities, including tutoring, either due to personal problems or the use of medication to treat mental disorders.

“[…] people have triggers, and it is hard for you to say, the person leaves their house fine but arrives at a place and that trigger comes back, and they lose their balance and can’t be well […] I see these great difficulties of our professionals […] in education, to understand people who have mental health problems”. – Cecilia

The individuality of the human being makes each student have difficulties and problems that are intrinsic to them⁵³, and support should be given so that these obstacles and difficulties are overcome with the least possible impact, both educationally and in their personal life. This support must be provided both by tutors and by the coordination of courses for the adequate referral of cases, so that there is no academic harm to students⁵⁴.

FPS has a psycho-pedagogical sector that seeks to meet the demands of the student body, through measures such as: integration and diagnosis of new students, comprehending pedagogical, affective and social fields; carrying out
individual consultations at the HEI; referral of students to psychotherapeutic care if the need is identified; holding thematic workshops\textsuperscript{55}. 

Regarding the difficulties faced in the tutorial environment, possibly due to mental health problems, Raquel reported that a student was kept away by the group for having a more introspective and quiet behavior: “A male student who was very quiet, I think he had depression, some anxiety, he was missing a lot of classes [...] the students kind of snubbed him, on the day he did not come, “ah, that weird boy, what’s his name?”. 

Psychophobia and rejection of what is different are intrinsic problems in today’s society\textsuperscript{10} and can be observed in the tutor’s report. If these problems are carried over to the tutoring, there is a risk of harming the group’s learning, given that the success of the tutorial group depends on a collaborative interaction between peers; it is up to the tutor to know how to guide and coordinate the group, in order to guarantee the learning, in addition to encouraging the group to integrate the student who suffers from mental health problems\textsuperscript{56}.

**Subcategory 4.2: interpersonal conflicts**

Within an active methodology such as PBL, in which students need to collaborate and interact in small groups, it is common for conflicts to arise between students, whether due to disagreements on the addressed topic or personal differences. Without the correct conduct, such conflicts can harm learning, as tutoring discussions should encourage students to build knowledge in a self-directed and collaborative way\textsuperscript{57}.

Freire reported a discussion between classmates, which he believes were due to “profound disrespect” between two female students, and how he proceeded in the face of the conflict:

“ [...] And during the reading, one said in a loud enough voice [...] “what a boring girl”, and then the one who was reading, interrupted her reading and said “YOU are the boring one [...] even words of intimidation, one to the other [...] in the end, I gave an individual opinion with both of them, then I gave the homogeneous feedback to the group... I said, I will listen more, talk less, talk to the tutorial coordinator and understand it” - Freire

The tutor’s role as a mediator in a conflict situation in the tutorial group is fundamental, to maintain the group balance and functionality without compromising the learning process. Some skills are essential for the tutor when conducting a tutorial group, such as, for instance, creating an environment that allows the free flow of ideas, ensuring the harmonious participation of all\textsuperscript{56}, in addition to feedback, which offers students an opportunity to review and improve their behavior\textsuperscript{58}.

There is a tutor support flow at the HEI, in which, after the conclusion of each tutorial group, a meeting is held in which all the tutors of that module and class participate with their tutor coordinator and, in this space, the difficulties experienced in the tutorial group are discussed. The identified problems, if necessary, are forwarded to the Structuring Teaching Center (NDE, Núcleo Docente Estruturante) and the Teaching Development Committee (CDD, Comitê de Desenvolvimento Docente).

Finally, from the experiences reported by the tutors involving issues related to HR in the tutorial group environment, it was observed that, in general, they were insecure to intervene in these situations, especially when they generated conflict between the students. They reported having little information on the subject and also expressed difficulties in providing both individual and collective feedback in these cases.

Feedback is an important learning tool, because through the suggestions that are provided, it offers the recipient the opportunity to change certain aspects of their behavior. It is most effective if it is targeted, explicit, functional, and immediately related to the observed behavior. It should be given at the appropriate time, as soon as possible after the observation, and the recipient should be given the opportunity to answer to it\textsuperscript{59-61}.

The feedback session is an opportunity for interaction between tutor and students, aiming at reflection and performance improvement. This moment should not be understood as an evaluation, comparison or personal judgment, but a neutral, objective and specific description of behaviors and attitudes that can be improved\textsuperscript{59-61}.

Based on these assertions, the importance of preparing the tutor for the exercise of their function and for them to be able to give feedback to the students and receive it from them is inferred. It is worth emphasizing that before joining the FPS and before starting their work, all tutors go through the PBL tutor training course and receive regular training to provide feedback in tutorial groups, both individually and collectively. Everyone must go through a new training every five years. The importance of working in teacher development is highlighted, which should not be restricted to courses that are intermittently offered, but above all, in the management of day-to-day processes.

The institution has tutor coordinators, one coordinator for every seven tutors, whose main function is to provide support and subsidies to the tutor so they can adequately perform their role, especially in the group facilitating processes. Within this dynamic, feedbacks are carried out with the tutors at least every six months. Moreover, there are several instruments prepared by the Faculty Development Committee, which meet all validation steps of measurement instruments, for regular evaluation of the learning processes. In relation to the tutor, the Short Tutor Evaluation Questionnaire is used, translated and
cross-culturally adapted, which evaluates the tutor in relation to the fundamental educational principles of PBL, reflected in the types of collaborative, constructive, contextual and self-directed learning.

However, training so far has prioritized aspects related to the PBL learning methodology. When tutors report not knowing and not looking for documents that correlate HR to education and disclose that, although they thought it was relevant, they had never looked for these documents, unfortunately, it was verified that information and learning about HR still do not have much space in the academic environment. As a result, the need for greater comprehensiveness in teacher training is reinforced, especially regarding this topic, as one of the steps for the implementation of the HR culture in the HEI and for greater effectiveness in learning and professional training.

CONCLUSION

Considering the experiences involving issues related to HD in the academic environment, the tutors reported episodes that deal with aspects of gender and sexuality, difficulties in communication and freedom of expression, social minorities and student stigmatization and self-esteem. Overall, it is understood that they felt insecure to intervene in these situations, especially when they generated conflict between students. They reported having little information about HR and expressed difficulties in providing both individual and collective feedback in these cases. Therefore, aiming at implementing teacher development, the HEI, through the CDD, is responsible for providing training tools to the tutor. One example is the implementation of a course on HRE aimed at this population.

AUTHORS’ CONTRIBUTION

Jamilly Nazário Souza de Oliveira, Alicia Pereira Banja Fernandes, Hugo Vinicius Carvalho de Abreu e Lima and Ana Rodrigues Falbo participated in all stages from the project design to the final phase of writing the manuscript. Maria de Fátima Costa Caminha contributed to the final phase of writing, editing and reviewing of the manuscript.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

The authors declare no sources of funding.

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