

## **The quality of spaces of services in the intra urban edges of João Pessoa- PB, Brazil**

Rebeca Maria Ramos Tabosa<sup>1</sup>, José Augusto Ribeiro da Silveira, Milena Dutra da  
Silva

<sup>1</sup>*UFPB - Universidade Federal da Paraíba*  
*rebeca.mrt@gmail.com*

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Historically, urban development in Brazil was marked by a socio-spatial inequalities accumulation process and the adoption of public policies that structured a center - periphery urban expansion model responsible for continuous displacement of urban sprawl into rural areas, semirural and natural spaces. It is observed that the last decades have seen a topping urban growth, with a form of anomalous structure which shows the fragmentation and mix of urban territories and "semi-rural" territories, which features real growths in the urban area.

In this sense, Joao Pessoa, capital of Paraiba, located in north-eastern Brazil, considered medium-sized city, with a population of about 791,438 inhabitants (IBGE, 2015), has an accelerated urban expansion and suffers intense processes of use and occupation ground modification, with infrastructural disability and low levels of urban provisions in the "new spaces" added to the city. This scenario raises questions about the quality of urban life offered to the population living in the urban edges, making it necessary diagnose and measure this quality of urban life, with a purpose to make decisions within the urban and environmental planning to this dynamic and dispersed space.

Investigate the dynamics of urban expansion present in medium-sized cities, besides providing the understanding of local and regional processes and phenomena, also provides a comparative understanding of global processes, given the significant role played by these cities to the current global urbanization, to be continued even for decades in the future.

Overall, life quality definitions are related to attributes such as health, education, income and housing, environment and its resources. Regarding the quality of urban life, it includes specific aspects of urban life, in other words, the evaluation of the degree of access to facilities and urban provisions are conditioned to the number of ways of accessing and obtaining goods, services and opportunities, those are read here as the quality of space of services.

This research has as its theme the study of the quality of urban life in peripheral areas of the city of João Pessoa, basing on attributes like housing; infrastructure, urban equipment and services; urban accessibility; urban ambience (physical and social environment) and socioeconomic. In a specific character, the objective is to diagnose the urban facilities and accessibility in these areas; evaluate the urban ambience of urban edges and characterize the socioeconomic profile of the resident population of these spaces.

The selected objects of study for this research were were the neighborhoods of Barra de Gramame, Muçumagro and Gramame, neighborhoods of Southern edge of João Pessoa. These neighborhoods were chosen because they represent the latest urban production of the space of the city, which took place between 1980 and 2010 and that currently is facing an accelerated expansion process. These spaces are the scene of conflicts arising from the mode and intensity of urban sprawl, in which is verified harmful effects on sustainability and quality of life in the city of João Pessoa, being relevant to analysis the quality of urban life in these new spaces added to the city.

Aiming to measure the quality of life in those peripheral areas, were used as methodology adaptations from some index such as the QER method (Quality of Residential Space), presented by Scussel (2007), and also some analysis parameters from IQVU-JP (Urban Life Quality Index - Joao Pessoa) developed by Leite and Silveira (2001). Therefore, some indicators were modified and added for the new content, so that it could consider the specifics of each of the neighborhoods and your local reality. This new index was renamed as QESA (Adapted Quality of Spaces of Services), represented through the equation  $QESA = 0,60QS + 0.40 QP$ , ranging on a scale from 0 to 1, where values close to 0 represents poor quality of life and the ones

closer to 1 represent high quality of life. The QESA index comprises seven indicators for QS (Quality of Basic Social Services), which are: school; square; health center; public transportation; commerce and service; park and urban management, and eight indicators for QP (Quality of Routes House - Service), compound by: distance home - work; distance home - school; distance home - health center; distance house - commerce and service; environmental and landscape quality; urban equipment and street furniture; road hierarchy; infrastructure and quality of sidewalks.

The QESA values for all analysed neighborhoods were proved to be low, and consequently unsatisfactory in relation to the scale adopted by the index. This reflects the deficiencies and / or shortages of the neighbourhoods in relation to urban equipments and street furniture offered to the population; education; health; commerce and service; public transport; squares; parks; quality and road hierarchy.

The neighborhoods of Gramame (QESA = 0.11) and Muçumagro (QESA = 0.29) had the lowest values among the neighbourhoods studied for the urban quality of life index. Gramame showed a little bit more satisfactory result than the other two neighbourhoods (QESA=0.43). This result is linked with the fact that Gramame has a better infrastructure in relation to urban infrastructure and social services offered to the population, such as schools, healthy center, public transport, commercial and service activities and even public spaces. In addition, Gramame presents public policies for social housing, such as “Minha Casa Minha Vida”, being also targeted by the real estate market.

The levels of quality of urban life from those spaces of the urban edge of João Pessoa points out that these areas deserve more attention and investment by the government given the fact they are deficient in basic infrastructure and services, not providing to its inhabitants an appropriate quality of life. The study developed contributes towards future urban planning actions, mainly in medium sized cities, being a base of information and data for future research as well as possible urban interventions in these areas.

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