

Internalization of higher education in Medicine and Regional Development in Delmiro Gouveia-AL



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José Anselmo Nunes Brazil

PhD in Sociology

E-mail: anselmobrasil@yahoo.com.br

ABSTRACT

Since the 1970s, the agenda for the university to be an agent of regional and global development has been disseminated and promoted by studies on human capital, based on the theory of the 1979 Nobel Prize in Economics Theodoro W. Schultz, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the European Union (Neto, Vieira,2022,p.91). Public, private and community Higher Education Institutions, in addition to structuring the tripod of teaching, research and extension were called to contribute to the process of overcoming urban-regional disparities and taking

advantage of local factors as a driving force for development. The objective of this study is to know the impact of the internalization of higher education already implemented and what would be possible impacts of implementation of higher education around health in Delmiro Gouveia. To accomplish this objective, we analyzed the literature on the internalization of higher education and regional development, data from the IBGE, from the Federal University of Alagoas. It was concluded that the implementation of higher education boosted the region, attracting 2,246 students from 41 municipalities in Alagoas and 36 more municipalities from other Brazilian states, which may occur similarly with the implementation of higher education in the health area.

Keywords: Internalization of Higher Education and Health, Health and Regional Development, Fourth Mission of Higher Education.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE COURSE OF MEDICINE IN DELMIRO GOUVEIA – AL

Delmiro Gouveia is a municipality of Alagoas with 52,501 inhabitants (IBGE, 2021) located in the mesoregions belonging to the Sertão Alagoano (bordering the states of Pernambuco, Bahia and Sergipe) chosen in March 2023 by the government to install the new campus of the State University of Health Sciences of Alagoas (Uncisal) (Tribuna Hoje,2023). In 2010 the municipality had already been contemplated with the University Campus of the Sertão of the Federal University of Alagoas-Ufal with resources from the Support Program for Restructuring and Expansion Plans of Federal Universities (REUNI), coming to be part of the proposal of the National Policy for Regional Development (PNDR) of 2007¹, which according to Vieira and Macedo (2022) had the objective of seeking new actors and agendas of commitments the need to recognize the potentialities and weaknesses of the various territories of the country.

¹ Decree No. 6.096 of 24 April 2007 (Lima; File; Pinto; Cruz,2021,p.138).



What is the impact of the internalization of higher education already implemented in Delmiro Gouveia and what would be the possible impacts of implementation of higher education in the health area? This is the objective that this study seeks to know. For this, the literature on the internalization of higher education and regional development, data from the IBGE and the Federal University of Alagoas were analyzed.

2 THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW MISSION

Since the 1970s, this agenda for the university to be an agent of regional development has been disseminated and promoted by studies on human capital, based on the theory of Human Capital of the 1979 Nobel Prize in Economics Theodoro W. Schultz, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Education Organization, Science and Culture (UNESCO) and the European Union (Neto, Vieira, 2022, p.91).

Influenced by the theory of human capital, public, private and community Higher Education Institutions have become central agents for their relevance in offering training, training and qualification of manpower, technological research linked to the needs revealed by the territories where they are located. In fact, in addition to structuring the tripod of teaching, research and extension, Higher Education Institutions were called upon to contribute to the process of overcoming our urban-regional disparities and taking advantage of local factors as a driving force for development. The internalization of Higher Education *became the* new mission of the university (Vieira and Macedo, 2022, p.18,31).

Despite all the efforts of internalization and mobility of students throughout the national territory carried out since 2003 by the Federal Government through the Program for Restructuring and Expansion of Federal Universities (REUNI) and the Unified Selection System (Sisu), there is still a strong concentration of undergraduate and graduate studies in fourteen locations as dominant poles of university education in Brazil: São Paulo, Campinas (SP), Ribeirão Preto (SP), Sorocaba (SP), São Jose dos Campos (SP), Rio de Janeiro, Distrito Federal, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, Curitiba, Salvador, Recife, Fortaleza and Goiânia (Neto, Vieira, 2022, p.91).

3 THE NEW MISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALAGOAS

In the reality of the State of Alagoas, the concentration of public and private higher education still persists mainly in the area of health in the two largest cities of the State: Maceió-Arapiraca. There was a great effort to internalize higher education in 17 of the 102 municipalities of the State of Alagoas with the creation of courses in areas such as Education, Pedagogy, Administration, Law, Humanities,



technological in the various Campi: Agreste², Sertão,³ Federal Institutes⁴ and State University of Alagoas – Uneal **and even private institutions of higher education**^{5,6}. It should be noted that founded in 2006 the State University of Alagoas – Uneal **Campus I headquarters in Arapiraca, despite being in a city in the interior extended in 2012 to Capital Maceió** the Campus VI in addition to the other municipalities with Campus II in Santana do Ipanema, Campus III in Palmeira dos Índios, Campus IV in São Miguel dos Campos V Zumbi dos Palmares in União dos Palmares. Therefore, several courses offered in the interior of the State of Alagoas by **the State University of Alagoas – Uneal** less in the area of health.

However, in the municipalities of Arapiraca the courses of medicine and nursing are offered by the public universities Federal University of Alagoas-Ufal and in Maceió both Ufal and the State University of Health Sciences of Alagoas (Uncisal) plus two private university centers (Centro Universitário Cesmac (CESMAC),⁷ Centro Universitário Tiradentes- Unit).⁸ Other courses in the area of health such as Biomedicine, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Nutrition, Dentistry, Occupational Therapy were only offered in Maceió, but recently in 2023 the Santa Bárbara College, in the city of Arapiraca, began to offer the courses of biomedicine, physiotherapy and nursing (Publieditorial, 2023). Psychology is offered in the city of Palmeiras dos Índios by both the Federal University of Alagoas-Ufal and the Cesmac University Center (CESMAC).

The internalization in the municipality of Delmiro Gouveia of the actions of the State University of Health Sciences of Alagoas (Uncisal) through the course of medicine (undergraduate and graduate) will boost sectors of the economy, culture and especially health in the Sertão region. In the short term the impact of the installation of a university campus may be direct in the various economic sectors of the municipality because they increase the demand for financial resources through investments in works, salaries of teachers and technicians; for students aid such as permanence scholarships (housing, food), modification of local infrastructure related to housing, transportation, restaurants, leisure and public services, increased productivity, which impacts on the production

² Municipalities participating in the Agreste Campus: Arapiraca, Palmeiras dos Índios, Penedo and Viçosa. Source: Portal Ufal.

³ Participating municipalities Sertão Campus: Delmiro Gouveia and Santana do Ipanema. Source: Portal Ufal

⁴ Participating municipalities of the Federal Institutes: Arapiraca, Batalha, Coruripe, Maceió, Maragogi, Marechal Deodoro, Murici, Palmeiras dos Índios, Penedo, Piranhas, Rio Largo, Santana do Ipanema, São Miguel dos Campos, Satuba and Viçosa. Source: Portal Ufal.

⁵ Participating municipalities: Arapiraca, Santana do Ipanema, Palmeiras dos Índios, São Miguel dos Campos, União dos Palmares, Maceió. Source: Portal Uneal

⁶ Offer of higher education courses in the municipalities in the interior of Alagoas: Administration, Public Administration, Agronomy, Architecture and Urbanism, Biological Sciences, Accounting, Computer Sciences, Law, Physical Education, Nursing, Civil Engineering, Fisheries Engineering, Production Engineering, Physics, Geography, History, Letters, Medicine, Mathematics, Pedagogy, Psychology, Chemistry, Social Work, Tourism, Animal Science.

⁷ The value of the medical course at Cesmac costs R \$ 8,668.06. Source: Medical Schools of Brazil Website < <https://www.escolasmedicas.com.br/mensalidades.php> > Accessed on 04/05/2023.

⁸ The value of the medical course at Cesmac costs R \$ 9,504.00. Source: Medical Schools of Brazil Website < <https://www.escolasmedicas.com.br/mensalidades.php> > Accessed on 04/05/2023.



process (CASQUEIRO; IRFFI; SILVA, 2020, p.156). For example, for the implementation of the medical course on the campus of Ufal were initially allocated about R\$ 27 million in resources for infrastructure (Assessoria, 2013).

Delmiro Gouveia has modest health services: 15 Health Centers/Basic Health Unit, 5 Specialized Clinics/Specialized Outpatient Clinics, 7 Offices, 1 General Hospital, only 1 Emergency Department, 1 Mobile Unit of Pre-Hospital Level-Urgency/Emergency, 1 Psychosocial Care Center – CAPS, 1 Pharmacy, (Municipal Profile, 2018, p.12). Of the total of 304 health professionals working in the municipality, only 183 are of higher education and 70 are doctors and 113 of other higher education (Table 1).

Table 1. Health Professionals with Munic Higher Education. Delmiro Gouveia 2017.

Specialties	Doctors	Specialties	Non-Doctors
Anesthesiologist	2	Dental surgeon	28
Surgeon General	2	Nurse	52
Psychiatrist	3	Pharmacist	5
Family Physician	7	Physiotherapist	20
Pediatrician	8	Audiologist	2
Obstetrician-GYN	10	Psychologist	8
General practitioner	38		
Radiologist	7		
Total Specialty	8	6	14
Total	70		113

Source:Municipal Profile. Delmiro Gouveia. Year 4, n° 4,2018 p.13.

Although the city has 1,279 residents of higher education, physicians represent 5.5% of these professionals and 23% of other health professionals in Delmiro Gouveia (Table 2).

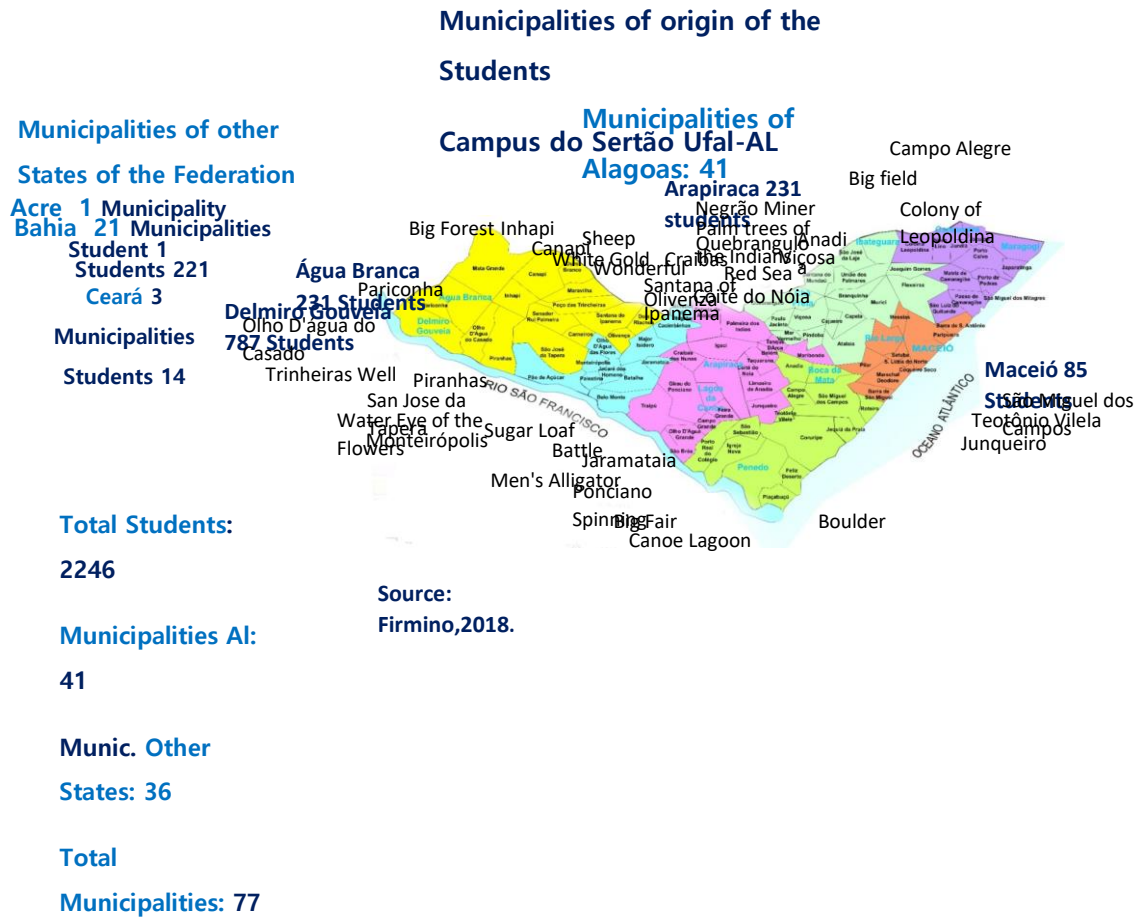
Table 2. Health Professional with Higher Education Municipality of Delmiro Gouveia

Professional N. Superior	2022	%
Formed Superior Complete	1.279	
Doctors	70	5,5
Non-Doctors	113	23
Total Health Professionals*	304	

Source: Superior Electoral Court-TSE, 2022.

Source: Municipal Profile. Delmiro Gouveia. Year 4, n° 4,2018 p.13.

To get an idea of the influence that will bring the installation of a medical course of Uncisal in a small municipality like Delmiro Gouveia just observe the experience of the Campus of the Sertão da Ufal that had as projection to reach 25 surrounding municipalities, but as the study of Firmino (2018) demonstrates managed to attract 2,246 students from 41 municipalities of Alagoas including Maceió (capital) and 36 other municipalities of other states in the north and northeast such as Acre, Ceará and Bahia (Map 1).

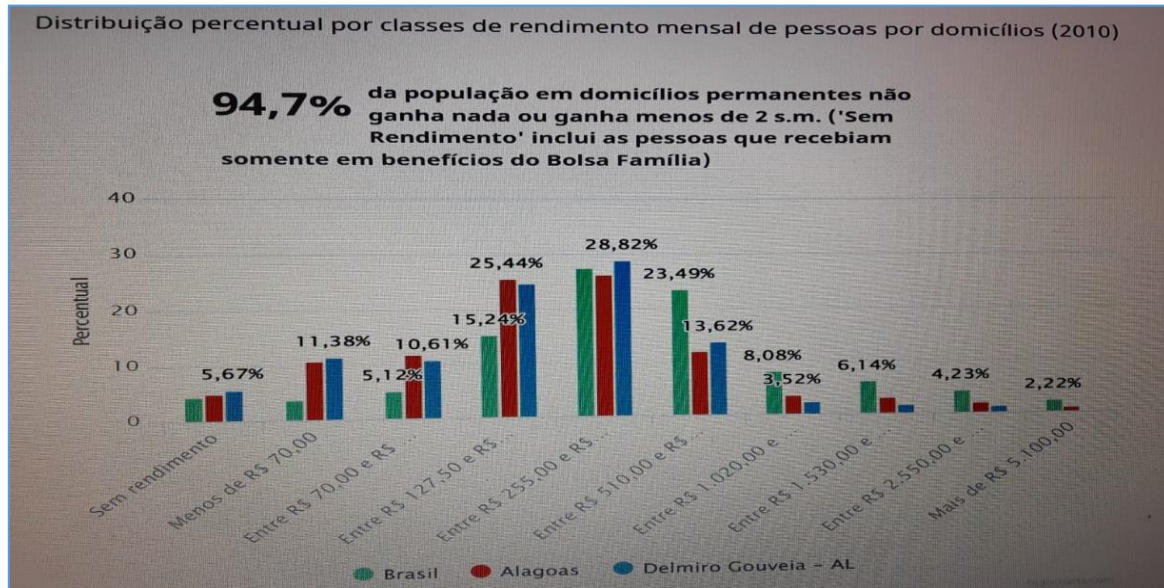


In 2012 at the Sertão Campus (Ufal) projects and events were promoted that had actions 7,578 people (Statistical Bulletin, 2012 p.14) and, in 2023, the institution has 3,208 students and of these 15.33% receive permanence grants and housing assistance (Lima; File; Dick; Cruz, 2021, p.144); 156 teachers, 40 technical-administrative, in addition to the 40 outsourced professionals who provide services to the University (Portal Ufal, 2023). Therefore, the implementation of another university campus in the area of health will boost sectors of the economy, culture and health, through investments in works, salaries of teachers and technicians, and aid for students, as previously highlighted.

Although the municipality of Delmiro Gouveia and the sertão region have a population with few incomes (Graph 1), the socioeconomic situation will only show some improvement if projects are carried out in the municipality. And the installation of another Higher Education Institution (Medicine, Medical Residency and stricto sensu and lato sensu graduate studies) will have the socioeconomic effect highlighted by Neto, Vieira and Macedo (2022, p.19) of boosting the local economy through direct spending, activation of the labor market, qualification of the workforce and stimulation of the urban market, establishing lasting links between university and local society by joining efforts for regional transformation.



Graph 1 Income Population
Delmiro Gouveia 2010



Source:Datapedia < <https://datapedia.info/cidade/2749/al/delmiro-gouveia#renda-distribuicao> >

4 CONCLUSION

The fact that the municipality of Delmiro Gouveia has already installed since 2010 a federal university campus, Sertão da Ufal, Some difficulties that the habits of the local population could be hindering have already been overcome since the students in contact with a teaching staff of teachers with high qualification begin to stimulate other possibilities in the local way of life and energizes the region, as it has already occurred, attracting 2,246 students from 41 municipalities in Alagoas and 36 more municipalities from other Brazilian states. In the case of a medical course, the possibility of successfully implementing the objective of internalization of higher education may be even greater since students residing in a small municipality, instead of what Neto, Vieira and Macedo (2022, p.19) affirm, will be able to identify with the way of life of the regions and impact the insertion of more professional medical services in the routine and sociocultural environment of that community, strengthen short- and long-term reduction of the health problems of the population of the municipality. Also, where the private initiative does not offer services, it is up to the state to assume the risks by offering services boosting local socio-economic development.



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