



The Organization of Collectors of Recyclable Material in Martinópolis – SP:

Perspectives and Analysis

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Introduction: The theme of this research is to look into the organization of collectors of recyclable waste material in Martinópolis (ACAMART). The paper will examine their internal and external organization as well as their development and perception of community, work and environment. We will also observe participation in meetings of their representative body (the National Movement of Waste Material Collectors – MNCR) as well as support given at municipal level and recognition by the people of Martinópolis.

Methodology and Development: We will aim to enable improvements in daily activities through participant observation and by means that allow us to see the present structural form of the association as a business company generating jobs and new consumer conditions. ACAMART is a group that is constantly being renewed despite the worth they constitute each month. The pursuit of financial stability through formal employment rather than identification and delimitation of power and territory with the activity currently carried out is daily in evidence so that the constant renewal fails to bring administrative benefits, making it necessary for a public official to maintain delegate functions, since, following the observed actions, there is a visual improvement at the same cost.

Final thoughts: It is essential that more attention be paid to environmental education through campaigns in schools and with the population in general since they are the enablers of a new vision with lasting effects, though the process will be time consuming and planning needs to be done to gain improvements in the medium term and wider benefits in the long term. Political inclusion of the collectors must take place gradually so the market of which they form part can be fully understood and they can gain from the municipal authorities the establishment of an effective contract to provide services to the city and not be regarded as employees.

Key words: Solid waste; environmental education; Martinópolis; garbage; selective collection.