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## La dimensión ambiental en los planes de la calle en Camajuaní. Una propuesta de juegos

# The environmental dimension in the street plans in Camajuaní. A proposal of games

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## Resumen

El trabajo que se presenta aborda una temática de vigencia actual en función de la relación entre los seres humanos y su entorno natural, a partir de la importancia en la formación de la joven generación para aprender a disfrutar y conservar el entorno a través de actividades que permitan el disfrute del mismo y a la vez su conservación en aras de que sea duradero para próximas generaciones. En este caso se relaciona con uno de los programas de la Recreación Física, los planes de la calle. El objetivo del trabajo estuvo dirigido a diseñar juegos que introduzcan la dimensión ambiental en los planes de la calle con niños de la zona 25 del Consejo Popular II de Camajuaní. Se utilizaron varios métodos y técnicas de investigación como la revisión documental, la observación, la encuesta, la entrevista, el criterio de especialistas y la distribución empírica de frecuencias. La significación práctica se centró en la confección de los citados juegos que introducen la dimensión medioambiental. Se obtuvo como resultado significativo, juegos no establecidos para este tipo de actividad, los cuales integran soluciones a problemáticas que afectan la comunidad y trasmiten conocimientos medioambientales, además, pueden aplicarse en cualquier zona y permiten ejercitar habilidades motrices y capacidades físicas necesarias para el correcto desarrollo físico de los niños, según el criterio de los especialistas.

Palabras clave: juegos físico- recreativos; educación medio ambiental; planes de la calle

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#### Abstract

The work presented addresses a topic of current validity depending on the relationship between human beings and their natural environment, based on the importance of training the young generation to learn to enjoy and preserve the environment through activities that allow the enjoyment of it and at the same time its conservation in order to make it durable for future generations. In this case it is related to one of the programs of Physical Recreation, street plans. The objective of the work was directed to design games that introduce the environmental dimension in street plans with children from zone 25 of the Popular Council II of Camajuaní. Various research methods and techniques were used, such as document review, observation, survey, interview, specialist judgment, and empirical frequency distribution. The practical significance focused on the preparation of the aforementioned games that introduce the environmental dimension. As a significant result, games not established for this type of activity were obtained, which integrate solutions to problems that affect the community and transmit environmental knowledge, and can also be applied in any area and allow the exercise of motor skills and physical necessary capacities for the correct physical children's development, according to the criteria of specialists.

**Keywords:** Physical-recreational games; environmental education; street plans

## Introducción

Nowadays one of the greatest concerns of the territories is the care of the environment, considering this as an important legacy for the future, in this sense in the municipality of Camajuaní in its environmental strategy a call is made to achieve in children a environmental culture by introducing this in all possible means and thus being able to influence everyone in their ways of acting.

It is also necessary to take into account the marked interest of the Cuban State in the protection of the environment that, since the revolutionary triumph in 1959, draws up and promulgates laws aimed at implementing its principles. At the same time, several scientific centers and institutions were created whose mission was directed to the study, protection and rational use of the country's natural resources. Multiple social programs were developed, as well as the protection of flora and fauna, forest heritage and other ecosystems that laid the basis for an incipient environmental policy.

The city has become the typical habitat of humanity, nowadays. To walk towards an ecological society, it is necessary to change urban habits and dynamics, where architecture, transportation, land use, the recovery of degraded soils, community decisions, as well as social customs, education and culture are entirely related to each other. (Santana, 2003).

In this sense, Alarcón (2013) points out that it is necessary to multiply efforts and actions that allow

the development of a culture that encourages the application of new environmental strategies. For

participation in recreational activities with an environmental focus, children must be grouped by age

groups so that they can participate without difficulties and understand the messages that they want to

transmit.

The term recreation from the pedagogical perspective of these days, certainly has a broader meaning.

It is considered as an attitude or state of mind to undertake new activities that involve enriching

experiences, a way of life to positively occupy the free hours. (Fulleda, 2004).

Recreational activities indicate the type of activity; its opportunity and duration is defined by the

individual according to his interests, abilities, capacities, experiences and the level of information,

because optionality is a characteristic of recreational activity, although this relationship is carried out

on the basis of individual interests, it is socially conditioned, with this it seeks to emphasize that the

characteristics of the activity itself may constitute a recreational or work activity. (Pérez, 2010).

According to Pérez (2015) the term Recreation refers to amuse, brighten, delight, in a search for

distraction, it is not only the pleasant way to spend free time but the use of this time in a positive way

in society, in such a way that contributes to the development of man's personality. Recreation is

therefore linked to education, self-education, physical and mental hygiene, fun, physical and mental

health, and culture in general. The processes of physical and sports activities at the neighborhood

level, as a means of recreation, vary greatly according to their characteristics, and cannot be better

without taking into account needs, tastes, preferences and interests.

On one hand Rodríguez (2019) states that these processes of physical and sports activities, develop

skills to apply logical, tactical and creative thinking strategies with which to get ahead in any

situation, strengthening the will and taking decision-making exercise, cooperation and reaffirmation

of self-esteem and other human values.

Through physical recreation activities of various kinds are carried out. It represents for the child, a

means through which it contributes to its physical, social and intellectual development. Within the

strategic directions of recreation is education and protection of the environment that is a complex and

dynamic system of ecological, socio-economic and cultural interrelations, which increases through

the historical process of society.

In the activities that are part of the program of Physical Recreation in Cuba, there are street plans to

guarantee the physical recreation of the child in its free time and during vacation periods, offering a

program consistent with its interests.

Munne (2019) states that, through the street plan, the widest possibilities of participation in physical

recreation are offered as an expression of extracurricular programming, therefore, this plan can be

considered as a complement of Physical Education programs. .

The street plan will cover activities for children aged 6 to 9 years, suitably adjusted to the needs and

interests of each group. It aspires not only to promote the interest of the broad masses of children in

physical education and sport, but to serve as an ideal vehicle to instill discipline, fellowship, a sense

of responsibility and a love of pure and healthy sport from an early age. .

Among the objectives that the street plan seeks to achieve are:

• Provide through different games the participation of the children's masses in recreational

activities as an expression of their needs at this age.

Contribute through games and sports to the incorporation of socially acceptable habits; such as

respect for established rules, discipline, self-control and collectivism, a sense of responsibility

and incorporation into the environmental dimension.

• Provide dynamic elements in children's free time capable of contributing to physical, social and

intellectual development.

Give participation opportunity to contribute to socio-political and ideological development.

(Munne, 2019)

The most important characteristic of street plans as leisure activities, from the point of view of the

formation of social features, is that they exercise a formative action and facilitated by recreation. In

this sense, Domínguez (2018) states that, contrary to teaching, leisure activities do not transmit

knowledge in an expository and authoritative way, but rather shape opinions, influence the criteria

that people have regarding society, their problems and their solutions, as well as emotionally and

recreationally transmitted information with a much more diverse content than the transmitted at the

same time by the education system.

So far, it has not been possible to find sources of references specifically on games that treat the

environmental dimension, a current situation not covered in specialized brochures or books, so it is

assumed that in practice the environmental dimension is not included in this type of activities,

meanwhile, it is considered necessary to establish the objective: to design games that introduce the

environmental dimension in street plans with children from zone 25 of the popular council II of

Camajuaní.

The importance of the work lies in a proposal to bring environmental education to the neighborhood

through recreational activities and not leave it to spontaneity, specifically street plans, since it has the

appropriate personnel. It has the conditions to bring together and contribute to create a network of

multipliers in the transformation of the community, promoting participation and concrete

relationships based on their own efforts and developing a will for change.

Materials and methods

Population and sample

To carry out this study, a population of 123 children and was used as a sample 40 of them, from

zone 25 of the popular council II of the municipality of Camajuaní, as well as other population of

the 16 teachers of physical recreation in the municipality, taking into account that they rotate through

the different areas of this popular council.

The type of sampling used is intentional, selecting as a unit of analysis all children between the ages

of 6 to 9 years, all schoolchildren, and 22 of them female and 18 male, representing 32, 52% in

relation to the population.

Research methods and / or techniques

The following methods were applied

Documentary review: in the diagnostic phase, it was carried out to obtain the existing orientations in

the documents that govern recreational activities in the community, the Physical Recreation Program

and Methodological Guidelines for street plans were reviewed, these documents govern the work of

teachers of physical recreation in terms of planning activities and guidelines for their development.

Environmental law 81 was also reviewed, specifically chapter VII article 47, this law guides the

inclusion of environmental activities in all organizations and social groups.

Survey: with the aim of knowing the level of knowledge of the 40 children between 6 and 10 years

of age in zone 25 of the popular council II of Camajuaní have on the environmental problems of their

environment.

Standardized interview: In order to know if they introduce the environmental dimension in their

work and their mastery of the theme, it is applied to the 16 recreation teachers who work in the areas

of the popular council II of Camajuaní.

For data processing, percentage analysis is applied. It was taken into account when carrying out the

quantitative evaluation of the results obtained through the different instruments applied.

The criteria of specialist: was used to obtain an assessment of the proposed games with an

environmental approach.

The study starts from a diagnostic phase in order to determine the lacks and needs in terms of

environmental knowledge of children and teachers of physical recreation who work in the area, as

well as the development of recreational activities that could improve the level of environmental

knowledge in the children of this community.

**Results and Discussion** 

Result of the documentary analysis

When analyzing the contents proposed by the Physical Recreation program, it was found that it

addresses the environmental theme in a general way, largely linking human development and

physical recreation as a way to influence the formation of personality and culture of children and adults.

This program specifically guides how to link the environmental dimension to street plans, in such a way that they can also accomplish with the integral formation of man.

## Results of the interview to the teachers of physical recreation

Interviews with the 16 physical recreation teachers who work on street plans in the municipality resulted in:

- 16 of them know the concept of environment, for 100%.
- 11 are unaware of any environmental problem affecting the community, for 75%.
- 14 do not know how to address environmental issues in their work, for 87.5%.
- 16 are not able to put into practice street plans the knowledge about environmental cares, for 100%.

It can be affirmed that teachers of physical recreation dominate the concept of the environment, despite not being aware of environmental problems that affect the area where they work, which is a limitation when it comes to including the environmental dimension in their recreational activities. Furthermore, they recognize their impossibility to put into practice and link environmental knowledge in street plans and in other recreational activities.

## **Results of the survey**

The 40 children were survived; the results obtained were the following:

- 29 do not know the concept of environment, for 72.5%.
- 30 consider the bat as a harmful animal for man, for 75%.
- 32 do not know how to protect the river from the neighborhood, for 80%.
- 40 do not know any endemic animal in the municipality, for 100%.

When analyzing the results of the survey, it can be concluded that children between 6 and 9 years old

who live in zone 25 of the popular council II of Camajuaní, for the most part do not master the

concept of the environment, do not correctly identify the endemic species on their locality and also

do not manifest themselves in terms of how to care for the Camajuaní river from their neighborhood,

despite living on the banks of a stream that flows into it.

The data obtained in the diagnosis corroborates the need to introduce the environmental dimension in

street plans as an alternative to influence the comprehensive education of children in this area, as

well as their environmental education.

**Proposed games** 

Game 1. Name: Recover and recycle.

Objectives: contribute to the sanitation of the environment by performing a fast race.

Material: everything that can be recovered as raw material.

Organization: 4 teams are formed placed behind a starting line, in front of each team and at 2m

recoverable objects are placed. At the end a box with the word recycle is placed, divided into three

sections: metal, plastic, and, paper and cardboard, and hanging several cards on it.

Development: at the start order, the first child runs, takes an object and continues to deposit it in the

box, takes a card and returns to give the exit.

Rules: the team that finishes first wins, the student in turn should not leave until his hand is touched,

disclose what was obtained after recycling and that appears on the cards.

Game 2. Name: Play and save.

Objectives: raise awareness for electricity savings and work on the ability to jump on one foot

quickly.

Material: Banners made of wood and cardboard.

Organization: 4 teams are formed behind an exit line, at 5m there are banners that represent

household appliances and on the reverse side the word click.

Development: at the start order, the first child jumps out on one foot, reaches the banner, turns it so

that the word click is visible and returns to exit.

Rules: the team that finishes first wins. In the going way they have to jump on one foot. Do not leave

until they are touched. Turn off an electronic equipment at the end. Variant: do it by alternating feet

or walk the path inside a bag.

Game 3. Name: Play and protect.

Objectives: contribute to the care and conservation of the territory fauna and carry out a zigzag race.

Material: banners made of wood and cardboard.

Organization: 4 teams are formed behind an exit line, at 2m a banner representing a cage is placed,

behind a meter, another with a box and so on any object that represents danger to birds.

Development: at the start order the first child goes out and turns the first banner, continues in a

zigzag to the end and returns to give the start.

Rules: the team that finishes first wins. Rotate a banner. Zigzag run. Not leave until he is touched.

Variant: can be executed in quadruped, jumping or wheelbarrow.

Game 4. Name: Bat friend.

Objectives: contribute to the knowledge of the protected species in the territory and carry out a race

overcoming obstacles.

Material: fences or cardboard.

Organization: 4 teams are formed placed behind a starting line, at 3m a fence is placed with a sign

that says mosquitoes, then another 4 to 2m of distance are placed each, with the following words:

whitefly, guasasas and at 3m the last fence that will say fertilizer.

Development: at the start order, the first child runs and jumps the first five fences, turns the last one

and returns to start.

Rules: win the team that finishes first, jump the fences, turn the last one.

Game 5. Name: Protect the river.

Objectives: carry out the sanitation of the environment in the territory and beauty it, carry out a race

in pairs.

Material: trees made of cardboard with a base of beer or soda cans, cans with posters, ropes or strips.

Organization: 4 teams are formed placed behind a starting line, at 8m a 1m wide river is made, its

banks will be two ropes or strips. Inside the river put up signs that say: shells, papers, cardboard,

plastics, metals, rubbers, bottles, knobs, rubbish. Each pair will be given a tree before the game

begins.

Development: at the start order, the first couple runs towards the river, takes out a sign and places the

tree they carry on the shore. Then they return to give the exit.

Rules: win the team that finishes first. Extract a single poster from the river.

Game 6. Name: To clean the world.

Objectives: to know the elements that cause environmental pollution. Carry out a fast race.

Material: soda cans, beer, cardboard and pieces of wood.

Organization: 4 teams are formed placed behind a starting line. In front of each team a lane is drawn

that simulates a street 40 to 50cm wide. At the end there are posters that say: papers, noise, smoke,

shells, cardboard, food, fruit.

Development: at the start order, the first child runs to the end of the street, removes one of the signs

and returns to give the start.

Rule: the team that finishes first wins. Do not get off the street. Do not leave until you are touched.

Variant: it can be done by jumping with both feet, in a wheelbarrow, quadruped and crawling

Game 7. Name: Help the Rat jutia.

Objectives: to protect flora and fauna, to carry out movements in quadrupedics.

Material: banners made of wood and cardboard.

Organization: 4 teams are formed, in front banners are placed with 2m of separation that say hunters, felling, men, dogs, cats, pines, oil, cars.

Development: at the start order, the first child moves in a quadruped and turns the first banner, continues among the others until reaching the last one and runs back to give the start.

Rules: the team that finishes first wins. Go quadruped. Rotate a banner. Variant: can be performed in zigzag races.

Game 8. Name: Protect the manatee.

Objectives: to know the elements that affect flora and fauna, to carry out a fast race.

Material: banners made of wood and cardboard.

Organization: 4 teams are formed, at 8m words are placed on banners that represent danger such as fishing, oil, logging, boats, hunting, nets, polluting.

Development: at the start order, the first child runs to the finish line, turns a banner and returns.

Rules: The team that finishes first wins. Turn a banner.

Variant: it can be done by jumping with one or both feet.

Game 9. Name: The cave of knowledge.

Objectives: protect the natural underground environment such as caves or caverns. Carry out a fast race.

Material: 30cm x10cm cardboard signs, fences.

Organization: 4 teams are formed behind an exit, at 8m the entrance of a cave is placed with a sign

that identifies it. After the entrance place posters on the floor.

Development: at the exit order, the child runs to the entrance of the cave, enters the quadruped, takes

a sign that contains names or images of animals that live in the caves, and returns in a straight line to

deliver the selected sign.

Rules: the team that finishes first wins. Enter and exit in quadruped. Take a poster. Read the words at

the end.

Game 10. Name: Protect the monument.

Objectives: to keep the school, the community and the city beautiful. Take a quick run

Material: cardboard and banners.

Organization: 4 teams are formed placed behind a starting line, cards with positive actions are placed

2m away to paint, clean, veneer, restore, flowers. At the end put the word monument on a banner.

Development: at the order of departure the child runs, takes a card and goes to deposit it at the

monument. Then come back.

Rules: the team that finishes first wins. Take a card and deposit it at the monument.

Game 11. Name: Gluttonous Frogs.

Objective: know the environmental work of the frog. Ability to jump with two feet

Material: cardboards with names of insects or figures that represent it.

Organization: 4 teams are formed placed behind a starting line, after it and throughout the game area

the cards are watered.

Development: at the start order, the first child jumps out with two feet to capture an insect and brings

it to his team. He slaps his partner on duty.

Rules: the team that finishes first wins. Do not leave until you are touched. Variant: perform it by

time. The team that captures the most insects in a given time wins.

Game 12. Name: Ecological spiders.

Objectives: to know the benefits that the spider brings to man. Run the fast race

Material: cardboard or card, figures representing insects. Volleyball net or something that simulates a

net similar to those that spiders weave.

Organization: 4 teams are formed placed behind a starting line. After it and spread throughout the

area, the cardboards are placed. At 8m from the starting line place the net.

Development: at the start order, the first child runs to capture an insect, takes it to the spider's web

and leaves it trapped. Then he returns to give the exit to his partner.

Rules: the team that finishes first wins. You cannot leave until you are touched.

Variant: it can be done in quadruped to imitate the displacement of the spider

Through the games the children exercise: fast race, race in pairs, race overcoming obstacles, jump

with one and both feet, quadruped, agility between obstacles.

Assessment of the proposal by specialist criteria

The proposal was submitted to the criteria of ten specialists to know their opinions and how they

value it, using a rating scale.

The selected specialists have more than 20 years of experience, all have been Physical Education

teachers (2 remain). All have participated in scientific events, science and technique forum and

pedagogy events. This method was used in writing and individually to a sample of 10 individuals,

including: 2 master's (one of them is an industrial engineer and the municipal delegate of CITMA)

and 8 graduates, 7 of them in management roles in the Municipal Sector of Sports and 2 recreation

teachers. All graduates of the Master in Physical Activity in the Community.

The high percentage of coincidence of opinions regarding the evaluation of the proposal was

significant, which points out in favor of it and the application of the games to raise environmental

awareness in the activities of the street plan.

When the specialists were consulted, generalized criteria were poured in favor of the proposed

games, highlighting aspects such as:

• They provide a new way to introduce environmental themes in recreational activities.

• They rescue feelings of identity in children.

• Contribute to raising the level of knowledge of children on the subject of the environment.

• Through these games it is possible to form environmental awareness in children.

Of the 10 specialists that make up the sample, 9 fully agreed with the feasibility of the proposal to

solve the problem exposed, which represents 90%, and one agreed only partially, for 10%. The sum

of the results of these ITEMS reflects that 100% expressed positive attitudes about the theoretical

feasibility of the proposal.

**Conclusiones** 

The results of the diagnosis show that there is insufficiency in the treatment of the environmental

dimension through the games that are carried out in the street plans of zone 25 of the popular council

II of Camajuaní, with children between 6 and 9 years of age.

The elaboration of games that are conceived with the treatment of the environmental dimension in

the street plans, contribute to recreation and to acquire knowledge about the environment in children

of these ages.

The results obtained from the application of the criteria of specialist, affirm that the games designed

to introduce the environmental dimension in the recreational activities of the street plans, constitute a

new way to achieve this objective.

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