

The role of schools in the protection and promotion of children's rights in Brazil

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Box 1: Living and learning conditions of children in the state of Rio de Janeiro (UNICEF, 2004)

Sanitation: Poor children (0-17 years) are almost ten times less likely than their more privileged peers to live in homes with adequate sanitation or any kind of electricity. Of this population, less than 5% identify themselves as white.

Child work: A rural adolescent in the age group 10-15 years old is almost three times more likely than an urban adolescents be performing some kind of work. Across all age groups, children of color are more likely to be involved in some kind of economic activity than white children.

Income and education: A child from a low income family in the age group 4-6 years is almost nine times less likely than a child from high income family to be in school.

Gender and education: In the age group 7-14 years, boys are twice as likely to be illiterate than girls.

Children with special learning needs: Adolescents with special education needs in the age group 12-17 years old are almost ten times more likely than able children to be illiterate.

Figure 1: Children (%) in the city of Rio de Janeiro, by age group (UNESCO, 2004)

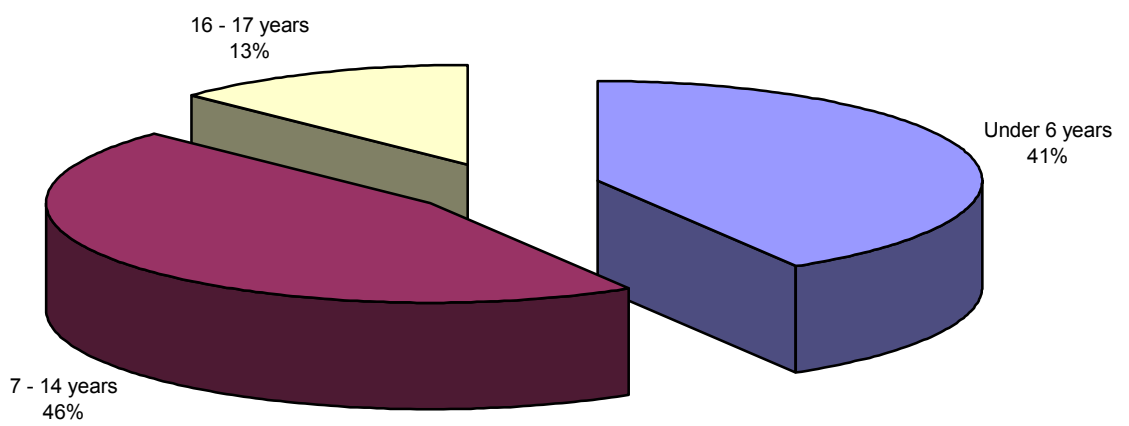


Table 1: Out of school children (%) in the city of Rio de Janeiro (UNICEF, 2004)

	Not in school		
	4 -6 years	7-14 years	12 -17 years
By family income (in quintiles)			
20% richest	3.17	1.21	2.84
20% poorest	34.34	5.16	14.59
By race			
White	26.26	4.42	16.17
Black and colored (preta e parda)	24.69	1.15	24.88
By gender			
Males	23.32	3.22	8.79
Females	23.24	3.23	10.18

Box 2: Rights mean

It means the right to have lunch and dinner. (Seven-year-old girl. Public School.)

Children have the right to work. I work with my dad at the market. (Eight-year-old boy. Public School.)

It means the right to play and to eat well. (Group of street children and youth)

It means to have your own house. (Adolescents from the Landless Movement.)

It means not to be treated with prejudice. (Mixed group of adolescents from 14 to 15 years of age. Public School.)

It means the right to learn, to get on a bus and go to school. (14-year-old girl. Public School.)

It means the right to go to the bathroom. Some schools do not have a bathroom, because the people at school don't have anybody to clean it and so it stays closed. (Mixed group of adolescents, from 14 to 15 years of age. Public School.)

It means the right to sleep. (Group of street children and youth).

