

Consolidation of practices to promote mobility capabilities from childhood onwards: focus on public kindergartens and the autonomy of the child

Summary

The work seeks to consolidate practices that promote habits regarding the mobility and the occupation of public space of both children and parents in a permanent way, with focus on childhood and public kindergartens. Mainly inspired by initiatives from the advocacy and the public sector related to school transportation and independent mobility of children, the assessment of selected practices through qualitative and quantitative methods is pursued to search for their validation as public policies. To do this, the combination of the quantitative tools provided in a PhD in Transportation Systems with the qualitative approaches by organizations in Lisbon (Portugal) and São Paulo (Brazil) is therefore pursued.

In the search for evaluating the impact and validation of the implemented practices, two main research questions have been formulated: (i) How is the capability to structurally change and adapt to different mobility habits influenced by competences that arise during youth and childhood? (ii) Do specific stimuli in youth and childhood affect mobility habits of children and households/parents? This summary incorporates therefore the initial phase of a PhD thesis searching to consolidate practices that promote active mobility habits in a permanent way, with focus on schools. Based mainly on previous experience in NGOs and social movements, the proposed research seeks contributions mostly from the emerging studies on the relation of mobility with childhood studies, as well as from the implications of transport with irrational behavior and environmental psychology.

The search for the integrated development of psychology and education with transportation studies is believed to contribute not only to empower practices from advocacy and the public sector, but also to endow academic research with realistic scenarios outside the university.

Keywords

Active transportation, travel behavior, habit change, transport modelling, Geographic Information System (GIS), walkability, children, school transportation, social justice.



Example of transport policy measure in Kindergartens to promote mobility capabilities towards walking: project 'Little Street Explorers' in São Paulo (Brazil).



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Period

2016-2021

Funding

FCT scholarship (PD/BD/128057/2016)