Perception and Understanding: a Survey on Human Rights in Rio de Janeiro

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Abstract

The paper presents results of a survey on the perceptions of Rio de Janeiro population regarding Human Rights. The survey covered multiple dimensions of human rights present in the Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988, namely, content of Human Rights in everyday situations, perception about institutions and if they protect or violate such rights. Some of the findings show that population are more favourable to quota in the university for disable people than to black one and have strong opinion against the use of ladies bathroom by cross-dresser. In addition, a quarter of the respondents identified the police as one of the main institutions that most violate human rights and the Church as the one that seems more reliable about respect and protection of human rights. On public security respondents revealed disagreement with State actions, considering that some of them violates human dignity. Respondents also stated that public investment should give priority to two major social rights - public health and education. When respondents were asked to rate selected institutions, considering protection of Human Rights, the polices, both Police Department and State Police, were the institutions to be given more score under five while Prosecutor’s Office, Office of Public Defenders and Judicial Power were the ones to receive more score above such one.