

Área: EDU

From Scientific Knowledge to the Income Generation: Handmade Candle Workshop for Women Victims of Domestic Violence

Ana K. F. Fritsch (PG),^{1*} Alessandra G. Costa (PQ),¹ Daniele Acosta (PQ),² Vania R. Lima (PQ).¹

anakfritsch@gmail.com;

¹ Escola de química e alimentos, EQA, ² Escola de Enfermagem, EE, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, FURG.

Palavras Chave: *workshop, violence, women, lace, candles*

Highlights

This work reports an workshop experience related to the production of artisanal candles which provided an alternative source of income for women victims of violence, via chemical education.

Resumo/Abstract

Violence against women is a persistent human rights violation, which is exacerbated by victims' economic dependence. In this context, actions that promote financial autonomy and access to scientific knowledge are fundamental to address and combat this social problem. The actions of the "Gurias na Ciência" project, related to the Post-graduation Program of Technological and Environmental Chemistry (PPGQTA/ FURG) include to promote chemical education and income generation for women victims of violence. A strategy used to reach these objectives was the workshop "Chemistry and Creativity in the Production of Artisanal Candles", which attended approximately 40 women related to the Fenix Project, which is exclusive for victims of violence. The activity was performed in two steps: 1.a presentation with chemistry, safety, and entrepreneur approaches; and 2. The handmade production of candles using different materials and techniques. This process facilitated scientific literacy in a non-formal setting, encouraged the creativity, and promoted discussions about sustainability and product commercialization.



The workshop provided a space for learning, acceptance, and empowerment, and science was experienced in a concrete and meaningful way. In addition to the income-generating potential, the women self-esteem and sense of belonging were strengthened. Based on the initiative's success, new workshops are being planned, reaffirming the potential of chemistry and scientific dissemination as a tool for social inclusion and reduction of the violence against women.

Agradecimentos/Acknowledgments

Fenix and Gurias na Ciência projects. PPGQTA/FURG; Escola de Enfermagem. CAPES.