

## **The working conditions of black slaves in colonial and imperial Brazil: a systematic review of descriptive studies**

Gairo Oliveira Garreto<sup>a</sup>; J. Santos Baptista<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Doctoral Program in Occupational Safety and Health, University of Porto, Portugal (gairo@ifma.edu.br);

<sup>b</sup> Professor of Doctoral Program in Occupational Safety and Health, University of Porto, Portugal (jsbap@fe.up.pt)

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In the period of slavery the Brazil was an agricultural country (Brazil was a agricultural country in the period of slavery). The captive population, being the main labor force, worked in the fields of crops of agricultural export-oriented genres, such as coffee, sugar cane and cotton (Albuquerque 2006).

During this period the captive workers were labor, but at the same time a good assets (patrimonial property) on which its owner had full rights of use. Do this use of "right" as agricultural workforce was in that labor conditions? Although there are several studies on the slave labor, they do not seek to answer this question about Occupational Safety. This study sought to raise the following general terms of employment: employment ages; daily and weekly workload; detailed description of routine activities.

### **METHOD**

This systematic review was based on the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyzes (PRISMA) guideline. Selected descriptive studies involving the rural working conditions of slaves in colonial and imperial Brazil.

The databases searched were: Science Direct, Scopus, Web of Science, Criminal Justice, Ebsco Business Source Complete with timeframe between 2014 and 2017 (until) March. Without language restrictions. The strategy used in the databases was: (slavery) AND (work). The search included published articles between 2014 and 2017, with a theme referring to Brazil. The references of the articles were investigated in search of cross references.

### **RESULTS**

The searches in six databases provided initially 36,355 abstracts, which 9 were selected for reading the full articles after the application of the exclusion criteria. In addition to these, 18 were selected works obtained by cross-references. After the complete studies these works, 15 were included in the systematic review. The ages at the beginning of slave labor activities were very early, varying from 5 to 6 years of age for activities aimed at child slave labor and between 10 and 12 years for work reserved for adults (Albuquerque, 2006; Civiletti, 1991; Rdrigues, 2015).

The labour daily journeys described in studies (Albuquerque, 2006; Ahmed, 2015; the Ensign and Werneck, 1878; Gayoso, 1818; Pinsky, 1988; Rodrigues, 2009; Taunay, 1839) vary between 14 and 18 hours. These variations are dependent on the labor demand of the day or time of year generally the highest journeys were due to a greater use of the slave labor in the periods of harvest and planting. This day was repeated 6 days a week in a similar way, without work on Sundays.

The data collected in the authors (Albuquerque, 2006; Ahmed, 2015; Civiletti, 1991; de Carvalho Cabral, 2015; the Ensign and Werneck, 1878; Debret, 1834; Magalhães, 1858; Pleasures, 1891; Taunay, 1839; Vasu Jain and Malhotra, 2015; wood, 2014) indicate that a considerable portion of the activities developed during the journey were similar, regardless of the region of Brazil which was located geographically and the type of plantation. Daylight activities were usually carried out in plantations. During the night activities of maintenance of the facilities of the farm were carried out.

## DISCUSSION

This review gathered information on the general labor conditions of Brazilian enslaved workers in articles and cross references. A considerable portion of the data was found in rare books dating back to the period of legalized slavery in Brazil.

As strengths is the wide search in the databases and cross references, the general perception of labor conditions in the period of slavery and in the stratification performed in order to allow comparisons by current parameters of OHS.

The labor conditions analyzed were similar in daily and weekly work, at the ages of beginning of slave activities of the children and adolescents, and in various work activities of the farms.

These similarities occurred throughout Brazil, despite of continental dimensions of the country and the differences in agricultural crops adopted there.

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