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Racial quota fraud policy – 04/22/2022 – Sou Ciência

The racial quota policy for access to Brazilian public universities has been an essential tool for the social inclusion of the black population, who constitute the majority in the country, as we have already demonstrated here.

However, since the enactment of the law (2012), it has become possible to follow the news of frequent fraud in the systems. Candidates with a white phenotype declare themselves black, brown or indigenous, inappropriately using the right to places designated for admission to public higher education institutions.

To limit this behavior and check the racial status of candidates, most federal universities have established heterogeneous identification committees or boards, with the function of checking whether the self-declaration of candidates' colour, race, and ethnicity in the admissions process actually matches their physical characteristics.

From the beginning , quota law It only required self-certification from candidates, which often allowed for no oversight or approval from institutions in the face of obvious cases of fraud.

Over time, public institutions were pressured to create ethnic identification boards prior to registration processes, both to ensure the rights of policy beneficiaries and to provide legal certainty in filling vacancies.

These committees also investigated complaints about those who managed to circumvent the admissions process, before newsstands, and improperly filled places reserved on undergraduate and graduate courses – usually at the most competitive universities.

The existence of this last university body stems mainly from the struggle of black students and their demands for inspection and control over the usufruct of the right to quotas, a role that has caused them to move beyond the position of "the subject of politics", to occupy the position. From the authors of academic policies and institutional participation.

Progress celebrated by the whole of society, observing the principles of critical and reflective education, aimed at the exercise of full citizenship and social participation.

In the case of universities, the formation and management of the work of heterogeneous identification boards was carried out with the active cooperation of black professors and administrative technicians.

The most obvious impact of this work was the high rate of absenteeism of black, brown, and indigenous candidates in the heterogeneous identification procedure. This fact indicates the effectiveness of this case in reducing fraud, particularly in grassroots training courses, ensuring that public policy effectively reaches its recipients.

Heterogeneous identification mechanisms play a pedagogical role within institutions, as the invasions of these cases are punctuated by heated debates between advocates and opponents of these measures, as well as throughout society, as they ensure the purpose of the legal and constitutional base.

It is also necessary to remember that post-acceptance fraud reports, when verified and substantiated, do not have a retroactive effect allowing black and Indigenous populations to return to vacancies. In some cases, these proofs do not occur until after completion of the course, which means that the certificate of the student who defrauded the admission system is revoked. A huge individual loss and for the entire Brazilian community.

May we enjoy more of this teaching of the Law of Quotas, to ensure its continuity!

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