REDUCED INEQUALITIES: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 10 IN THE CONTEXT OF THE STATE OF TOCANTINS

REDUÇÃO DAS DESIGUALDADES: OBJETIVO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO SUSTENTÁVEL 10 NO CONTEXTO DO ESTADO DO TOCANTINS

REDUCIR LAS DESIGUALDADES: OBJETIVO DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE 10 EN EL CONTEXTO DEL ESTADO DE TOCANTINS

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ABSTRACT: Inequality has been an issue for most societies for a long time, also It can be said that it is not a natural process, and, therefore, it must be dealt with. One of the reasons considers the humanitarian perspective, however, some authors also state its significant negative impact on economy. Further on, its importance can be highlighted by the fact that the United Nations itself included Reduced Inequality (Goal 10) as one of the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). The State of Tocantins is located in the northern region of Brazil, as such, it is part of the less developed region of the country. In this context, this work, following the scope of SDG 10, aims to analyze data from the state of Tocantins related to inequality to better comprehend its development considering social and economic aspects and further on to discuss its possible path towards the indicators expected for 2030.

KEYWORDS: Tocantins; Inequality; Sustainable Development Goals.

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RESUMO: A desigualdade é um problema para a maioria das sociedades há muito tempo, também pode-se dizer que não é um processo natural e, portanto, deve ser enfrentado. Uma das razões considera a perspectiva humanitária, no entanto, alguns autores também afirmam o seu significativo impacto negativo na economia. Mais adiante, sua importância pode ser destacada pelo fato de as próprias Nações Unidas terem incluído a Redução da Desigualdade (Objetivo 10) como um dos Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS). O Estado do Tocantins está localizado na região Norte do Brasil, portanto, faz parte da região menos desenvolvida do país. Neste contexto, este trabalho, seguindo o escopo do ODS 10, tem como objetivo analisar dados do estado do Tocantins relacionados à desigualdade para melhor compreender o seu desenvolvimento considerando aspectos sociais e econômicos e posteriormente discutir seu possível caminho rumo aos indicadores esperados. para 2030.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Tocantins; Desigualdade; Objetivos de desenvolvimento sustentável.

RESUMEN: La desigualdad ha sido un problema para la mayoría de las sociedades durante mucho tiempo, también se puede decir que no es un proceso natural y por lo tanto debe abordarse. Una de las razones es la perspectiva humanitaria, aunque algunos autores también afirman su importante impacto negativo en la economía. Además, su importancia puede resaltarse por el hecho de que las propias Naciones Unidas han incluido la Reducción de la Desigualdad (Objetivo 10) como uno de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). El Estado de Tocantins está ubicado en el Norte de Brasil, por lo tanto, forma parte de la región menos desarrollada del país. En este contexto, este trabajo, siguiendo el alcance del ODS 10, tiene como objetivo analizar datos del estado de Tocantins relacionados con la desigualdad para comprender mejor su desarrollo considerando aspectos sociales y económicos y posteriormente discutir su posible camino hacia los indicadores esperados para 2030.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Tocantins; Desigualdad; Metas de desarrollo sostenible.

INTRODUCTION

1.1. State of Tocantins – a brief background introduction

Tocantins comprehends an area of 277.620,914 km² and is located on the north region of Brazil and is also inserted in the Legal Amazon region. There are 139 cities spread throughout eight geographic microregions. The estimated population for 2020 is of 1.590.248 people and its HDI is 0,699, last measured in 2010. (IBGE, 2021)

The state of Tocantins was officially created on October 5, 1988, following many years of political struggle. However, its implementation took place on January 1, 1989. There has been conflict between the north and south of Goiás, state of which Tocantins was originally part of, since the 18th century. In 1725 when the *Bandeirantes* arrived at Rio Vermelho they name the first discovered mines "Minas de Goyazes" and in the *Alto Tocantins* region the mines found there were name "Minas do Tocantins". (OLIVEIRA, 2018; RODRIGUES, 2012)

Rodrigues(2012) highlight the importance of not only demonstrating the economical viability for the creation of the new state but also its subjective creation and justification. A territory is needed, however, it is also pivotal do find a social and cultural identity that links people to the land, and thus that would differantiate Tocantins' people from *goianos*. Following this perspective, the regional litterature in Tocantins produces a jusitical identityy for the northern Goias while the south would be poirtrated as belonging to a *bandeirante* identity.(RODRIGUES, 2012; OLIVEIRA, 2018)

1.2. The United Nations and The Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations (UN), created officially in 1945, made up of 193 Member States, is an international organization which aims to aid on humanity issues such as peace and security climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governances, food production and others. (UNITED NATIONS, 2021)

In 2015, the UN launched an Agenda for Sustainable Development , that should be accomplished by 2030, containing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are: End of Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere; End Hunger, Achieve food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture; Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for All at All Ages; Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Educations and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All; Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls; Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All; Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All; Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work For All; Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster innovation; Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries; Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable; Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patters; Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts; Conserve and Sustainably Use The Oceans, Sea and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development; Protect,

Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, And Halt and Reserve Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss; Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels; Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. (UNITED NATIONS, 2020)

This paper analyzes the situation of SDG 10 - Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries in context of the State of Tocantins in Brazil. SDG 10, in order to achieve its goals establishes targets which are: Reduce income inequalities; Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion; Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination; Adopt fiscal and social policies that promotes equality; Improved regulation of global financial markets and institutions; Enhanced representation for developing countries in financial institutions; Responsible and well-managed migration policies; Special and differential treatment for developing countries; Encourage development assistance and investment in least developed countries; and Reduce transaction costs for migrant remittances. (PNUD, 2020)

From these targets, considering the specific goals defined for Brazil, this paper focuses on two: Goal 10.1, which is to progressively reaching and sustaining an income growth of the 40% poorest to an index higher than the national average and Goal 10.2, which seeks to empower and promote social, economic and political inclusion to all, regardless of age, gender, special needs, race, ethnic, origin, religion, economic condition or other. (PNUD, 2020)

GOAL

- This work aims to briefly analyze inequality in the scope of UN's SDG 10(Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries) in the context of the state of Tocantins.

2. Theoretical framework

Inequality is an issue that has been with humanity for a long time, however, it is important to notice that it is not a natural aspect of society, but rather a social construction. Inequality, according to Scalon(2011) is a result of political choices made throughout each society's history, being a characteristic present in all of them and in many forms. (SCALON, 2011)

Moreover, inequality has a multidimensional nature, there are different aspects related to it that should be considered such as inequality of: Race; Gender; socioeconomic; prestige; power; income and others. The most used measure for inequality is the Gini index, which considers wealth, consumption and income in a given country or group. Further on, there are cultural and material dimensions related to it. Further on, Scalon(2011) states that inequality is the most expressive mark of Brazilian society. (LAKNER, 2022; RIDGEWAY, 2013; SCALON, 2011)

Therborn (2010), Ridgeway (2014) and Arretche (2018) and try to separate inequality into different forms or bases. The first author points out three requirements to define inequality. First is important to notice that inequality is

always a vertical difference, there is a ranking involved. Second, it has nothing to do with a matter of likes and dislikes or categorization, but rather a moral violation of equality among humans. Finally, for a difference to be considered inequality it must be extinguishable. Further on the author defines inequalities as "hierarchical differences that are avoidable and morally unjustifiable". (THERBORN, 2010)

Moreover, Therborn continues listing the different types of inequality, vital inequality, related to death and health, existential inequality, concerning liberty of action, and material inequality, related to access to resources. Additionally, the author also defines forms of producing inequality. First there is the distancing, second the exclusion, third the hierarchy and finally exploitation.

Ridgeway (2014) starts by citing Max Weber's bases for inequality which are: resources, power and status. However, the author states that status should incorporate status more alongside resources and power inequality. Status, according to the Ridgeway, is based on cultural beliefs and motivates people to pursue money and power, therefore, status would be responsible for consolidating durable inequality as it creates categorial differences such as race, gender or lifestyle. (RIDGEWAY, 2013)

Later, Arretche (2018), differentiate inequalities, preliminary, into monetary, which is related to income, and nonmonetary, referring to aspects that goes beyond money which are access to services, life conditions and capacities. According to her, even with the same income, individuals have different necessities and therefore will have distinct lives. (ARRETCHE, 2018)

Further on, Milanovic (2011), also separates inequality into three concepts, thought they refer to world inequality rather than inequality itself. These concepts are used to compare countries inequality among themselves. Concept 1 refers to unweighted inequality, taking into consideration income per capita regardless its population. Concept 2 is weighted population, it is still used income per capita but there is a weight applied to each country according to population size. And finally, Concept 3, inequality is calculated considering all individuals in the world regardless of their country of origin. Also considering a global perspective, Therborn (2010) affirms that global inequality can be said to be mainly class and ethnic inter-state inequality. (MILANOVIC, 2005; THERBORN, 2010)

Moreover, high levels of inequality can be damaging in different aspects of society. Tanjitpiyanond et al (2022) points to different possibilities of negative societal outcomes such as lower trust, and further perhaps a deepening in social class divisions. Casara et al(2022) states that economic inequality can be a treat not only considering well-being and health but also affects social and political vitality leading eventually from lower civil participation in political life to supporting authoritarianism (CASARA et al, 2022; TANJITPIYANOND, 2022).

Furthermore, Leicht's (2022) arguments also points in a similar direction as the author points that as inequality gets higher its perception decreases, also leading to stronger in-group identification, which is associated to authoritarianism, leading to the segregation of marginalized groups(LEICHT, 2022).

DATA AND DISCUSSION

Brazil is one of the most inequal country in the world, it occupies the 10th place among 143 countries (considering the Gini coefficient). Scalon (2011) states that, considering that in Brazil there is a perseverance of historical inequalities, and also that its income inequality is extremely high, it can be considered that inequality is also seen as political problem. Thus, there must be a specific attention to social inequalities in this context for they are responsible for limiting Brazilian democracy. (SCALON, 2011; PNUD, 2017)

Moreover, Arretche (2018) also states that democracy in Brazil could not reduce factors that produce economic inequality such as access to opportunities, education, racial, color, and gender inequality, among others. However, the author affirms that there were inclusion policies that were able to reduce economic inequalities by means of monetary transference to minimum wage and also the expansion of the rights to Social Security and health. (ARRETCHE, 2018)

Further on, inequality can be damaging to democracy, as, mentioned above, however there are further problems it may cause. Ostry (2014) first mentions that it can affect a country's growth, as it halts health and education progress, also demanding for more redistribution. According to the author inequality would impede growth in a medium-term perspective, additionally, it would be a mistake to let inequality take care of itself as it would result in an unsustainable growth. (OSTRY, BERG and TSANGARIDES, 2014)

Scalon (2011), considers investments in education pivotal for reducing inequalities, however alone it is not enough. Thus, it is important that more than one measure is taken simultaneously, one of them would be the formulation of new development models and another would be the definition and implementation of policies which enable a more equal distribution of material and social resources in order to widen opportunities for a greater number of people. (SCALON, 2011)

The state of Tocantins has one of the worst national realities when considering socioeconomical indicators, it is a poor state in which poverty has been persistent. Considering data from IBGE in 2010, the national percentage of people living in extreme poverty was in 2010 of 8.5% while in Tocantins this number was in the same year of 11.8%. Also, still in 2020, the percentage of people living with one minimum salary was of 72.5%. (OLIVEIRA and STRASSBURG , 2014)

However, some of inequality related index have been decreasing in Tocantins through the past decade (2000 to 2010). Considering the HDI, in 1991 the state occupied the 25th position, having reached the 14th place in 2010. The Gini coefficient in 1991 showed a result of 0.63 and in 2020 it reached 0.60, this shows a significant drop. Considering the income, in Tocantins the per capita home income was in 2000 of R$307.00 and in 2010 it reached R$571.00, it represented a growth of 86% in the given period. (OLIVEIRA and STRASSBURG, 2015)

Moreover, even though some of these indices have dropped, inequality is still an important issue for Brazilian society, especially when comparing different categories within a given population, Chart 01 and also Picture 01 shows the differences between White and Black people in 2000, 2010 and also 2017.
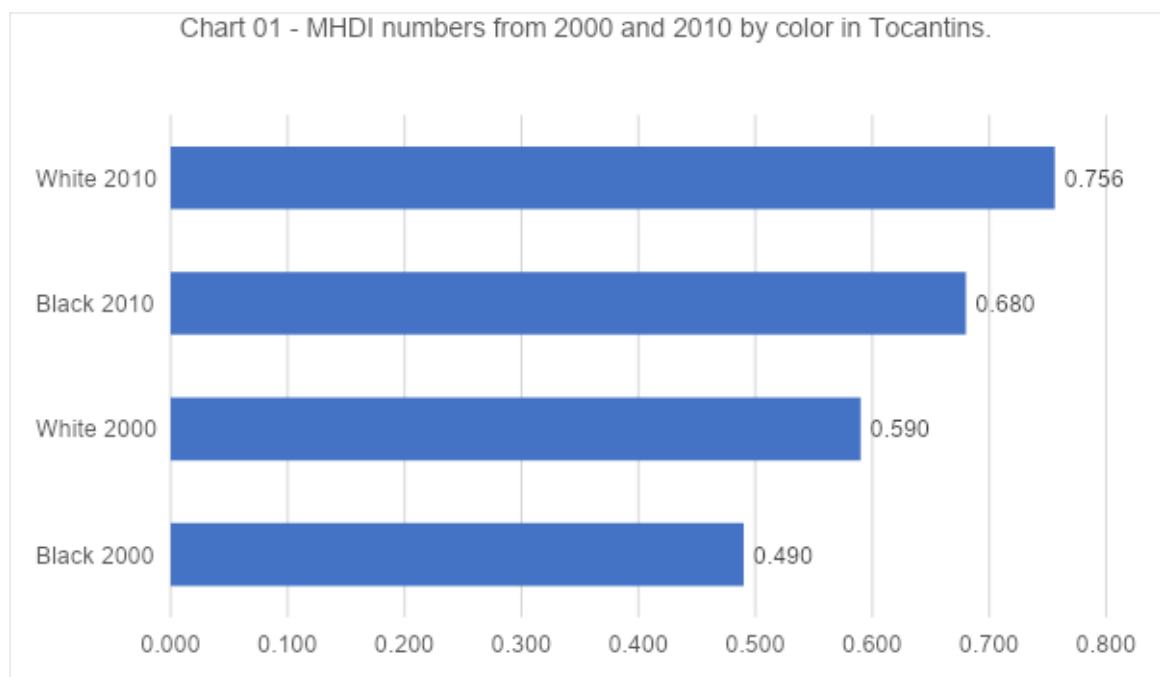
Chart 01 - MHDI numbers from 2000 and 2010 by color in Tocantins.

Source: Adapted from: PNUD. (2017). Programa das Nações Unidas Para o Desenvolvimento. Desenvolvimento Humano para Além das Médias. Brasília: PNDU: IPEA: FJP

Picture 01 – MHDI of Brazil by skin Color in 2017
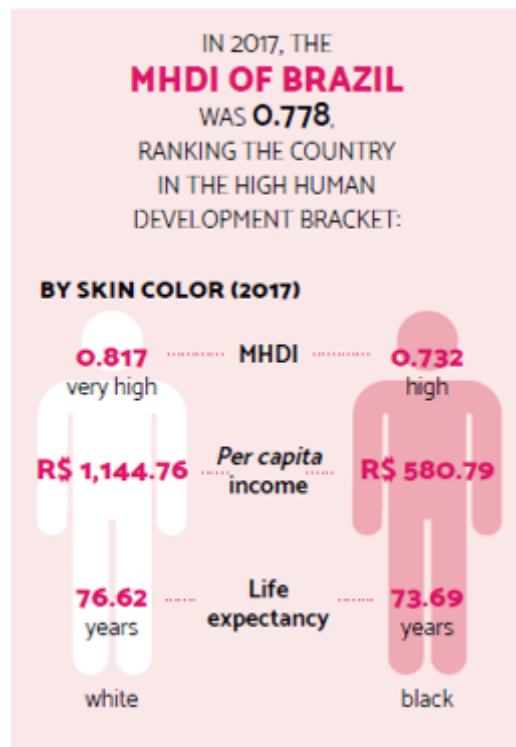
Source: PNUD. (2020). Programa das Nações Unidas Para o Desenvolvimento. Os Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS) e o Atlas do Desenvolvimento Humano no Brasil. PNUD: IPEA: FJP.

It can be noticed an increase of 0.227 for white MHDI from 2000 to 2017, this represents a growth of approximately 38%. As for black MHDI, om 2000 the index was of 0.490 and it reached 0.732, a difference of 0.242, which is a growth of 49%. Further on, the difference between these two groups was of 20% in 2010 and of 12% in 2017. It can be perceived a much higher growth among black population, however, when the difference of Per capita income,
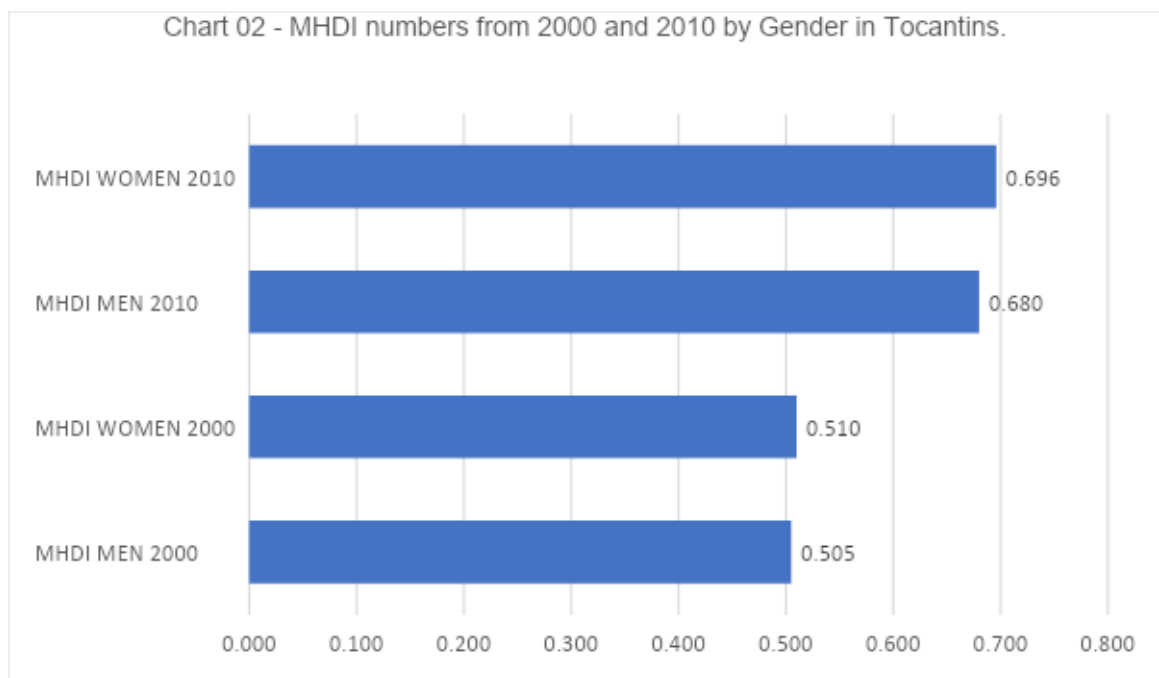
which is of R$563.97 or 98%, it is a huge difference showing that inequality between these two groups is still a serious issue.

Further on, Chart 02 and also Picture 02 shows the differences between Men and Women in 2000, 2010 and also 2017:

Chart 02 - MHDI numbers from 2000 and 2010 by Gender in Tocantins.

Source: Adapted from: PNUD. (2017). Programa das Nações Unidas Para o Desenvolvimento. Desenvolvimento Humano para Além das Médias. Brasília: PNDU: IPEA: FJP
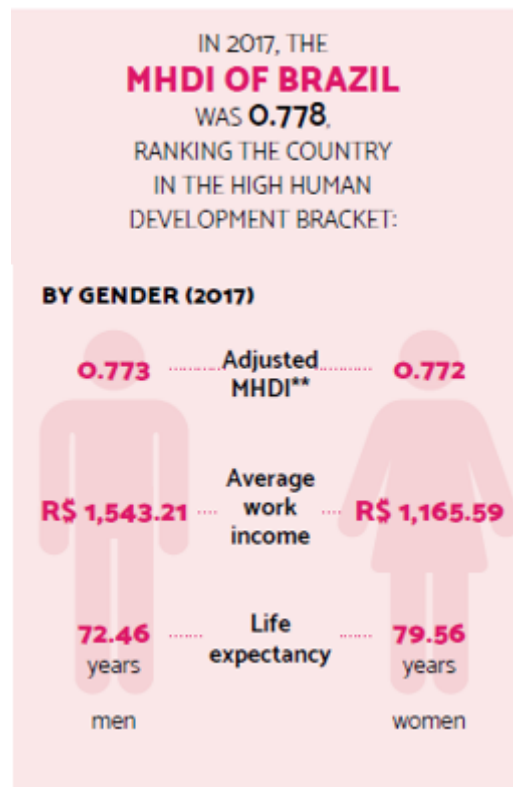
Picture 01 – MHDI of Brazil by gender in 2017

Source: PNUD. (2020). Programa das Nações Unidas Para o Desenvolvimento. Os Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS) e o Atlas do Desenvolvimento Humano no Brasil. PNUD: IPEA: FJP.

When considering the differences between women and men's MHDI, there is a small difference but always favoring women, in 2010 and in 2017. However, again, if the Average work income is looked upon, there is a difference of 32% in favor of Men. Gender inequality regarding income is known issue women face for a long time since their insertion in society as formal workers.

Additionally, Chart 03 presents the differences of MHDI between urban and rural population in 2010:
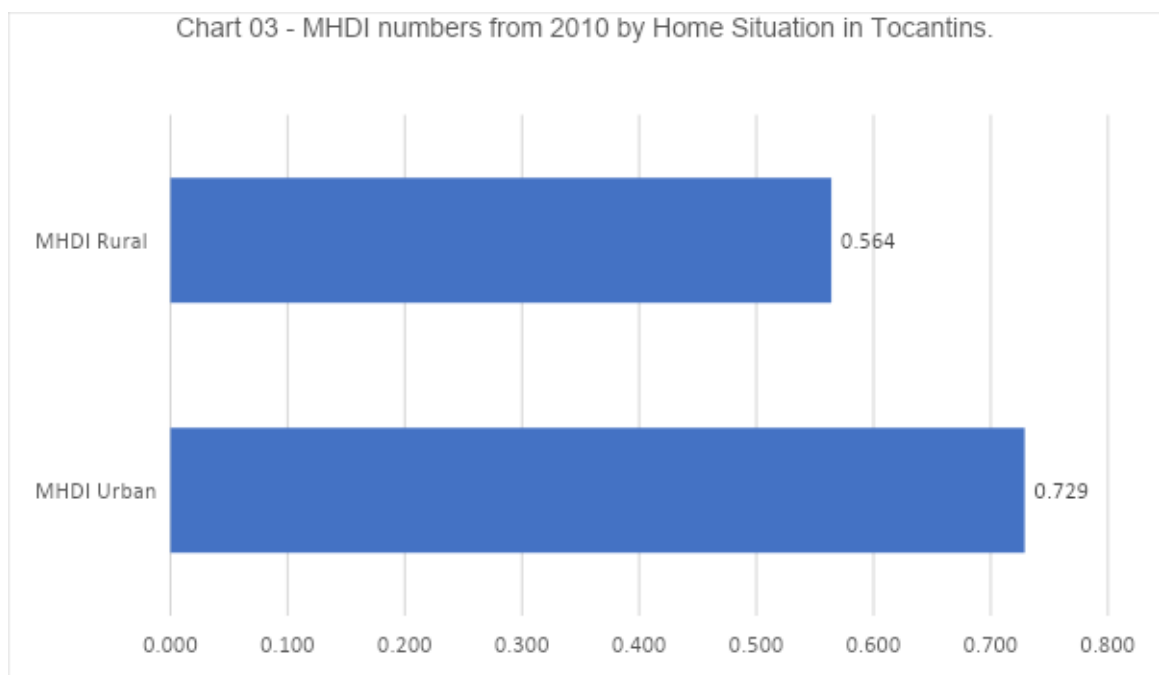
Chart 03 - MHDI numbers from 2010 by Home Situation in Tocantins.

Source: Adapted from: PNUD. (2017). Programa das Nações Unidas Para o Desenvolvimento. Desenvolvimento Humano para Além das Médias. Brasília: PNDU: IPEA: FJP

From the data above, even though it only depicts 2010, the difference between the two categories is of 29%, which was a considerable number reflecting also a serious inequality between both.

CONCLUSION

Considering Goals 10.1 Which for Brazil consists of progressively reaching and sustaining an income growth of the 40% poorest to an index higher than the national average. Goal 10.2, which seeks to empower and promote social, economic and political inclusion to all, regardless of age, gender, special needs, race, ethnic, origin, religion, economic condition or other. It can be said that Goal 10.1 and 10.2 have both a long way ahead in Tocantins considering there are 9 years until 2030 for Brazil to meet these numbers.

It can be observer when comparing income of Black and White people in Tocantins a difference of 98% in favor of White population, it is still a very long shot from the 40% income growth higher than national average. Considering an average of growth of the MHDI from the total population there is a 43,5% of growth from 2010 to 2017, considering Black MHDI grew 49% it is still only 5,5% ahead of the national average. Even though it is not being considered here income isolated, this number tend to be lower as the difference from black and white income is extremely high.

Furthermore, considering Goal 10.2, it can be perceived by the HDMI comparison between 2000 and 2017 in Tocantins, that even though the inequalities are being reduced it is still being done in a slow pace. However, this goal does not specify a quantifiable goal, and therefore, its criteria may be easily reached by manipulating data. It would be necessary a complex discussion concerning empowerment to properly discuss if it was or not achieved. Additionally, promoting inclusion can be done to a minimum standard

and therefore the goal would have been reached anyway, which also leads to a complex discussion regarding to what extent this inclusion is real and sufficient.

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