Notes about teaching course on computer science and its historic perspective: UNEMAT’S CASE

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Abstract: This article has AS objective to describe briefly the story of the Teaching Course On Computer Science and to present the main strategies of taking decision for the creation of this course in the interior of the Mato Grosso State. Besides, the used methodology was validated as extracted data from information gotten in the headquarters of the UNEMAT (bibliographical research) and deriving data from the Master research in progress (2007-2009) and half-structuralized interview. The results show that it had great influence of the political field in the creation of teaching courses outside the headquarters.

1. Introduction

The story of occupation of spaces in Brazilian territory differentiates, as much for the native people who inhabited these spaces, like the migrantes and its descendants. Therefore, some states, for example, from the North and Center-West region, for many years, weren’t contained in the axle of development of the country (South, Southeastern), suffered deep cultural and social transformations.

From 70’s, some of these states, until then isolated from others, had been target of the internal migratory process. One of the main consequences of this process was the absence of qualified human resources that could contribute for the development of the region, for example, the Superior Education. This new population picture demanded of the state new forms of taking care of the
restrained demand, mainly in the interior of the Mato Grosso State (MT). One of the changes goes through the area of the Basic Education, in the question of having access to the supported development. Thus, ahead of this picture of exclusion, lack and great challenges, the interior of the State of Mato Grosso need superior qualification.

Considering the strategical hole that the universities are assuming in the production of knowledge, the professional qualification and the rendering of services, it is distinguished Computational, component basic to fit in the digital age, of computerization and the “new communication”.

The present article has as purpose to describe the history of the teaching course in Computer science of the University of the State of Mato Grosso - UNEMAT and to present the main strategies of taking decision for the creation of the related course in the interior of the state.

The methodology used was gotten by extracted data of information gotten in the headquarters of the UNEMAT and deriving data of master research in progress (2007-2009) and half-structuralized interview. The secular scene of the events involves the two last decades, the geographic territory of Mato Grosso State (TMT), Brazil, and social organization of the Public Superior Education of the State, the UNEMAT. This work transforms “memories and thoughts” on occurred facts into elaborated text and writing, being available for reading and appreciation for the most varied interests. Despite of it, it recovers, register, systemize, elaborated itself and it becomes public the knowledge that, until then, it was personal restricted domain.

The analysis of this study demands that if it proceeds to a historical briefing of the UNEMAT, university created base don the ideal “From the interior for the interior”, as well as the teaching course on Computer science.

2. Considerations about the UNEMAT creation

In 1978, for intermediary of the Instituto de Ensino Superior de Cáceres - IESC (municipal institution), was born the embryo of the future State Superior Educação Superior Estadual do Mato Grosso. Initially, it was offered teaching courses on Lenguages, Social Studies and Sciences.

Some years later, in 1985, the institution became State popperty, but it continued with only headquarters in the city of Cáceres (named as FCUC – Fundação Centro Universitário de Cáceres; FCESC – Fundação Centro Ensino Superior de Cáceres). When it was using the name FCESC, at the beginning of 90’s, it was promoted beyond Cáceres, it started the process of its first expansion and internalization in MT. With the internalization, the name changed to FESMAT – Fundação de Educação Superior do Mato Grosso and, in 1993, started to assume the name UNEMAT- University of Mato Grosso State, by means of the Complementary Law n.² 030.
Until 1998, there were 10 Campi, 3 nucleis, 35 offered courses, however none in the computerization area or computation.

In 1999, it was officialized as University, by the Conselho Estadual de Educação. In the plan of the elected manager - assumed in 1998 - it was considered, for the UNEMAT, the possibility of offering graduation courses on the computer science area. However the necessary conditions for such offering were far from the ideals. It had much lack in the interior and its structure. It was evidenced exactly that the ideal conditions were difficult, in the long prize. It was impossible to wait, the university could become unbalanced in relation the demands of the community and the signalling of future, in special in the computer science area.

It was decided that, by the cooperation and partnerships, they would add structural conditions for the confrontation of the different situations and would give conditions to the university could develop its expansion. It was proved, thus, that the interior lacks, as efficient and shorter way, of the cooperation, the partnership, the addition of efforts and optimization of its resource.

3. Teaching course on Computation

As CIVITA (1988), in Brazil, 80’s, the computer science area, existed five permanent courses of superior graduation: Analysis of Systems, Computer sciences, Computation Engineering, Mathematics Applied to Computer science and Processing data Technology. In the same period, it has appeared, in the MT southwest, specifically in Araputanga, the first course of Processing Data in High School level. Nine years later, a study made to identify demands for superior courses involving 12 cities from MT interior disclosed that the area of computational or computer science was preferred by only 5.02% of the petitioners (9.° rank) (RIEDER, 2004). However, DI GENIUS (1988), when suggesting the best choices of superior courses, he had already foresaw, in that time, which Computer science would be one of the car-head of the next future, and Computer sciences would be very promising. He also recommended that the choice should be guided in not only offers existing currently but, in what it would exist in the future.

From some quarrels, the first course of graduation of the UNEMAT was created, in the computerization area, the Campus of Barra dos Bugres (Processing Data course, 1999).

The UNEMAT congregated conditions to take care of the permanent demands from the II Plan of Expansion and Internalization in MT, occurred in 2001 and after to establish partnerships with the local community.

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1 It is about the study made by Quelen Gianezini on the process of expansion of the public universities of the Mato Grosso State, developed in the Program of Post-Graduation in Sociology, In the Universidad Federal University do Rio Grande Do Sul (UFRGS).
The new course of graduation was discussed in several places, regional and national, from the decision of creating a graduation in full teaching course on Computation. In Brazil, these courses were only starting. Thus, they had been implanted in Cáceres Campi and Alto Araguaia, in 2001, with the forecast to implant another course in Colider Campus, which had been occurred years later.

This course includes a strong pedagogical base, scientific, technological and social, capable to answer to the technological advances of the contemporary society (SON HISSES, 2008).

The egresses of these courses gradually supply the demand for professors in this area in MT interior and, moreover, they form the base for confrontation of other challenges in computerization and similars.

References