

## BRAZILIAN RACES AND ETHNICITY

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#### SUMMARY

The article addresses the complexity of races and ethnicities in Brazil, highlighting the importance of educating ethnic-racial relations. The general objective of this work is to investigate and promote the understanding of ethnic-racial relations in Brazil, emphasizing racial and ethnic formation, miscegenation and inclusion, as well as the elements of Brazilian culture that reflect this diversity. The specific objectives are expected to: analyze the historical process of formation and miscegenation of the Brazilian population; evaluate racial and ethnic inclusion policies in Brazil; identify elements of Brazilian culture that represent ethnic-racial diversity; and promote the appreciation of Brazilian cultural identity. This study is justified by the need to understand and value Brazilian ethnic-racial diversity, promoting inclusive education that respects and celebrates differences. The analysis of inclusion policies and Brazilian cultural elements is crucial to foster a more fair and equitable society. The article is structured into two main chapters: first, the education of ethnic-racial relations in Brazil, focusing on formation and miscegenation and racial and ethnic inclusion; according to the elements of Brazilian culture, addressing cultural identity and ethnic-racial and cultural diversity.

**Key words:**Race. Ethnicity. Brazilian people.

#### ABSTRACT

The article addresses the complexity of races and ethnicities in Brazil, highlighting the importance of educating ethnic-racial relations. The general objective of this work is to investigate and promote the understanding of ethnic-racial relations in Brazil, highlighting racial and ethnic formation, miscegenation and inclusion, as well as the elements of Brazilian culture that reflect this diversity. The specific objectives are expected to: analyze the historical process of formation and miscegenation of the Brazilian population; evaluate racial and ethnic inclusion policies in Brazil; identify elements of Brazilian culture that represent ethnic-racial diversity; and promote the appreciation of Brazilian cultural identity. This study is justified by the need to understand and value Brazilian ethnic-racial diversity, including promoting education that respects and celebrates differences. The analysis of Brazilian inclusion policies and cultural elements is crucial to foster a more fair and equitable society. The article is structured into two main chapters: first, the education of ethnic-racial relations in Brazil, focusing on formation and miscegenation and racial and ethnic inclusion; according to the elements of Brazilian culture, addressing cultural identity and ethnic-racial and cultural diversity.

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Diversity is a fundamental element of contemporary society. In Brazil, the concepts between the terms race and ethnicity are still frequently confused due to the historical deficit imposed by hegemonic groups, with the intention of strategically masking racial, ethnic and cultural diversity.

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in the country.

According to Ribeiro (2014, p. 07), we emerged from the confluence, the clash and the mixing of the Portuguese invader with forest and campineiro Indians and black Africans, some enticed as slaves. Thus, we can emphasize that the Brazilian people are the result of the miscegenation of several peoples, and that the theoretical clashes between the use of both concepts, race and ethnicity, directly result in their formation and identity.

In this context, we conceptualize the term race as the morphological descent of a group of people who share similar physical and biological characteristics, in a unique way. While the term ethnicity can be defined as a polyvalent compatibility in which people build an identity



based on language, shared territory, religion, nationality, in groups with physical and sociocultural differences.

Aguiar (2021, p. 17) reports that

Our colonization process decisively marked the specificity of Latin American capitalism and the constitution of exploitation under the racist bases of non-whiteness, where we can perceive the action of imperialism alongside racist concepts. It was with colonization that the use of the concept of race as an instrument of domination began, understood as as a specific rationality of Eurocentric thought.

In line with studies on Brazilian races and ethnicities, this article seeks to clarify the formation, miscegenation, identity and ethnic-racial and cultural diversity of this country. Furthermore, this study aims to explore the importance of diversity and inclusion, highlighting how they enrich our lives and communities, from the workplace to social and educational spheres.

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It is important to highlight that Brazil is a very diverse country, and people often have a mix of ethnic and racial backgrounds. Furthermore, racial identity in Brazil is complex and fluid, with many Brazilians identifying as belonging to more than one ethnic category. The country has worked to promote equality and combat racism, but still faces challenges related to racial discrimination and inequality. Top of form Bottom of form

The present study is organized as follows: sections 2 and 3 present, respectively, theoretical assumptions about Brazilian races and ethnicities. Section 4 presents the methodology used in this research, and in section 5, we present our final considerations. Let us now look at the theoretical concepts that support the development of this study.

## 2 EDUCATION OF ETHNIC-RACIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN BRAZIL

The education of ethnic-racial relations in Brazil is a topic of great relevance and importance, reflecting the country's complex racial and ethnic history. In this context, education plays a fundamental role in promoting equality, combating racism and building a fairer and more inclusive society. This article explores the main aspects of this topic, including its historical evolution, public policies, challenges and future perspectives.

**According to Legislation and Public Policies**, the education of ethnic-racial relations in Brazil was driven by a series of important policies and laws. In 2003, Law No. 10,639/03 was enacted, which made the teaching of Afro-Brazilian and indigenous history and culture mandatory in schools. Furthermore, in 2008, Law No. 11,645/08 was created, which expanded this teaching to all indigenous ethnicities. These laws were milestones in promoting ethnic-racial diversity in the educational system, seeking to combat prejudice, discrimination and the invisibility of black and indigenous cultures in Brazilian society.

Despite legislative advances, the education of ethnic-racial relations in Brazil still faces significant challenges. The school curriculum is often not effectively implemented, and teacher training to address this issue is insufficient. Furthermore, racial stereotypes and prejudices persist, which can manifest themselves in school environments.

**two** Socioeconomic inequality is also intrinsically linked to race, with racially minority groups facing additional obstacles in accessing quality education. Furthermore, it is important to encourage dialogue on the topic in society as a whole, seeking awareness and engagement of the population in favor of racial equality.

From this perspective, to promote the education of ethnic-racial relations in Brazil more effectively, it is essential to invest in inclusive educational policies and teacher training. The promotion of ethnic-racial diversity must be incorporated across all levels of education, encouraging critical reflection and respect for different cultures and identities.

Based on these questions, the education of ethnic-racial relations in Brazil is a field under construction. much evolution, which plays a fundamental role in the fight against racism and in building a more just and inclusive society. Although there are challenges to be overcome, the commitment to promoting ethnic-racial diversity is essential for the country's future.

Formation and miscegenation are essential elements in understanding the racial and ethnic composition of Brazil, as well as its unique culture and identity. We will explore these concepts below, in subtopic 2.1 Formation and miscegenation.

## 2.1 Formation and miscegenation

The formation of the Brazilian people is the result of a complex mixture of different ethnic and cultural groups throughout history. It can be divided into several key phases, such as: indigenous people, European colonization, African slave trafficking and immigration.

Indigenous peoples already inhabited the territory that is now Brazil long before the arrival of Europeans. In this way, “they were, simply, a myriad of tribal peoples, speaking languages from the same stem, dialects of the same language, each of which, as it grew, divided itself, creating two peoples that began to differentiate themselves and soon became unknown to each other. and they became hostile.” (Ribeiro, 2014, p. 20). They contributed their languages, customs, agricultural practices and knowledge of local flora and fauna to the formation of Brazilian culture.

According to Mariátegui and Pesce (2021, p. 23, our translation),

The problem of races serves in Latin America, in bourgeois intellectual speculation, among other things, to cover up or ignore the true problems of the continent. Marxist criticism has an urgent obligation to present it in its real terms, freeing it from all casuistic or pedantic distortions. Economically, socially and politically, the problem of races, like that of land, is, at its base, the liquidation of feudality.<sup>1</sup>

During the colonial period, millions of Africans were brought to Brazil as slaves. The African presence profoundly influenced Brazilian music, dance, religion and cuisine, in addition to contributing to the genetic makeup of the population. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Brazil received a large number of immigrants from various parts of the world, including Italians, Germans, Japanese, among others. These immigrants left their mark on Brazilian culture and the country's demography, resulting in its miscegenation.

In Brazil, miscegenation is a striking characteristic and is often called “mestizagem” or “hybridism”. This means that the majority of Brazilians have mixed ancestry, resulting in a diversity of skin tones, physical characteristics and cultural identities. Miscegenation is not just limited to the mixing of races, but also involves cultural interaction and the assimilation of practices and beliefs from different groups. For example, in religion, we see religious syncretism, such as the combination of African, indigenous and Christian beliefs in Candomblé and Umbanda.

In this sense, Rotondano (2022, p. 6) indicates that “miscegenation between the white population and individuals of African and indigenous origin was not considered, for the followers of scientific racism.” This miscegenation and ethnic diversity are essential aspects of Brazilian identity and culture. They contribute to the country's rich music, dance, cuisine and arts. Furthermore, training and miscegenation have significant implications for the discussion of race relations in Brazil, with many Brazilians identifying as pardos (of mixed ancestry).

With the arrival of European colonizers, mainly the Portuguese, in the 16th century, mixing between Europeans and indigenous people began to occur, resulting in a mixed-race population. However, it is important to note that miscegenation did not solve the problems of inequality and racism in the country. Yet challenges related to racial and socioeconomic discrimination persist, which require political and social issues to be addressed effectively.

In this context, formation and miscegenation are key elements in understanding Brazil's ethnic and cultural diversity, contributing to its unique identity, but also presenting challenges that society continues to face.

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Racial and ethnic inclusion is a fundamental concept for promoting equal opportunities, respect for differences and social justice in culturally diverse societies, such as Brazil. Below, we will explore the meaning and importance of racial and ethnic inclusion in different contexts.

## 2.2 Racial and ethnic inclusion

Racial and ethnic inclusion in the educational system involves promoting curricula that reflect the country's cultural and ethnic diversity, as well as ensuring equal access to quality education for all ethnic groups. This includes the effective implementation of laws that require the teaching of Afro-Brazilian, indigenous and other cultures present in the country.

In the labor market, racial and ethnic inclusion seeks to eliminate discrimination and racial prejudice in hiring and promotions, as well as creating employment opportunities for historically marginalized groups. This includes implementing quota policies for underrepresented ethnic groups in leadership roles and promoting inclusive work environments free from discrimination.

Regarding the health sector, inclusion aims to ensure that all communities have access to quality health services, regardless of their ethnic origin. This involves raising awareness about health disparities between different groups and developing health policies that meet the specific needs of each community.

In the cultural sphere, it involves the appreciation and promotion of the different cultural and artistic expressions of the country's diverse communities. This includes recognizing and supporting Afro-Brazilian, indigenous and other ethnic cultural manifestations, as well as combating cultural appropriation.

Racial and ethnic inclusion also involves raising awareness and education about racism and racial discrimination. This involves educational campaigns, awareness training and the implementation of laws that criminalize racial discrimination. In this way, it not only promotes social justice, but also strengthens social cohesion and contributes to the enrichment of culture and society. It is an ongoing process that requires the involvement of governments, institutions, civil society organizations and the awareness of all citizens to create a truly inclusive and diverse society.

## 3 ELEMENTS OF BRAZILIAN CULTURE

Brazilian culture is rich and diverse, the result of a mixture of indigenous, African and European influences. and, more recently, from several other immigrant cultures. This unique combination of cultural elements contributes to Brazil's multifaceted identity.

According to Lima (2008, p. 5),

In Brazil, the theoretical perspective of using the concepts of Afro-descendence, ethnicity and black identity has also been strengthened in the context of ethnic-racial studies in the country, without losing sight of the concept of race as a category historically implicated in the Afro-descendence of the Brazilian population and as an instrument of inequality in the different spaces of this society.

Some of the main elements of Brazilian culture are: music (samba, bossa nova, forró and axé), dance (samba, frevo and maracatu), cuisine (feijoada, coxinha, acarajé and barbecue), religion (Catholicism and Protestantism; Candomblé and Umbanda; Spiritism), festivals and celebrations (Carnival and June festivals, regional and cultural festivals), art and literature (modernists and contemporary artists), sports (football, volleyball, surfing and combat sports), clothing and fashion (colorful and light clothes), language (Brazilian Portuguese, regional dialects and influences from indigenous and African languages) and folklore (Saci-Pererê; Curupira and the pink button).

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Therefore, Brazilian culture is dynamic and continues to evolve as new influences are incorporated. It is characterized by diversity, the mix of cultures and the celebration of its diverse cultural roots. Thus, constituting a diverse cultural identity as detailed in the following subsection.

### 3.1 Brazilian cultural identity

Brazilian cultural identity is complex and diverse, reflecting the rich mix of international influences.

indigenous, African, European and immigrant populations from various parts of the world. For Santos *et al*(2010, p. 121), “although the categorization of individuals according to race and ethnicity is widely used, both in diagnosis and in scientific research, their meanings are often confused or even unknown in academia.” It is a cultural mosaic that has evolved over the centuries, giving rise to a multifaceted society and a unique culture.

The formation of the Brazilian population through the mixing of different ethnic groups is a pillar of Brazilian identity. Most Brazilians have mixed ancestry, which translates into a variety of skin tones, physical characteristics, and cultural identities.

### 3.2 Ethnic-racial and cultural diversity

Ethnic diversity refers to the presence of different ethnic groups in a society or geographic region. This ethnic diversity can include a variety of cultural, linguistic, religious, and historical backgrounds, resulting in a unique mix of identities and experiences among individuals belonging to these groups. It is the result of historical migrations, colonizations, immigrations and cultural interactions over time.

Rotondano (2022, p. 11) points to

“non-racialist discourse is currently seen as harmonious, as it invests in the pacification of social relations between groups with different ethnic-racial characteristics. In a vain attempt to promote racial communion, the perspective is encouraged that there are no distinct races, but only the human race.

From this perspective, the coexistence of different ethnic groups can create challenges, such as cultural conflicts and social inequalities. However, it also provides opportunities for mutual learning, collaboration and economic growth, which can influence individual and collective identity.

Ethnic diversity can also lead to forms of discrimination and prejudice, such as racism, xenophobia and religious intolerance. It is important to combat these forms of discrimination to promote equality and justice. Furthermore, many countries adopt inclusion policies to promote equal opportunities for all ethnic groups. This may include implementing quotas for minority groups, promoting diversity in the workplace, and creating anti-discrimination laws.

Thus, understanding ethnic diversity is an enriching characteristic of global society that is necessary through dialogues and other social movements, as it brings with it challenges and opportunities, but when approached in an inclusive and respectful way, it can promote equality, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence between people of different ethnic origins.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

This study presents a theoretical and methodological panorama which refers to the set of theories, conceptual approaches and research methods used to examine, analyze and understand issues related to these themes. In this way, our research is characterized as a descriptive-exploratory study, perceiving the recurrence/prototypicality of the movements and rhetorical steps characterizing the aforementioned theme.

The use of theories about race and ethnicity, such as theories of structural racism, the theory of whiteness and theories of multiculturalism, can be fundamental to understanding racial and ethnic dynamics in Brazil. In this sense, we reiterate that this article intends to explore the importance of diversity and inclusion in seeking to promote the formation, miscegenation, identity and ethnic-racial and cultural diversity of this country. Therefore, the article is divided into two stages, such as:

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1)Step 1: Reflect on the general theme of the article and its specificities;

two)Step 2: Download books and scientific articles on related and contextualized topics, for organization of the bibliographic basis for written production.

Step 1 consists of reflecting on the topic of Brazilian races and ethnicities in a historical-contemporary context” is an important step to understand the complexity of racial and ethnic dynamics in Brazil over time, considering the formation of the Brazilian people and their racial diversity; colonization and slavery; discrimination; to social movements and legal advances; identity and ethical belonging; culture *pop* and public policies.

In this context, reflecting on these historical and contemporary aspects prepared us to conduct more detailed research.

In Stage 2, we carried out a bibliographic survey regarding the state of the art of the theme proposed in this study with the aim of promoting contextualization as an essential element in any research or academic discussion, as it involves the presentation and understanding of the broader context in which a topic specific is entered. In the context of an article on “Brazilian races and ethnicities,” contextualization involves providing important information about the historical, social, cultural, political and economic scenario in which issues of race and ethnicity have developed in Brazil.

Furthermore, each of these stages plays a fundamental role in the learning and research process, allowing the acquisition of knowledge, understanding of concepts, development of skills and contribution to the advancement of our field of study and interest.

## 5 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

To conclude our reflections and analyzes within the historical context of the theme Brazilian races and ethnicities, as throughout this work, we explored the richness of racial and ethnic diversity in Brazil. It became clear that Brazilian identity is deeply marked by the miscegenation of indigenous, African, European and immigrant peoples from various parts of the world. This mix of cultures and histories has shaped Brazil into a unique and diverse nation.

According to Lima (2008, p. 1),

The problematization of racial relations has progressively expanded in Brazilian society in the last decade. This problematization involves both the daily practices of these relationships, political clashes and actions, and the conceptual constructions related to them.

We cannot ignore the historical legacies that shaped racial issues in Brazil. From colonization to slavery and the whitening policies of the 20th century, these events have profoundly influenced the social structure and racial inequalities in the country. Thus, over the years, we have seen the rise of social movements and public policies aimed at promoting racial equality.

The Black Movement, racial quotas in universities and affirmative actions are examples of efforts to combat racial discrimination and promote inclusion. Despite advances, we still face persistent challenges related to racial inequality, discrimination and lack of representation in various spheres of society. These challenges require an ongoing and collaborative approach.

It is well known that educating future generations about Brazil's ethnic and racial diversity can have a lasting impact. It is necessary to promote racial and ethnic inclusion in all areas of society, including education, the job market, politics and culture. This can be done through public policies, inclusive companies and awareness programs. Considering that each region may have unique challenges and dynamics that require specific attention.

We suggest the need for partnerships, in order to recognize the importance of giving a voice to communities affected by racial discrimination, listening to their stories, perspectives and demands to create more effective policies and solutions, in interdisciplinary partnerships and cooperation between governments, non-governmental organizations, institutions academics and civil society. In this context, promoting racial equality is not only the responsibility of institutions, but also of each individual, which involves self-reflection on prejudices and stereotypes.

Finally, it is crucial to remember that diversity is one of Brazil's greatest assets. Celebrating the different cultures, identities and perspectives that coexist in this country is fundamental to building a better future.

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harmonious and egalitarian. Brazil is constantly evolving, and the topic of races and ethnicities will continue to be relevant. As we look to the future, it is essential to continue promoting dialogue, research and policies that contribute to a more just and inclusive society. Despite the challenges, Brazilian society has the capacity to overcome racial divisions and build a more inclusive future.

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