

Economic Impacts of the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus/UFFS on the Development of the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory

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Resumo

A influência das universidades sobre o desenvolvimento regional tem sido cada vez mais investigada. As possibilidades desta relação são as mais diversas. No entanto, nem sempre são estimados os impactos econômicos das universidades sobre as regiões em que estão inseridas. Neste sentido, esta pesquisa visa identificar o impacto econômico do Campus de Laranjeiras do Sul, da Universidade Federal da Fronteira Sul, sobre o desenvolvimento do Território Cantuquiriguaçu. Os procedimentos metodológicos utilizados estão baseados no modelo American Council on Education – ACE, mediante uma simplificação adotada por Fernandes (2009). Para isso, consideram-se os gastos de servidores docentes e técnicos administrativos, estudantes e despesas institucionais do Campus Laranjeiras do Sul. Os resultados da pesquisa apontam que anualmente os gastos destes grupos correspondem a R\$ 35 milhões. Quando é aplicado o multiplicador de 1,7 sugerido por Fernandes (2009), constata-se impacto econômico anual de R\$ 59.898.968,29, o que corresponde a R\$ 4.991.580,69 mensais, valores gastos em distintos bens e serviços ofertados em Laranjeiras do Sul e região.

Palavras-chave: Região. Resultados Econômicos. Docentes. Servidores Técnicos e Administrativos. Estudantes.

Abstract



The influence of universities on regional development has been increasingly investigated. The possibilities of this relationship are diverse. However, the economic impacts of universities on the regions in which they are located are not always estimated. In this regard, this research aims to identify the economic impact of the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus of the Federal University of Fronteira Sul on the development of the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory. The methodological procedures used are based on the American Council on Education (ACE) model, with a simplification adopted by Fernandes (2009). To do this, we consider the expenditures of teaching and administrative staff, students, and institutional expenses of the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus. The research results indicate that annually, the expenditures of these groups amount to R\$ 35 million. When the multiplier of 1.7 suggested by Fernandes (2009) is applied, an annual economic impact of R\$ 59,898,968.29 is observed, which corresponds to R\$ 4,991,580.69 per month, spent on various goods and services offered in Laranjeiras do Sul and the region.

Keywords: Region. Economic Results. Teachers. Technical and Administrative Servers. Students.

Resumen

La influencia de las universidades en el desarrollo regional ha sido objeto de investigación cada vez más frecuente. Las posibilidades de esta relación son diversas. Sin embargo, no siempre se estiman los impactos económicos de las universidades en las regiones donde están ubicadas. En este sentido, esta investigación tiene como objetivo identificar el impacto económico del Campus de Laranjeiras do Sul de la Universidad Federal de la Frontera del Sur en el desarrollo del Territorio Cantuquiriguaçu. Los procedimientos metodológicos utilizados se basan en el modelo del American Council on Education (ACE), con una simplificación adoptada por Fernandes (2009). Para ello, se tienen en cuenta los gastos del personal docente y administrativo, los estudiantes y los gastos institucionales del Campus Laranjeiras do Sul. Los resultados de la investigación indican que anualmente, los gastos de estos grupos ascienden a R\$ 35 millones. Cuando se aplica el multiplicador de 1,7 sugerido por Fernandes (2009), se observa un impacto económico anual de R\$ 59.898.968,29, lo que corresponde a R\$ 4.991.580,69 al mes, gastados en diversos bienes y servicios ofrecidos en Laranjeiras do Sul y la región.

Palabras clave: Región. Resultados Económicos. Maestros. Servidores Técnicos y administrativos. Estudiantes.

1. Introduction

The Brazilian regional issue, emblematic and complex, continues to be relegated to the background. Evidence of this is that the first National Policy for Regional Development was only established at the beginning of this century. However, the lack of coordination and insufficient resources compromised its outcomes. Furthermore, the advancement of globalization in recent decades has diminished the State's capacity for intervention, further increasing the barriers for regional issues to be effectively incorporated into the national agenda.

Despite these challenges, there are policies and institutions that can contribute to regional development. In this context, institutions of higher education — particularly public universities — emerge as key actors. In this regard, the Federal University of the Southern Frontier (Universidade Federal da Fronteira Sul – UFFS) stands out, given its trajectory and strong commitment to regional development. The

Laranjeiras do Sul Campus, in particular, presents specific characteristics that reinforce this engagement.

Laranjeiras do Sul is a municipality located in the Intermediate Region of Cascavel, in the state of Paraná. Since 2008, the municipality has been part of the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory, a region considered the second least developed in the state. Socioeconomic indicators reinforce this characterization, as will be detailed throughout this study. More than ten years after the establishment of the campus, it is necessary to examine its consequences on the region's development.

Accordingly, the central objective of this investigation is to examine the economic impacts of the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus on the development of the surrounding region. To this end, the methodology proposed by Fernandes (2009) is adopted, which consists of an adaptation of the American Council on Education (ACE) model, as detailed below. The initial hypothesis is that the establishment of the UFFS Campus in Laranjeiras do Sul — located in an impoverished and underdeveloped region — generates positive impacts on the territory.

The measurement of these impacts represents an effort to quantify the effects of the establishment and operation of UFFS on the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory. Although such effects cannot be fully explained, estimating these outcomes contributes to a deeper understanding of the broader implications of higher education institutions in regional development. In the present analysis, it will be possible to estimate a portion of the direct results generated by the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus in the Cantuquiriguaçu region.

This article is structured in five sections, including the present introduction and the final considerations. The following section discusses regional development, its relationship with universities, and presents a brief characterization of the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory. The third section details the methodological procedures employed in this research. Subsequently, the results are presented and analyzed. Finally, the article concludes with final considerations.

2. Regional development, university, and the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory (TC)

This section seeks to briefly present key considerations regarding regional development, taking into account the main theoretical approaches to the subject, its relationship with universities, and the conceptual framework guiding this study. Additionally, some socioeconomic characteristics of the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory (TC) are examined. This characterization is useful as it enables an assessment not only of the region's development but also highlights specific territorial peculiarities.

2.1 Regional Development and the University

The issue of regional development has gained increasing relevance in recent decades, as reflected by the growing number of academic investigations on the subject. Although there are various interpretations of the concept of development¹, and despite the intensification of globalization processes, the regional perspective has been receiving more attention. This may suggest the limitations of globalization,

¹ "For further analysis, the critical and relevant reflections of Esteva (1996) are particularly noteworthy."

given that regions possess diverse characteristics and potentials, making it impossible to adopt a one-size-fits-all global approach — let alone achieve homogeneity.

From a theoretical standpoint, the localist contributions, with a strong economic emphasis, represent the initial set of assumptions that deepened the discussion on regional development. Since then, various other approaches have emerged, such as the Chicago School of Urban Sociology, development economics, the endogenous development perspective, and other contemporary interpretations (Costa, 2010). Among these, two will be particularly emphasized here: development economics and endogenous development theory.

Development economics considers structural changes in the economy essential for achieving regional development. Within this framework are theories such as growth poles (Perroux, 1955), cumulative circular causation (Myrdal, 1956), and linkage effects (Hirschman, 1958) (Krajevski, 2018). The State's role in promoting growth and reducing regional inequalities is central to this perspective, even though many of these disparities are themselves products of state action.

Endogenous development theory gained prominence through the contributions of Stöhr and Taylor (1981) and Stöhr (1984) (Krajevski, 2018). In Brazil, this theory rapidly disseminated and captured widespread attention beginning in the late 1990s. The notion of valuing the local, by stimulating regional potentialities, is promising, and can be further explored. However, excessive localism—assuming that a region's mere will is sufficient for fostering development—has gained disproportionate relevance (Etges, 2020). This resulted in illusions and disappointments, as it proved insufficient for promoting development in all regions.

These two theoretical frameworks are associated with two commonly adopted approaches in regional development strategies: top-down and bottom-up. The former is aligned with the view that regional public policies should be formulated and implemented by the State, given its superior capacity for resource mobilization — thus playing a key role in regional development. The latter emphasizes the importance of local and regional needs, with greater participation from the affected communities. Both approaches continue to serve as fundamental references for initiatives aimed at regional development.

It is also essential to clarify what is understood by regional development. Beyond the theoretical models—often emphasizing the economic dimension — it is critical to recognize the multidimensional nature of regional development. This is not to downplay the importance of economic factors, but to underscore that regional development transcends productive activities and their outcomes. Accordingly, this study adopts the definition offered by Corrêa, Silveira, and Kist (2019, p. 12), who assert that regional development is “a historical process that requires transformations in the social and economic foundations, structural changes, and, above all, a strategy jointly constructed by the various regional stakeholders.”

The relationship between universities and regional development, although complex, is both productive and indisputable. At the most basic level, a university exerts positive influence on its host city and surrounding areas. These effects are diverse and are commonly associated with the core university activities of teaching, research, and community outreach. However, regional impacts may extend beyond this triad, especially regarding institutional investments, potential partnerships with

public and private sectors, and the university's role as a facilitator of regional networks (Krajevski, 2018).

It is important to note that the university's contribution to regional development can follow two different trajectories, as highlighted by Rolim and Serra (2009). According to these authors, there is a university in the region, characterized by a more limited engagement, and a university of the region, which exhibits deeper connections to the local context. Other variables must also be considered to further analyze this relationship, such as the size and influence of the region, the scale and nature (public or private) of the institution, and the region's level of development, among others.

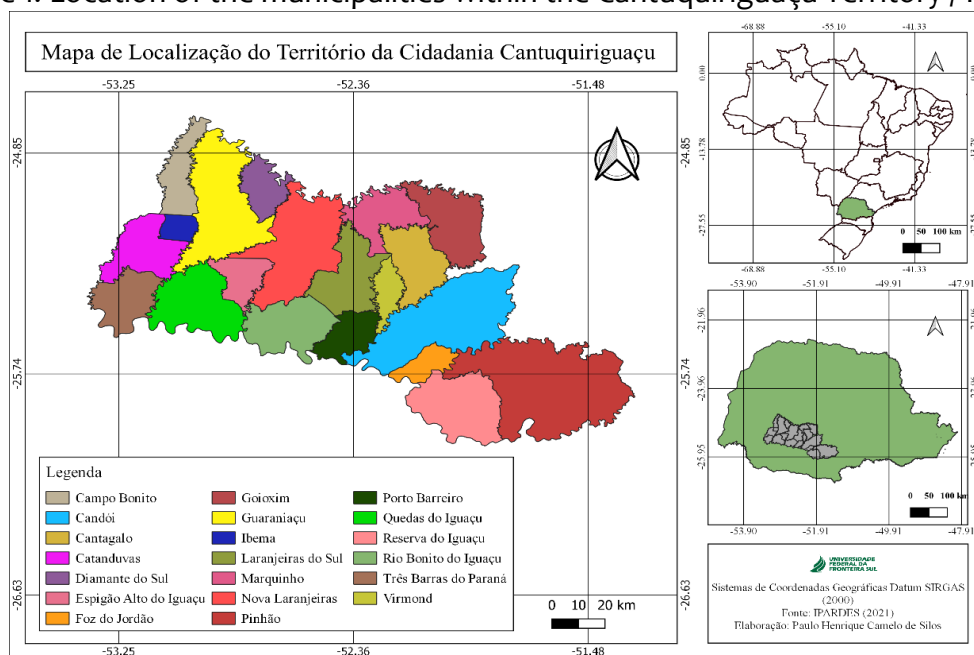
In Brazil, the university system was established relatively late. Moreover, it was historically aligned with the interests of the elite, never truly serving as an institution committed to a national development project or close to the broader Brazilian population (Souza, 2012). The student selection process (the entrance exam) also reinforced its elitist character and prevented the massification of higher education in the country (Ouriques, 2018). In addition, public universities were long concentrated along the Brazilian coast and in state capitals—with rare exceptions. It was only in the early 2000s that significant efforts were made to expand federal universities into interior regions.

This scenario began to shift slightly in the early decades of the 21st century. According to Niquito, Ribeiro, and Portugal (2018), between 2000 and 2010 alone, 19 new federal universities were established—most of them in non-metropolitan areas. This expansion was further reinforced by the creation and growth of Federal Institutes, which provided access to public higher education for thousands of students. Nevertheless, this process was also accompanied by the significant growth of private higher education institutions and the expansion of distance learning programs (Hernandez, Krajevski, & Stoffel, 2023).

2.2 Socioeconomic Development of the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory

The Cantuquiriguaçu Territory, as it is designated, was established as part of the Territórios da Cidadania (Territories of Citizenship) Program and comprises twenty municipalities: Campo Bonito, Candió, Cantagalo, Catanduvas, Diamante do Sul, Espigão Alto do Iguaçu, Foz do Jordão, Goioxim, Guaraniaçu, Ibema, Laranjeiras do Sul, Marquinho, Nova Laranjeiras, Pinhão, Porto Barreiro, Quedas do Iguaçu, Reserva do Iguaçu, Rio Bonito do Iguaçu, Três Barras do Paraná, and Virmond (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Location of the municipalities within the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory / Paraná



Source: Silos e Stoffel (2021).

According to the most recent census data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), conducted in 2022, the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory (TC) has a total population of 227,759 inhabitants, representing a decrease of 2.05% compared to the 2010 census (IPARDES, 2023). This figure accounts for 1.99% of the total population of the state of Paraná. Among the twenty municipalities that comprise the territory, only seven experienced positive population growth between the 2010 and 2022 censuses. In absolute terms, the municipality with the largest population increase was Laranjeiras do Sul, with an addition of 1,450 inhabitants. Furthermore, according to the 2010 census², nine municipalities within the TC had the majority of their population residing in rural areas.

Beyond these demographic indicators, several other metrics can be used to characterize the socioeconomic development of the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory, particularly in comparison with other municipalities in the state of Paraná and across Brazil. In this regard, a selection of relevant indicators is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Selected indicators – Brazil, Paraná, and Cantuquiriguaçu Territory, 2010.

Indicators	Brasil	Paraná	Cantuquiriguaçu Territory
Poverty rate	15,20%	6,46%	22,02 %
HDI – Medium	0,727	0,749	0,659
Degree of urbanization	84,36%	85,33%	53,78%
% of population wth higher education	11,27%	12,75%	4,91%

Source: prepared by the author, based on data from IPARDES (2023).

The disparities between the consolidated indicators of the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory (TC) and the state averages of Paraná are striking. In fact, the TC performs below both the state and national averages. The poverty rate in the municipalities of the region is more than three times higher than the state average. The Human

² At the time of writing this text, the results of the 2022 census had not yet been published.

Development Index (HDI) is also significantly lower than both the national and state benchmarks. The degree of urbanization highlights the region's distinct profile, with a large portion of its population residing in rural areas. Furthermore, the percentage of the population with a completed higher education degree is substantially lower than the averages for both Paraná and Brazil. A more detailed analysis of these indicators reveals the extent of socioeconomic inequality and impoverishment within the TC.

Based on 2010 data, all municipalities in the territory have more than 10% of their populations classified as poor. In six municipalities, the poverty rate exceeds 25%, with the most critical cases found in Espigão Alto do Iguaçu, Goioxim, and Nova Laranjeiras, where poverty affects more than 30% of the population. Regarding extreme poverty, eight municipalities report rates above 10%.

None of the municipalities in the TC exhibit an HDI higher than the state or national averages. Only two municipalities (Laranjeiras do Sul and Virmond) show relatively better outcomes in comparison with others in the region. Conversely, ten municipalities in the TC are among the bottom 10% in terms of development within the state. As for the percentage of the population with higher education, only Laranjeiras do Sul surpasses the 10% threshold. Meanwhile, the illiteracy rate among individuals aged 15 and above exceeds 10% in sixteen municipalities (ATLAS BRASIL, 2023).

Regarding the regional economy, the TC contributes only marginally to Paraná's economic output. In terms of nominal GDP for 2020, the region accounted for merely 1.73% of the state's total production (IPARDES, 2023). The per capita GDP for the same year was BRL 35,702, which is 15.73% lower than the state average (BRL 42,367).

Indeed, the per capita income recorded in the 2010 census already pointed to this regional reality. At that time, the TC's average per capita income of BRL 484.41 represented only 54.42% of the state average (BRL 890.89) and 61.07% of the national average (IPARDES, 2023). In eight of the TC's municipalities, per capita income was less than 50% of the state average.

Regarding higher education in the TC, only Laranjeiras do Sul offers in-person academic programs (BRASIL/MEC, 2023). According to data from 2021, 3,870 students were enrolled in distance education programs across the twenty municipalities, with 570 completing their programs (IPARDES, 2023). It is worth noting that distance education programs are offered in twelve municipalities. For in-person programs, 1,194 students were enrolled, with 81 completing their degrees.

It is also important to highlight some particular characteristics of the TC, such as the presence of two Indigenous lands, several quilombola communities, and 51 rural settlements distributed across its twenty municipalities. Despite this considerable number, between the 2006 and 2017 agricultural censuses, the Gini Land Concentration Index (IGcf) increased in 60% of the municipalities (Krajewski, Hernandez, and Zeneratti, 2022). According to the same authors, 80% of the municipalities exhibit strong to very strong land concentration (IGcf > 0.700), along with a reduction of 681 rural establishments during this period.

The indicators presented herein reinforce the view of a territory marked by poverty, underdevelopment relative to the state average, and profound socioeconomic inequalities. It was precisely this scenario that led to the region being

selected for the establishment of the Federal University of Fronteira Sul (UFFS) (Krajevski, 2018). The following section outlines key features of the Laranjeiras do Sul campus.

2.3 The Laranjeiras do Sul Campus

The Federal University of Fronteira Sul (UFFS), a free and public federal university, was established as part of the federal expansion of higher education institutions in 2009 and began operations in 2010 with the offering of 42 undergraduate programs. Among its distinguishing features, two are particularly noteworthy: its establishment process—marked by strong public participation and the active involvement of various social movements—and its multicampus model. The university's campuses are distributed across the three southern Brazilian states: Cerro Largo and Erechim in Rio Grande do Sul, Chapecó in Santa Catarina (which also houses the university's headquarters), and Laranjeiras do Sul and Realeza in Paraná. A campus in Passo Fundo, also in Rio Grande do Sul, was later added. It is important to note that the municipalities selected to host these campuses did not previously have public and tuition-free universities. In fact, the UFFS was created to serve the population of the "Great Frontier of Mercosur" Mesoregion, a territory historically marked by inadequate public policies to meet its specific demands (Krajevski, 2018). This aligns with one of the founding principles of the university: a commitment to regional development, as reflected in both the Institutional Development Plan and the university's statute (UFFS, 2018).

As mentioned earlier, Laranjeiras do Sul was chosen to host a campus due to its location in the second most underdeveloped region in the state of Paraná. However, this would not have been possible without the direct action and strong engagement of the local population—especially social movements, among which the Landless Workers' Movement (MST) played a prominent role. The MST has been active in the region not only in advancing agrarian reform, but also in other strategic efforts, including the advocacy that led to the establishment of the UFFS (UFFS, 2011).

The Laranjeiras do Sul Campus began operations with six undergraduate courses and 260 seats³. The selection of courses was directly influenced by the needs and input of the regional community (Krajevski, 2018). The admissions process, which considered the number of years students had spent in public schools, favored the inclusion of candidates from municipalities in the region. In the university's first four years, more than 70% of admitted students were from the territory itself.

Currently, the campus offers eleven undergraduate programs: Agronomy, Biological Sciences, Economics, Social Sciences – bachelor's degree, Social Sciences – Teaching Degree, Food Engineering, Aquaculture Engineering, Rural Education: Social and Human Sciences – Teaching Degree, Interdisciplinary Rural Education: Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Agricultural Sciences – Teaching Degree, Interdisciplinary Rural Education: Natural Sciences – Teaching Degree, and Pedagogy. During this period, six postgraduate (*lato sensu*) programs and two academic master's programs have also been created: the Master's in Agroecology and

³ The courses in Agronomy, Rural Development and Agroindustrial Management (transformed into Economic Sciences in 2012), Interdisciplinary in Education in the Field, Food Engineering and Aquaculture Engineering were implemented in early 2010.

Sustainable Rural Development and the master's in food science and technology (UFFS, 2023a).

Most of the students enrolled at the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus are from the state of Paraná, and among them, the majority reside within the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory. According to Novaes and Stoffel (2020), of the 1,031 students enrolled in the first semester of 2018, 91% (938) reported residing in Paraná, with 487 residing in Laranjeiras do Sul itself. Other municipalities with a significant number of students included Rio Bonito do Iguaçu, Nova Laranjeiras, Cantagalo, Quedas do Iguaçu, Porto Barreiro, Marquinho, and Reserva do Iguaçu—all of which belong to the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory (Novaes and Stoffel, 2020).

Furthermore, the research and extension activities developed on campus are strongly linked to regional demands and serve not only the municipality of Laranjeiras do Sul, but the broader region as well. This is one of the key consequences of the campus being located in the territory. The university's potential to contribute to regional development extends beyond the traditional tripartite mission of teaching, research, and outreach. In fact, the potential impact of the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus on the development of the TC goes beyond this academic triad (Krajewski, 2018).

Thus, given the strong connection between universities and regional development processes, the characteristics of the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory, and the relevance of UFFS, estimating the university's economic impact is essential for understanding the implications of the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus in the region. To this end, the following section outlines the methodological procedures employed.

3. Methodology

Although this study is based on the premise that regional development has a multidimensional nature, the economic impacts of the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus will be the ones estimated. After all, the measurement of socioeconomic impacts that consider the different dimensions of development (economic, political, social, and cultural) still lacks consolidated evaluation models. Regarding economic impacts, among the existing and available models, the one selected for this investigation is based on the methodology adopted by Fernandes (2009), used in her doctoral thesis "The Economic Impact of Higher Education Institutions on Regional Development: The Case of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança."

Models that estimate economic impacts are usually classified in two ways: from the demand side (traditional perspective – short-term models) and from the supply side (competence-based perspective – long-term impacts) (Fernandes, 2009). According to the author, the traditional approach is derived from generalizations of the American Council on Education (ACE) model, Ryan ShortCut, and Input-Output models. The competence-based perspective, on the other hand, is grounded in human capital theory and the Bluestone model.

In the case of this study, the demand-side perspective was used, specifically the ACE model, developed by Caffrey and Isaacs in 1971 (Fernandes, 2009). This approach aims to measure the institution's impact on the regional economy through the contribution of university-related agents, institutional expenditures, and product offerings. In the specific case of UFFS/Laranjeiras do Sul Campus, there are no

revenues from services rendered. The sources of direct impact⁴ are the following local expenditures: by the university, faculty and technical-administrative staff, students, and visitors (Fernandes, 2009).

These sources can generate two types of effects: export and import substitution (Fernandes, 2009). In the case of exports, the expenditures of faculty, students, and technical-administrative staff who relocated from other regions are estimated. For import substitution, agents who remained in the region are considered. Additionally, the expenditures made by the Campus itself were accounted for. In this way, it becomes possible to estimate the economic impacts at the local level.

The expenditure estimates for the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory (TC) were calculated as follows:

$$TC = GI + GD + GSTA + GE \quad (1)$$

Being

GI = annual Laranjeiras do Sul's Campus expenditure

$$GD = (GDs \times NDs + GDn \times NDn) \times 12 \quad (2)$$

$$GSTA = (GSTAs \times NSTAs + GSTAn \times NSTAn) \times 12 \quad (3)$$

$$GE = (GEs \times NEs + GEn \times NEn) \times 12 \quad (4)$$

Where:

GD = Total annual expenditure of faculty members who either relocated from another region or did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul, composed of:

GDs = Monthly expenditures of faculty members who relocated from another region;

NDs = Number of faculty members who relocated from another region;

GDn = Monthly expenditures of faculty members who did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul;

NDn = Number of faculty members who did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul.

GSTA = Total annual expenditure of technical-administrative staff who either relocated from another region or did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul, composed of:

GSTAs = Monthly expenditure of technical-administrative staff who relocated from another region;

NSTAs = Number of technical-administrative staff who relocated from another region;

GSTAn = Monthly expenditure of technical-administrative staff who did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul;

⁴ According to Fernandes (2009), the regional economic impacts resulting from higher education institutions (IES) are classified as direct, indirect, and induced. Given the difficulties in estimating indirect and induced effects, it is more common to use multipliers to establish the relationship between the university's operations and the regional economy.

NSTAn = Number of technical-administrative staff who did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul.

GE = Total annual expenditure of students who either relocated from another region or did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul, composed of:

GEs = Monthly expenditure of students who relocated from another region;

NEs = Number of students who relocated from another region;

GEN = Monthly expenditure of students who did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul;

NEEn = Number of students who did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul.

When considering the expenditures resulting from the activities carried out by the university, a multiplier of 1.7⁵ was adopted. According to Fernandes (2009), this value is the result of averages and measures derived from various multipliers used in multiple studies. It is through this multiplier that the direct impact of the university on the Cantuquiriguaçu Territory will be estimated.

In accordance with the assumptions of the model, data were collected from the target population through the administration of a questionnaire⁶, which was directly answered by faculty members, technical-administrative staff, and students of UFFS – Laranjeiras do Sul Campus. Expenditure data related to the university's operational costs were obtained from the Management Reports prepared by the Campus for the years 2016 and 2021.

4. Economic Impacts on the Territory: Results and Discussion

The hypothesis that the establishment of a federal public university campus in an underdeveloped and economically disadvantaged region would generate positive effects on the territory served as the starting point for measuring the direct impact of the UFFS – Laranjeiras do Sul Campus on the region.

The data used in the analysis were obtained through a questionnaire administered to faculty members, technical-administrative staff, and students. The survey comprised 27 questions and covered personal, professional/academic, family, and living condition information.

⁵ Saúde et al. (2014) suggest the use of the Keynesian multiplier as a tool to indicate the economic impacts of a higher education institution. The multiplier is defined as a rate that demonstrates how an initial expenditure (carried out by the government, businesses, or through consumption) can generate a proportionally greater increase in income and in the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of an economy. Fernandes (2009) highlights that the multiplier can range between 1.0 and 3.0, and the greater the multiplier, the greater the estimated economic impact—where a coefficient of 1.7 represents a more moderate perspective. The multiplier, as defined by Miller (1994, as cited in Fernandes, 2009), is a numerical value that quantifies the total benefit or economic impact generated by a change in an economic activity or in the local economy. This measure, therefore, expresses the interconnectedness of the economy with networks of interdependent activities (Fernandes, 2009).

⁶ The research procedures were approved by the UFFS Research Ethics Committee under registration number CAAE 63081922.0.0000.5564, based on opinion report number 5.832.473.

The presentation of the results is organized into five subsections. The first subsection characterizes the faculty members of UFFS and analyzes the impact of their expenditures. The second presents the results obtained from the responses of technical-administrative staff. The third subsection analyzes the responses of students who participated in the study. The fourth outlines the expenditures incurred by the Campus itself. Finally, the fifth subsection presents the results regarding the direct economic impact of the UFFS – Laranjeiras do Sul Campus on the region.

4.1 Faculty Members of the UFFS – Laranjeiras do Sul Campus

The total number of faculty members working at the institution’s Laranjeiras do Sul campus considered in this study was 96, of whom 33 responded to the questionnaire, representing 34.38% of the population.

Among the participating faculty members, 90.9% have been working at UFFS for over five years, and of these, 93.9% relocated from another municipality to take up their positions at the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus. These figures underscore the role of the university as a driving force for job creation in Laranjeiras do Sul and surrounding areas, attracting qualified professionals from other regions and states, consistent with the findings of Corrêa, Silveira, and Kist (2019), who characterize regional development in similar terms.

Approximately 73% of the respondents reported that the average net household income exceeds eight national minimum wages. Additionally, 15.2% earn between seven and eight minimum wages; 9.1% between six and seven; and 3% between five and six. In total, 87.9% of the respondents have their income deposited in a bank branch located in the municipality of Laranjeiras do Sul.

To estimate faculty expenditures, monthly spending was considered in the following categories: rent or mortgage payments, children’s education, food, healthcare, leisure, personal items, computer equipment and internet, tuition and service fees, and other expenses. The value ranges used were: up to BRL/R\$)250; BRL/R\$)250.01 to BRL/R\$)500; BRL/R\$)500.01 to BRL/R\$)750; BRL/R\$)750.01 to BRL/R\$)1,000; BRL/R\$)1,000.01 to BRL/R\$)1,250; BRL/R\$)1,250.01 to BRL/R\$)1,500; and above BRL/R\$)1,500. For calculation purposes, the average of each range was used, and the result was multiplied by the number of responses to produce the data presented in Table 2 (based on Equation 2).

Table 2 – Types of Expenditures by UFFS – Laranjeiras do Sul Campus Faculty Members Who Participated in the Survey (2023)

Type of Expenditure	Average Expenditure by Those Who Relocated to Work at UFFS (BRL/R\$)
Food	1.342,74
Health	1.137,10
Rent or mortgage payments	987,90
Other expenses	814,52
Childre’s education	750,00 ⁷
Personal items	665,32

⁷ For the calculation of expenditures related to “children’s education,” only faculty members who reported having one or more children were considered, totaling 20 respondents.

Leisure	447,58
Tuition and fees	314,52
Internet	302,42
Total	6.762,1

Source: Questionnaire administered to faculty members

The results indicate that the 31 faculty members who responded to the questionnaire and relocated to Laranjeiras do Sul due to the establishment of the campus spend, on average, BRL/R\$)6,762.10 per month, amounting to BRL/R\$)2,515,501.20 annually⁸. Based on this average monthly expenditure, the study sought to understand how these values are distributed across a set of categories, as presented in Table 2.

Among the expenditures analyzed for the sample of faculty members who relocated, food stands out with an average monthly expenditure of BRL/R\$) 1,342.74. Health appears as the second highest average monthly expense, with BRL/R\$) 1,137.10, followed by rent or mortgage payments as the third largest item, with an average monthly expenditure of BRL/R\$) 987.90.

The total monthly expenditure for the analyzed sample of faculty members who relocated amounts to BRL/R\$) 209,625.00 (BRL/R\$) 6,762.10 per household), calculated by summing the average monthly amounts spent by the 31 faculty members who moved to Laranjeiras do Sul due to UFFS and responded to the questionnaire.

4.2 Administrative Technical Staff at UFFS – Laranjeiras do Sul Campus

The Campus employs 70 administrative technical staff members, of whom 29 responded to the questionnaire, representing a sample of 41.43% of the population. The results obtained from this group indicate that 89.7% have worked at UFFS for more than five years, with 62.1% of them having relocated to the municipality to perform their functions at the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus. The proportion of administrative technical staff originally from the campus region is proportionally higher compared to the faculty sample, corresponding to 10 individuals. Among the faculty respondents, only 6.06% are from the region, whereas in the case of administrative technical staff, this percentage corresponds to 37.9%.

Approximately 31% of respondents indicated that the average monthly net household income is greater than eight national minimum wages; in 10.3% of cases, this income ranges between seven and eight minimum wages; 17.2% between six and seven minimum wages; 10.3% between five and six minimum wages; 13.8% between four and five minimum wages; and 17.2% up to four minimum wages.

Regarding the expenditures of the administrative technical staff at UFFS, the monthly amounts reported were considered across the following categories: rent or mortgage payments, children's education, food, healthcare, leisure, personal items, computer equipment and internet, fees and dues, and other expenses. The value ranges used were: up to BRL/R\$) 250, BRL/R\$) 250.01 to BRL/R\$) 500, BRL/R\$) 500.01

⁸ There were two faculty members who participated in the survey and did not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul; therefore, they did not relocate after joining UFFS.

to BRL/R\$) 750, BRL/R\$) 750.01 to BRL/R\$) 1,000, BRL/R\$) 1,000.01 to BRL/R\$) 1,250, BRL/R\$) 1,250.01 to BRL/R\$) 1,500, and above BRL/R\$) 1,500. For the calculations, the average between the reference values within each range was applied and then multiplied by the number of responses in order to obtain the results presented in Table 3 (calculated based on Equation 3), concerning the annual expenditures of the administrative technical staff who participated in the study.

Table 3 – Expenditures of Administrative Technical Staff at UFFS – Laranjeiras do Sul Campus Who Participated in the Survey (2023)⁹

Type	Average Monthly Household Expenditure (BRL/R\$)	Number	Months	Total Expenditure (BRL/R\$)
Staff who relocated to the region	4.770,51	18	12	1.030.430,16
Staff who did not relocate and do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul, PR	2.000,00	1	12	24.000,00
Total	6.770,51	19	12	1.054.430,16

Source: Questionnaire administered to administrative technical staff.

The monthly expenses of the administrative technical staff who relocated to the region to work at UFFS, combined with the food and transportation expenses of those staff members who did not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul, reached an average monthly amount of BRL 6,700, resulting in an approximate annual expenditure of BRL 1 million. To better understand the allocation of these expenses by type, Table 4 presents the detailed breakdown obtained from the survey.

Among the expenses analyzed for the administrative technical staff who relocated, food stands out with an average monthly expenditure of BRL 1,166.67. The average monthly expenditure on healthcare was BRL 708.33, and BRL 833.33 was spent on rent or mortgage payments. These three categories represent the highest monthly expenses reported.

Table 4 – Types of expenditures by administrative technical staff of UFFS Campus Laranjeiras do Sul who participated in the 2023 survey (in BRL/R\$)

Types of Expenditure	Average expenditure by those who relocated to work at UFFS	Average expenditure by those who did not relocate but do not reside in Laranjeiras do Sul
Food	1.166,67	1.375,00
Rent or mortgage payments	833,33	0,00
Health	708,33	0,00
Other Expenses	638,39	0,00
Personal items	444,44	0,00
Leisure	416,67	0,00

⁹ Table 3 presents information from 19 staff members out of the 29 surveyed, as those who did not relocate and reside in Laranjeiras do Sul were excluded from the analysis.

Children's education	284,90 ¹⁰	0,00
Internet	138,89	0,00
Tuition and Fees	138,89	0,00
Transportation	x	625,00
Total	4.770,51	2.000,00

Source: Questionnaire applied to administrative technical staff.

The total monthly expenditure of the analyzed sample for the 18 administrative technical staff who relocated was BRL 85,869.18 (BRL 4,770.51 per household). Among the 11 staff members who did not relocate to work at UFFS, the total monthly expenditure was BRL 55,750.00 (BRL 5,068.18 per household).

4.3 UFFS Campus Laranjeiras do Sul Students

When planning the research sample, there were 941 enrolled students at the institution, of which 289 responded to the survey, representing 30.71% of the population. Among these participating students, 50.5% reported residing in the region and being native to it. A percentage of 39.1% indicated that they began residing in the region after starting their studies at UFFS Campus Laranjeiras do Sul, and 6.6% reside in the region primarily due to professional reasons.

Regarding their occupations, 46.4% reported being exclusively students, 23.5% working students with formal employment contracts, 23.2% interns or working students without formal contracts, 3.8% self-employed or micro-entrepreneurs, 2.8% family farmers, and 0.3% entrepreneurs.

Within the sample, 57.1% did not relocate to study at UFFS and are from the region, while the remaining 42.9% relocated to enroll at the institution. Among the students who did not relocate, 61.82% stated that they would have studied at another higher education institution had they not enrolled at UFFS. These results highlight the importance of interiorization of higher education, as noted by Niquito, Ribeiro, and Portugal (2018).

Of the responding students, 36.7% reported that the average monthly net income of their family group was up to one national minimum wage, 31.5% between one and two minimum wages, 15.2% between two and three minimum wages, 8% between three and four minimum wages, 3.1% between four and five minimum wages, and 5.5% above five minimum wages.

To calculate students' expenditures, the monthly values reported for the following types of expenses were considered: rent or mortgage payments, food, healthcare, leisure, personal goods, computer equipment and internet, tuition and fees, and other expenses. The value ranges were: up to BRL 250, BRL 250.01 to BRL 500, BRL 500.01 to BRL 750, BRL 750.01 to BRL 1,000, and above BRL 1,000. For the calculations, the average between the referenced values was used and multiplied by the number of responses to obtain the results presented in Table 5 (calculation performed according to Equation 4).

¹⁰ For the calculation of expenditures related to the category "children's education," only administrative technical staff members who reported having children were considered, totaling 11 individuals.

Table 5 – Expenses of UFFS Campus Laranjeiras do Sul students who participated in the 2023 survey

Types	Monthly Expenses per Household (BRL/R\$)	Number	Months	Total Expenditure (BRL/R\$)
Students who relocated to the region	1.907,26	124	12	2.838.002,88
Students who did not relocate and would have studied at other institutions	2.579,66	102	12	3.157.503,84
Total	4.486,92	226	12	5.995.506,72

Source: Survey results (2023).

Based on the 226 students accounted for in Table 5¹¹, it was possible to determine that the average monthly expenditure per household was BRL 4,500, resulting in a total annual expenditure of approximately BRL 6 million for this sample. For this calculation, twelve months per year were considered because, in addition to irregular school recess periods (especially during and after the Covid-19 pandemic), many students who participated in the survey began working in the region, which leads most of them to remain in the municipality throughout the year.

To better understand the types of expenses where students allocated their spending, Table 6 presents a detailed breakdown obtained from the survey.

Regarding the monthly expenditures incurred by students who moved to the region to study at UFFS, the highest values were allocated to rent or mortgage payments, with an average monthly amount of BRL/R\$) 484.88. For students who already resided in the region and did not need to relocate to attend UFFS, the largest expenditure was on food, with a monthly average of BRL/R\$) 618.87.

Table 6 – Types of Expenses Reported by UFFS Laranjeiras do Sul Campus Students Participating in the 2023 Survey

Type of Expense	Average expenditure of students who moved to the region to study at UFFS (BRL/R\$)	Average expenditure of students who did not move but would have enrolled elsewhere (BRL/R\$)
Rent or mortgage payments	484,88	351,75
Food	438,51	618,87
Health	195,56	267,16
Leisure	181,45	191,18
Personal items	207,66	345,59
Internet	141,13	238,97
Tuition and fees	129,03	199,75

¹¹ A total of 63 students who participated in the survey were not included in the calculations, as they reported that they would not have attended another institution if the UFFS had not been established.

Other expenses	129,03	366,42
Total	1.907,25	2.579,69

Source: Student survey (2023).

Considering the total monthly amounts spent by students who relocated to study at UFFS, the value reached BRL/R\$ 236,500.24 (BRL/R\$ 1,907.26 per capita). In the case of the 102 students who already lived in the region but would have enrolled in another institution had UFFS not been established locally, the total monthly expenditure amounted to BRL/R\$ 263,125.32 (BRL/R\$ 2,579.08 per capita).

4.4 Expenditures of the UFFS Campus Laranjeiras do Sul

The total expenditures of the Campus were obtained from the Management Reports produced by the university, corresponding to the fiscal years from 2016 to 2021. All values were adjusted to December 2022 based on the Broad Consumer Price Index (IPCA) (Datax.net.br, 2023).

The management reports present disbursements related to personnel expenses (staff remuneration), student assistance¹², outsourced services, acquisition of goods (furniture, permanent materials, office supplies), payments for services (telephony, internet, electricity, outsourced transportation, vehicle maintenance), and the operational costs of campus facilities (university cafeteria, laboratories, and experimental areas).

Considering that Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this article presented the expenditures of technical and academic staff—resources derived from salaries that are already accounted for in the management reports—it is necessary to exclude the proportion of remuneration corresponding to the staff members who participated in the survey.

Thus, by adding the technical and teaching staff who responded to the questionnaire to the total number of employees, a coverage rate of 35.25% was reached. The financial data from this group have already been accounted for in Sections 4.1 and 4.2. This percentage was subtracted from the total remuneration expenses paid to campus staff and represents the proportion of faculty members and technical-administrative staff who participated in the study (62) relative to the total population (176). Consequently, the campus expenditure figures presented in Table 7 reflect this adjustment.

Table 7 – Expenditures of the UFFS Campus Laranjeiras do Sul from 2016 to 2021

Year	Monthly Expenditures (BRL/R\$)	Annual Total (BRL/R\$)
2016	2.012.933,92	24.155.207,07
2017	2.212.249,35	26.546.992,14
2018	2.371.723,61	28.460.683,28
2019	2.173.506,93	26.082.083,15
2020	2.173.934,23	26.087.210,74

¹² It is worth noting that these expenditures include the socioeconomic assistance provided to students; however, scholarships related to teaching, research, outreach, and cultural activities are not accounted for.

2021	1.890.276,54	22.683.318,52
Average	2.139.104,10	25.669.249,15

Source: UFFS (2018), UFFS (2021).

*Values adjusted to December 2022 using the Broad Consumer Price Index (IPCA).

The management reports published by the Laranjeiras do Sul Campus indicate that the average annual expenditures reached BRL/R\$) 25.6 million over the period from 2016 to 2021. Among these expenses, salary payments to campus staff, student assistance programs, and payments to outsourced service providers stand out, in addition to other expenditures listed in the paragraph preceding Table 7.

The Campus contributes to the generation of linkage effects, as highlighted by Hirschman (1958) and Krajevski (2018), since the mobilized resources tend to be spent within the region, thereby generating multiplier effects.

4.5 Direct Impact of the UFFS Laranjeiras do Sul Campus

Based on the results obtained in this research, it was possible to estimate the impact that the institution generates in Laranjeiras do Sul and the surrounding region (Fernandez, 2009).

Following the methodology outlined in Section 3, Table 8 presents the total expenditures of faculty, technical-administrative staff, students who participated in the survey, and the annual institutional disbursements (as described in Section 4.4).

Table 8 – Total Annual Expenditures Related to UFFS Laranjeiras do Sul Campus

Type of Expenditure	Amount (BRL/R\$)
(1) Annual spending by faculty	2,515,501.20
(2) Annual spending by technical staff	1,054,430.16
(3) Annual student expenditures	5,995,506.72
(4) Annual institutional spending	25,669,249.15
Total annual expenditures	35,234,687.23

Source: Surveys and UFFS (2016); UFFS (2021).

Based on the individual values calculated, it was found that the UFFS Laranjeiras do Sul Campus accounted for an annual expenditure of approximately BRL/R\$) 35 million in 2023, considering the spending identified in the tables presented throughout this article. When applying the multiplier of 1.7, as proposed by Fernandes (2009), the total estimated impact reached BRL/R\$) 59,898,968.29 for the year, which corresponds to approximately BRL/R\$) 4,991,580.69 per month.

These resources circulate through the economy of Laranjeiras do Sul and its surrounding region, being spent on rent or mortgage payments, food, healthcare, leisure, internet services, school fees, and various other goods and services. These expenditures are driven by the consumption of faculty members, technical-administrative staff, students, and the UFFS Campus itself. Notably, such financial flows only exist in the region due to the establishment and continued operation of the institution since 2010.

For comparative purposes, in 2023, the municipal budget revenue projected by the City Hall of Laranjeiras do Sul was BRL/R\$) 124,200,000.00 (Portal da Transparência, 2023). Thus, the economic impact of the UFFS Campus corresponds to approximately 48.23% of the total municipal revenue forecast for that year.

5 Final Considerations

This study aimed to examine the financial expenditures of the academic community (faculty, technical-administrative staff, and students) and of the Campus itself, in order to identify the economic impacts generated in the surrounding region. To achieve this, a methodology adapted from Fernandes (2009) was applied.

Established within the broader context of the interiorization of Federal Institutions of Higher Education in Brazil, UFFS operates as a driving force in the region, not only through its economic impact but also through its contributions to teaching, research, and extension. These activities have resulted in professional qualification as well as scientific and technological outcomes. Thus, in addition to its role in a historically socioeconomically marginalized territory, the Campus has become an important local employer, generating multiplier effects in the municipality of Laranjeiras do Sul and its surroundings.

The results revealed total annual expenditures of BRL/R\$) 35,234,687.23. When applying the multiplier of 1.7 suggested by Fernandes (2009), the estimated impact amounts to BRL/R\$) 59,898,968.29. For comparative purposes, this figure corresponds to 48.23% of the budgeted revenue for the municipality of Laranjeiras do Sul in 2023.

This research proves relevant as it identifies the direct economic impact of a federal university within its region by analyzing the monetary expenditures of the academic community and the institution's operations. The data presented underscore the significance of UFFS's presence in the area and contribute to a broader understanding—by both the academic and regional communities—of the economic results uncovered by the study. These findings also serve as valuable information for public and private decision-makers when considering the importance of supporting the needs of those involved with UFFS Laranjeiras do Sul Campus.

Finally, it is worth emphasizing that there are further possibilities for measuring the consequences of the Campus's establishment in Laranjeiras do Sul and its surrounding areas. Future research could explore more detailed profiles of the university's agents and investigate other initiatives and collaborations undertaken by the Campus within the broader context of the region. Furthermore, it would be valuable to conduct studies assessing the Campus's contributions beyond economic dimensions, which would provide deeper insight into the university's role in regional development.

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