AWAKENING TO STATISTICS: A NEW LOOK IN THE CLASSROOM

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To introduce beginners to statistical reasoning, we have proposed several different activities, using situations in the students’ everyday life. This project (sponsored by FAPESP 04/13457-0) has been inspired in the Census at School project (UK) through the application of some questionnaires.

Brazilian students, mainly from public schools, have few opportunities to deal with statistical tools. In 2005, this project was developed in “Escola de Aplicação da Faculdade de Educação da Universidade de São Paulo” (SP - Brazil) as a pilot study, where students collected, processed and analyzed their own data – this provided an active learning towards Statistics. A deeper meaning was achieved when the students worked with their own measures.

In this poster we present some activities done with 14/15-year-old students in order to prepare them to apply Phase 1 Key Stage 2 questionnaires (proposed by Census at school) to their 7/11-year-old colleagues. Their data were processed and analysed.

This pilot project better integrated different actions related to Statistics, some of them already planned for that school. The teachers involved in this work started considering different approaches to Mathematics in the classroom, regarding topics related to Statistics. This movement is also spreading among teachers of other disciplines.