GuGuDaDados: A space for children and babies in events

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Abstract

We present GuGuDaDados, a space created in 2022 by R-Ladies São Paulo to support parents and caregivers by providing a safe and engaging environment for their children during community events.

Introduction

R-Ladies is a global organization that promotes gender diversity in the R community. R-Ladies São Paulo is proudly a chapter of R-Ladies Global, working to enhance gender diversity in the R community in São Paulo, Brazil.

Community Survey - 2020

In 2020, we conducted an online survey to understand the composition of our community and explore ways to increase its diversity. The questionnaire was shared in our online groups, such as Meetup and Telegram, and received 161 valid responses.

Thirteen percent of respondents in 2020 had children. In the survey, an open question gathered suggestions for including more parents, such as:

- Providing a space to leave children during events;
- Recording events so that mothers/fathers/caregivers can watch when it is more convenient;
- Conducting online broadcasts of events to promote the participation of people who cannot attend in person.

The 2020 survey highlighted the need for a collective effort to enhance diversity. Since 2022, we have asked participants to complete a Google Form at each event, collecting diversity-related information to track the effectiveness of our initiatives.

GuGuDaDados - Space for children and babies

GuGuDaDados (free translation: GuguDadata) is a collaborative and experimental space proposed by R-Ladies São Paulo to keep children entertained and cared for while their parents/caregivers participate in community activities. The space is located in a room

adjacent to the R-Ladies event room, ensuring that caregivers feel comfortable leaving their children there.

The first edition of GuGuDaDados was in November 2022. Since then, most events hosted by R-Ladies São Paulo have included the GuGuDaDados space. We only omit the space when the venue is not safe for children.

Safety measures

Upon arrival, each parent fills out a form with general information about their child (name, age), health-related questions (allergies or health concerns), and photo consent. Both the child and the parent receive wristbands with their names and phone numbers. For each venue that we consider for R-Ladies São Paulo events, we ensure the venue is safe for children. We only promote GuGuDaDados when the venue meets our safety standards.

Who takes care of the children?

We hire a primary school teacher to lead recreational activities for the children during the event. In the event signup form, we ask participants if they will bring children, and if so, we request their ages and names to plan age-appropriate activities. Organizers also bring toys, drawings, markers, games, and temporary tattoos to keep the children entertained. Additionally, co-organizers of R-Ladies São Paulo assist with the GuGuDaDados activities.

Financial support

R-Ladies São Paulo received grants from the **R Consortium** in 2023 and 2024, enabling the community to offer this service. Other organizations, such as Open Knowledge Brasil, have also funded the activity for specific events.

Future Collaborations and Expansion

The success of GuGuDaDados has led to interest from other events and organizations in incorporating similar spaces for children. Notable events that have collaborated or plan to collaborate with R-Ladies São Paulo to offer this service include:
- CODA.BR - Brazilian Conference on Data Journalism and Digital Methods (2023)
- CODA Amazônia - Brazilian Conference on Data Journalism and Digital Methods in the Amazon (2024)

These collaborations highlight the growing recognition of the need for inclusive practices in professional and academic events. By providing spaces like GuGuDaDados, we can ensure that parents and caregivers have the opportunity to participate fully in community activities, promoting diversity and inclusivity within the R community and beyond.