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China City: Business paradise and work hell.

City of China: the paradise of business and the hell of work

China City: Business paradise and work hell

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Summary

This study analyzes the reality of workers in the city of Luanda, China, from the perspectives of...
sociological, economic, and anthropological. The research sought to understand the working conditions faced by these workers, the impacts of remuneration policies, and the relationships
The relationships established between Angolan workers and Chinese employers, as well as the survival strategies developed in the face of precarious employment and social insecurity.
Methodologically, the research was conducted within a qualitative paradigm, with an exploratory and descriptive character, using the case study method. Semi-structured interviews, direct observation, and field notes were used, involving approximately 73 Angolan workers in China City. The results revealed excessive working hours, low wages, payment delays, lack of adequate food and rest conditions, job insecurity, and a strong power imbalance in the relationships between workers and employers.

It was also found that many workers face extreme survival difficulties, including limitations in access to food, transportation, and family life. The investigation concluded that Chinatown represents a profoundly contradictory space, in which economic growth, capital flows, and commercial modernization coexist with labor exploitation, social vulnerability, and the fragility of human dignity. The study demonstrates that economic development, dissociated from social protection, tends to reproduce inequalities and contemporary forms of precarious work in the Angolan context.

Keywords: precarious work; Angolan workers; labor exploitation; social inequality

Abstract

This study analyzes the realities of workers in China City, Luanda, from sociological, economic, and anthropological perspectives. The research sought to understand the working conditions these workers faced, the impacts of remuneration policies, the relationships between Angolan workers

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and Chinese employers, and the survival strategies developed in the face of precarious employment and social insecurity. Methodologically, the research was conducted within a qualitative paradigm, adopting an exploratory and descriptive approach and employing a case study design. Semi-structured interviews, direct observation, and field notes were used, involving approximately 73 Angolan workers from China City. The results revealed excessive working hours, low wages, payment delays, inadequate food and rest conditions, job insecurity, and a strong power imbalance in the relationship between workers and employers. Many workers also face extreme survival difficulties, including limited access to food, transportation, and family life. The investigation concluded that Chinatown represents a profoundly contradictory space, in which economic growth, capital circulation, and commercial modernization coexist with labor exploitation, social vulnerability, and the fragility of human dignity. The study demonstrates that economic development, when decoupled from social protection, tends to reproduce inequalities and contemporary forms of precarious work in the Angolan context.

Keywords: precarious work; Angolan workers; labor exploitation; social inequality

1. Introduction

The intensification of economic relations between Angola and China, particularly after the end of the
The civil war in 2002 significantly transformed the commercial, urban, and labor dynamics of...
Taking advantage of Angola's abundant oil and mineral resources, China has consolidated itself as a country.
one of Angola's main economic partners, investing heavily in infrastructure,
civil construction and commerce (ALDEN, 2007; CORKIN, 2013). In this context, the so-called
China City, located in Luanda, has become one of the most emblematic spaces of the presence.
Chinese economic activity in Angola, simultaneously symbolizing commercial growth,
The circulation of goods and the expansion of employment opportunities. However, behind the image
Despite economic progress, realities marked by precarious employment and low wages are emerging.
Employment insecurity and social vulnerability of Angolan workers.
Although Angola is internationally recognized as one of the richest African countries in
Despite the abundance of mineral and petroleum resources, the resulting benefits of this economic growth have not been met.
have been distributed equitably among the population. According to HARVEY (2005), the processes
Contemporary economic globalization tends to produce unequal forms of
development, especially in peripheral economies dependent on the export of raw materials-
cousins. In this scenario, economic growth often coexists with unemployment.
Informal labor and social exclusion. In China, this contradiction is clearly evident.
to the extent that commercial dynamism and business expansion coexist with reports
recurring issues of excessive working hours, lack of social protection, and salary delays.
fragility of labor relations.

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From a sociological point of view, MARX (2013) argues that, in the capitalist system, work
It tends to be subordinated to the logic of capital accumulation, which transforms labor power into...
This problem becomes even more significant as a commodity and deepens exploitative and unequal relations.
in-depth studies developed by Buassa (2024), especially in the article *“Bendito meu*
"Late wages: a critical look at the remuneration policies of Chinese companies in Angola"
in which the author demonstrates that salary delays and wage instability have become a reality.
recurring practices in certain Sino-Angolan business contexts, producing impacts
economic, psychological and social impacts on workers. According to BUASSA (2024), precarization
Salary not only compromises the economic stability of individuals, but also reinforces
Relationships of dependency and survival in the workplace.
Beyond the economic and sociological dimensions, the reality of China City demands
Likewise, an anthropological approach focused on the daily experiences of workers.
GEERTZ (1989) argues that social phenomena should be understood from the perspective of
meanings constructed by the social subjects themselves. In this way, the City of China does not
It represents not only a commercial space, but also a territory for survival and adaptation.
Cultural, social tensions and everyday resistance. The relationships established between workers.
Angolans and foreign employers reveal complex dynamics of power, communication and
inequality, reflecting what MBEMBE (2014) calls post-colonial continuities in
contemporary African societies.
It is in this context that the present study, entitled *“China City: The Business Paradise and the*
"Hell of Work" aims to analyze the reality of workers in the city.
from China, in Luanda, from a sociological, economic and anthropological approach and,
Specifically: i) to understand the working conditions faced by workers; ii) to analyze
the impacts of remuneration policies on the social and economic lives of workers; iii)
to examine the existing relationships between Angolan workers and Chinese employers; iv)
to identify the survival strategies developed in the face of precarious conditions.
labor and social insecurity; and, finally, v) interpret workers' perceptions about
Work, dignity, exploitation, and economic opportunities in the context of China City.

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2. Theoretical Framework

2.1 Labor, capital and social domination: from economic exploitation to the naturalization of precariousness

Understanding the reality of workers in China City, Luanda, requires analysis.
A critique of labor as a social relation structured by economic inequalities and by
Mechanisms of domination. Karl Marx is one of the main references for understanding
This problem arises when arguing that capitalism transforms labor power into a commodity.
subordinated to the logic of capital accumulation. For MARX (2013), profit results from appropriation.
of the surplus value produced by the worker, which generates relationships marked by exploitation and
alienation. According to the author, "the worker becomes poorer the more wealth he produces."
(MARX, 2013, p. 82). This formulation helps to understand the contradiction observed in China, in
that the growth of trade and the circulation of goods does not necessarily translate into
improving the living conditions of workers.

However, reducing the analysis solely to the economic dimension of the operation would be insufficient for
Understanding the complexity of contemporary labor relations. Max Weber (1999)
argues that modern domination is also organized through bureaucratic rationalization and
The disciplinary structure of organizations. In this sense, the worker is not controlled solely by dependence.
salary, but also by the institutional mechanisms of surveillance, hierarchy and discipline of
work. Chinatown can thus be interpreted as a space where relationships
Labor relations are regulated by forms of control that make obedience seem rational and
necessary for maintaining employment.

Pierre Bourdieu (2001) further explores this discussion by demonstrating that social inequalities
They reproduce not only materially, but also symbolically. The author argues that
Certain forms of domination become socially naturalized through habitus.
leading individuals to accept precarious conditions as a normal part of their existence.
social. This perspective helps to understand why many workers in China remain
subjected to unstable labor relations, without effective capacity for contestation, especially in a
A context marked by unemployment and economic vulnerability.

Regarding the problem of precarious employment in Angola, BUASSA (2024) demonstrates that the delay
Salary instability and pay instability have become recurring practices in certain sectors.
Sino-Angolan business contexts, producing economic and psychological impacts on
workers. Similarly, ALVES DA ROCHA (2023) argues that growth

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Angola's economic downturn was not accompanied by the consolidation of a stable labor market.
which favored the expansion of labor relations marked by informality and wage instability.
and due to low social protection.

The connection between Marx, Weber, Bourdieu, and contemporary Angolan authors allows
to understand that the precariousness of work in China City does not result solely from difficulties
isolated economic factors, but a social structure marked by the exploitation of labor, by
Disciplinary rationalization and the symbolic naturalization of inequality. Thus, the City of China
It represents a space where economic growth, capital circulation, and vulnerability...
Labor relations coexist in a profoundly contradictory way.

2.2 Globalization, dependency and foreign capital in Angola

Chinese economic expansion in Angola must be understood within the broader context of
globalization and the economic dependence of peripheral economies. David Harvey (2005)
argues that contemporary capitalism expands through the global circulation of capital and
from the constant search for new markets, raw materials, and vulnerable labor. In this process,
Economic growth tends to benefit specific groups, while broad sectors of the population also benefit.
The population remains socially excluded. The city in China constitutes a concrete expression of this.
of this dynamic, insofar as it simultaneously symbolizes commercial modernization and
precarious employment.

Dependency theory, developed by authors such as SAMIR AMIN (1977) and THEOTONIO
DOS SANTOS (2000) reinforces this analysis by arguing that exporting peripheral economies
The exploitation of natural resources remains subordinate to the interests of international capital. In this case
In Angola, the heavy dependence on oil, minerals, and foreign investment contributed
for the consolidation of an economic model marked by the concentration of wealth and by
fragility of the labor market.

This reality was also discussed by ALVES DA ROCHA (2024), who stated that the
Angolan economic growth remained excessively dependent on oil revenues.
and foreign capital, which limited economic diversification and social stability.

Similarly, ROSADO DE CARVALHO (2023) observes that the Chinese presence in Angola
It produced infrastructural and commercial growth, but did not eliminate the structural problems linked to it.
to unemployment, informality, and social inequality.

Thus, Chinatown can be interpreted as a space where the contradictions of
Globalization becomes visible: as capital circulates, businesses expand and trade increases.

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Although growth is increasing, many workers remain subjected to labor relations marked by insecurity.
economic and social vulnerability.

2.3 Job insecurity, remuneration and economic survival

The transformations in the contemporary labor market have been marked by the expansion of
unstable, insecure, and socially vulnerable forms of employment. STANDING (2014) calls
this phenomenon of "precariat," characterizing a class of workers subjected to
Wage instability, lack of social protection, and permanent insecurity. For CASTEL
(1998), the fragility of labor relations produces processes of social disaffiliation, in which work
It fails to guarantee economic stability and social integration.
This reality is clearly evident in China, where many workers face...
low wages, payment delays, and lack of job security. BUASSA (2024), in analyzing
Regarding the compensation policies of Chinese companies in Angola, it is argued that the salary delays...
It became an integral part of the normality of labor relations, forcing workers to...
Developing constant strategies for adaptation and economic survival. The author demonstrates
that wage insecurity affects not only income, but also dignity and stability.
Family and social security for workers.
Similarly, KAJIBANGA (2023) observes that the Angolan labor market continues
marked by informality, fragile contracts, and limited social protection, above all
in urban commercial sectors. According to the author, the economic vulnerability of workers
significantly reduces the capacity for labor claims, favoring the reproduction of
unequal labor relations.
The connection between Standing, Castel, Buassa, and Kajibanga allows us to understand that precarization
Labor in Chinatown goes beyond the economic dimension and also takes on social dimensions.
and human. Work ceases to represent stability and social mobility, transforming itself
often in an experience marked by insecurity, survival, and dependence.
economic.

2.4 Daily life, work culture and survival strategies

Understanding the reality of workers in China also requires an anthropological perspective.
centered on the everyday experiences of social subjects. Clifford Geertz (1989) argues that the
Social phenomena should be interpreted based on the meanings constructed by the individuals themselves.

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individuals in the context of their daily practices. From this perspective, work is not limited to a economic activity, but it also constitutes a space for the production of meaning, for social adaptation. and the construction of identities.

In the context of China, many workers develop survival strategies in the face of... job instability and economic insecurity. JAMES SCOTT (1985) argues that groups Socially vulnerable people tend to create silent forms of everyday resistance, manifested by through adaptations, negotiations, and small survival mechanisms. Thus, permanence The situation of workers in precarious conditions should not be interpreted solely as submission, but also as a result of the limitations imposed by economic necessity and the absence of alternative employment options.

The cultural dimension of labor relations is also evident in the interactions between workers. Angolans and foreign employers. MBEMBE (2014) notes that many African contexts Contemporary societies continue to be marked by renewed forms of inequality and post-reform dependency. colonial systems, in which economic power influences social and symbolic relations. In China, these relationships reveal tensions linked to work hierarchy, communication, cultural differences, and... economic inequality.

Similarly, COHEN (2023) argues that Angolan urban daily life has been marked by the expansion of economic survival practices associated with informality, to Wage instability and precarious living conditions. Thus, China City can be understood as a space where work, survival, and daily resistance are intertwined. permanently revealing the social contradictions of the current Angolan economic model.

3. Materials and Methods

This investigation was conducted within the qualitative paradigm, assuming an exploratory and... descriptive, with an interdisciplinary sociological, economic and anthropological approach. The option The qualitative research was justified by the need to understand experiences and perceptions. and social practices of workers in China City in the context of their labor relations and their survival conditions (MINAYO, 2014). The exploratory nature stemmed from the limited scientific production about the reality of workers in that commercial space, while the The descriptive dimension allowed for the identification and interpretation of labor, economic, and social conditions. experienced by these workers (GIL, 2008). From an analytical point of view, the investigation articulated the sociological perspective, centered on power relations and the precariousness of work; economic approach, focused on remuneration policies and wage impacts; and the perspective

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anthropological, oriented towards the daily experiences and survival strategies of workers.

The investigation adopted the case study method, focusing empirically on the city of China in Luanda. The choice of this method was justified by the possibility of analyzing, in depth... and contextualized, the social, economic and labor dynamics present in that specific space. (YIN, 2015). Furthermore, the China City constituted a relevant field for understanding the contradictions between economic growth, the presence of Chinese capital, and the precariousness of work in Angola (STAKE, 1995).

The research utilized semi-structured interviews, direct observation, and field notes. The interviews allowed us to understand the working conditions, the remuneration policies, the labor relations and survival strategies of workers in China City (BOGDAN) & BIKLEN, 1994). Direct observation made it possible to analyze the dynamics of the work environment and social interactions in everyday life (GEERTZ, 1989), while the field diary served to Record impressions, behaviors, and relevant situations observed during the investigation. (MINAYO, 2014).

The investigation exclusively involved Angolan workers from China City, in Luanda. Approximately 73 interviews were conducted, intentionally selected, taking into account The experience and involvement of the participants in the work environment under investigation.

4. Results

This section presents the main results obtained during the fieldwork. in China City, in Luanda. The data were organized based on the following analysis categories. defined in the study, considering the experiences, perceptions, and lived experiences reported by workers interviewed.

4.1 Working Conditions and Job Insecurity

The accounts gathered during the fieldwork revealed working conditions marked by excessive working hours, lack of adequate rest, insufficient wages and precarious working conditions of the work environment. Many respondents associated working in China City with a experience of continuous physical and psychological strain. One of the workers interviewed, an operator He has worked in the warehouse for approximately four years and stated that "here we don't work like people, We work like machines. We start in the morning and leave at night. Sometimes there's not even time to...

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"We have to eat." The statement highlights not only the intensification of the work pace, but also the perception of dehumanization associated with work activity in that commercial space.

The testimonies also demonstrated that working hours frequently They exceeded the legally established limits without corresponding salary compensation or Adequate rest periods. Another interviewee stated that “the problem isn’t just the low salary. It’s the overall suffering. We work a lot, we don’t rest, and in the end, the money doesn’t arrive.”

"Not even enough to go back home." Insufficient wages appeared repeatedly in the interviews. associated with difficulties in transportation, food, and maintaining family relationships. Some workers reported being unable to return to their homes for several days due to... distance between the workplace and their homes, aggravated by the financial inability to support it. daily travel costs.

In this regard, one of the interviewees stated that "there are colleagues who go two weeks without going to..." "They live far away and the taxi fare isn't enough. Some even sleep here in the warehouse." Another worker added that “when the salary is late, the person gets stuck here. They can’t get anything done.”

"Not even seeing family. Work becomes punishment." These statements reveal that job insecurity goes beyond... economic dimension and directly interferes with family relationships and mobility of workers and their minimum conditions of human dignity.

Observations made during fieldwork also allowed us to identify the absence of Adequate conditions for food, rest, and workplace safety. In many cases, the Interviewees stated that they worked long hours without any food support from the employers. One worker stated: “There are days when I work hungry until closing time. If I don’t bring Home-cooked food, nobody wants to know. Furthermore, particularly serious reports have emerged of... workers who slept in makeshift spaces or even outdoors due to the difficulties economic challenges faced.

One young person interviewed stated that "I've slept on the street twice because I didn't have money to..." transportation. I worked all month and still couldn't sort out my life.” These Testimonies demonstrate that work in China City is deeply associated with social vulnerability, economic insecurity, and the daily struggle for survival. Thus, the The workers' continued presence in that space seems to result less from effective opportunities for social advancement and, moreover, the lack of alternative employment and income in the context contemporary Angolan economy.

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4.2 Salary, late payment and economic survival

The accounts gathered during the investigation demonstrated that the issue of salary constitutes one of the major sources of suffering and instability among workers in China City. Most one of the interviewees stated that they received insufficient salaries to cover food, transportation, Housing and family support, a situation aggravated by frequent payment delays. In several In the testimonies, the salary appeared not as an instrument of economic stability, but as A permanent mechanism for precarious survival.

One of the interviewees stated that "the salary here isn't enough to live on, it's only enough to keep suffering." Another worker stated that “when we get paid, we already owe everything. The money comes in and "Leaves on the same day." The statements reveal that the remuneration received by the workers does not It ensures minimum conditions for social reproduction, which forces many of them to resort to... Loans, family support, or informal survival strategies. Salary delays. They emerged as a recurring phenomenon in the interviews conducted. Many workers reported going weeks or months without receiving wages, living in A constant situation of economic insecurity. One interviewee stated that "sometimes we are two Months without pay, and yet we have to keep working because if we complain, they fire us. "Although." Another stated that "the boss knows we need the job, so the person puts up with everything." "Because he's afraid of unemployment."

The economic difficulties caused by wage instability directly affected the Food, transportation, and family relationships for workers. One of the participants reported that “there are days when I leave home without eating and come back without money to buy bread”. Another interviewee He stated that "the hardest thing is looking at your children and not being able to bring anything home afterward." "Working the entire month." The interviews demonstrated that insufficient and irregular wages produce not only material hardship, but also feelings of humiliation, powerlessness, and exhaustion. psychological.

Some workers also reported extreme survival situations associated with inability to afford basic transportation and housing costs. One interviewee stated that “I’ve slept at the market because I didn’t have money to get back home.” Another stated that “he has colleagues who practically live here because their salary doesn't allow them to commute every day." Reports reveal that wage insecurity goes beyond the economic sphere and has a profound impact. in the dignity, emotional stability, and family life of workers.

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4.3 Labor relations, fear and silencing of workers

The interviews conducted demonstrated that labor relations in China City are marked due to a strong power imbalance between workers and employers, which produces environments characterized by fear, silence, and constant insecurity. Many interviewees They stated they were afraid to complain about working conditions for fear of immediate dismissal. mainly due to high unemployment and the difficulty in obtaining new job opportunities. in Luanda.

One of the workers stated that "here nobody talks much because any complaint can be silenced." "It means losing your job." Another interviewee stated that "the boss knows we are..." "Those in need accept anything to avoid being on the street." The statements reveal that the fear of Unemployment functions as a labor control mechanism, significantly reducing the workers' ability to make demands.

The reports also pointed to frequent situations of humiliation, authoritarian treatment and Psychological pressure in the workplace. One interviewee stated that "sometimes we are treated "As if we had no value." Another stated that "the worker here is only useful when he is there." "To produce; when they get sick or complain, it becomes a problem." These testimonies demonstrate that... The employment relationship goes beyond the economic dimension and also takes on symbolic forms of devaluation of human beings.

The interviews also revealed perceptions of unequal treatment among workers. Angolans and foreigners. Some participants stated that national workers receive Lower wages, increased work pressure, and fewer opportunities for dialogue with the employers. One worker stated that “Angolans work more and talk less because they know which can be easily replaced.” Another stated that “many bosses don’t even want to listen to the "Workers just want results."

Despite the atmosphere of fear and vulnerability, some workers reported the existence of Small acts of solidarity among colleagues, especially through sharing food and money. for transportation and emotional support. One interviewee stated that "sometimes it's the person who saves the worker who does the work." "It's the colleague himself." These practices reveal silent forms of resistance and survival. collective response to the difficulties imposed by the work environment.

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5. Discussion of the results

The results obtained during the investigation demonstrated that the labor reality of the City of In Luanda, China is marked by profound contradictions between economic growth and... The circulation of capital and the precarious living conditions of workers. The evidence. The collected information revealed excessive working hours, insufficient wages, and payment delays. lack of adequate food and rest conditions, fear of unemployment and vulnerability of labor relations, confirming that commercial expansion in that area does not correspond necessarily leading to the improvement of the social conditions of the individuals who sustain the dynamic. local economy.

The working conditions identified are similar to the classic analyses of MARX (2013), for Capitalism organizes itself through the appropriation of labor power and the subordination of... The worker is subject to the logic of capital accumulation. The testimonies of those interviewed demonstrated that many workers see themselves as disposable instruments of production, subjected to Long working hours and low wages, without any real guarantee of social dignity. A a statement from an interviewee that “here we don’t work as people, we work as "machines" precisely highlights what Marx describes as the alienation of the worker in in relation to their own human condition. Economic production appears dissociated from well-being. social, which reveals that business growth does not necessarily imply an increase in the value of human labor.

However, the research results demonstrated that labor exploitation was observed in the City. China's influence is not limited to the economic dimension, but is also exercised through mechanisms. organizational structures of discipline, fear, and symbolic control. In this respect, the data are similar to... Weber's (1999) reflections highlight that modern labor relations operate equally through the disciplinary rationalization of organizations. The constant fear of dismissal, Present in several interviews, it has proven to be an important mechanism of social control over the workers. The practical impossibility of filing complaints and the acceptance of conditions Degrading labor conditions have demonstrated that economic dependence produces silent forms of Workplace submission, making obedience functional to maintaining employment.

The investigation also demonstrated the precariousness of work in China City. It goes beyond the workplace and directly interferes with the family, emotional, and social life of... workers. Reports of workers going weeks without visiting their families, They slept in warehouses or even outdoors, due to a lack of financial resources, revealing extreme levels. of social vulnerability. These results engage critically with BOURDIEU (2001), for

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who believe that social domination tends to be naturalized through symbolic power. Many Workers began to face labor hardship, delayed wages, and economic instability. as normal elements of professional life, internalizing forms of precariousness that reduce the capacity for social protest.

The results regarding salary delays and insufficient pay also reinforce the analyses developed by BUASSA (2024) on compensation policies in companies Chinese women in Angola. As noted by the author, the testimonies collected demonstrated that Wages no longer represent economic stability and have taken on a logic of... precarious survival. The expression used by one of the interviewees, "the salary here isn't enough to live on, "It's just a matter of continuing to suffer," he summarizes in a particularly powerful way the transformation of work into a unstable and emotionally draining survival mechanism. The salary delay, far from being... Although it may have been an exceptional phenomenon, it has proven to be a recurring and socially normalized practice. in that work context.

The research also confirmed STANDING's (2014) reflections on the emergence of "Precariat" in contemporary economies. Workers in China exhibit characteristics Typical characteristics of this social group: job instability, economic insecurity, lack of protection. social difficulties and an inability to plan for the future. Many interviewees stated that they live... permanently indebted, unable to guarantee regular food, transportation or stability familiar. Work has ceased to function as a mechanism for social mobility and has become It's simply an immediate survival strategy.

From a macrostructural point of view, the results also corroborate the analyses of the theory of dependency, particularly those of AMIN (1977) and SANTOS (2000). Although Angola possesses vast Despite the lack of mineral and oil resources, the economic wealth produced by international capital does not have has been distributed proportionally to the working population. The City of China constitutes, in this In this sense, it is a concrete expression of the contradictions of the contemporary Angolan economic model. a space marked simultaneously by commercial modernization and the reproduction of Social inequality. Economic growth associated with foreign capital has not eliminated it. precarious employment, but in many cases, it contributed to deepening dependency relationships. and social vulnerability.

The interviews also revealed symbolic and cultural tensions in the relationships between workers. Angolans and foreign employers, an aspect that brings the results closer to the reflections of MBEMBE (2014) on post-colonial continuities in contemporary African societies. Many workers reported feelings of inferiority, devaluation, and lack of belonging. Professional recognition. The perception of unequal treatment among Angolan workers.

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and foreigners demonstrate that labor relations in that space are not only economic, but also traversed by cultural and symbolic power asymmetries.

Despite the significant precariousness identified, the results also demonstrated the existence of Small forms of solidarity and daily resistance among workers. The sharing of food, money for transportation, and emotional support revealed collective mechanisms of survival in the face of the difficulties imposed by the work environment. These elements come together. from the analyses of SCOTT (1985), for whom socially vulnerable groups develop forms Silent acts of daily resistance as a strategy for confronting relations of domination.

Thus, the results of the investigation allow us to conclude that China City represents a a deeply contradictory space in the contemporary Angolan context. Although it symbolizes economic growth, trade expansion and integration into global capital circuits, the space It simultaneously reproduces intense forms of labor exploitation, social vulnerability, and Human precarity. The "business paradise" reveals itself, for many workers, to be a true... "Work hell," in which daily survival depends on the constant acceptance of insecurity, silence, and social instability.

Final Considerations

The present investigation aimed to analyze the reality of workers in the City of China, in Luanda, from a sociological, economic, and anthropological perspective. The The results obtained demonstrated that this commercial space, although symbolizing growth Economic factors, the circulation of goods, and the expansion of business are also evident. due to profound social and labor contradictions. The research concluded that the dynamics

living conditions of workers, revealing the coexistence between commercial modernization and human precarity.

Regarding working conditions, it was found that many workers face long working hours. excessive, lack of adequate rest, insufficient food, contractual fragility and The absence of minimum conditions for safety and dignified work. These elements demonstrate that work in China City goes beyond the economic dimension and takes on characteristics of Physical, psychological, and social strain.

Regarding remuneration policies, the investigation concluded that low wages and Frequent salary delays constitute one of the main sources of suffering and instability among... the workers. The salary proved insufficient to guarantee food, housing, transportation and

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family support, forcing many workers to develop permanent strategies of survival. In many cases, remuneration has ceased to represent economic stability and It came to assume only an immediate function of precarious survival. The normalization of backwardness. Salary insecurity and wage instability highlight the fragility of labor relations in that region. economic context.

Regarding the relationship between Angolan workers and Chinese employers, the results They demonstrated the existence of strong power imbalances marked by the fear of unemployment, by Limitations on the ability to make demands and labor control practices. Many workers They reported being afraid to complain about working conditions for fear of immediate dismissal. revealing an environment characterized by silence, insecurity, and economic dependence, beyond perceptions of unequal treatment between national and international workers foreigners, especially in terms of access to remuneration, communication, and professional recognition.

The research also made it possible to identify different survival strategies developed. by workers facing precarious working conditions and social insecurity. Among these Strategies highlighted included sharing meals, financial assistance among colleagues, and staying in school. prolonged time spent at the workplace to avoid transportation costs and the tacit acceptance of Working conditions as a mechanism for preserving employment.

Finally, the research concluded that workers in China perceive work simultaneously as a necessity, a source of suffering, and the only possibility for economic survival. Although some Recognizing the space as an income opportunity, most respondents associated it with... the work experience is linked to exploitation, humiliation, and social insecurity. In this sense, the City of China represents one of the most visible expressions of the contradictions in the Angolan economic model. contemporary times, in which commercial growth, foreign capital, and the precariousness of labor... They coexist in a profoundly unequal way.

Thus, it can be concluded that the "business paradise" observed in China City is based on... to a large extent, in working conditions marked by vulnerability, exploitation and fragility of human dignity. Research shows that economic development, When detached from social protection and the valorization of work, it tends to reproduce inequalities and deepening contemporary forms of social exclusion in the Angolan context.

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