

## HEALTH AND EDUCATION: PARASITOLOGICAL SURVEY AS A TOOL FOR INTERVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION IN RURAL AREAS OF BAHIA

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Parasitosis are neglected diseases with high morbidity and mortality rates in peripheral urban and rural areas of the country. The objective was to determine the parasitic and epidemiological profile of rural communities, identify associated risk factors and carry out health education actions for their control and prevention. It was developed in Várzea da Casa and Várzea Nova II, Santo Estevão, Bahia. After signing the terms of consents, the collection of samples of feces, soil and vegetables was carried out for examination and the mapping of the socioeconomic and sanitary conditions of the population. Data stored on the Vicon Saga platform and analyzed in the Epi Info software. Positive individuals were referred for treatment by the Family Health Unit. We examined 172 stool samples and positivity was 16.3%. In Várzea da Casa were identified protozoa (*Entamoeba histolytica/dispar*, *Giardia. Duodenalis* and *Entamoeba. coli*) and helminths (*S. stercolaris*, *S. mansoni* and *Ancylostomides*) In Varzea Nova II, *E. histolytica/dispar*, *E. coli* and *E. nana*. The majority of the population had elementary school (46.2%), represented by farmers (40%) and retirees (21.7%), and income from 1 minimum wage (53.3%). The households were supplied by the public network (90.0%) and used the pit (94%) for the destination of the waste. Analysis of soil samples detected anyclostomides larvae and vegetables, amoeba cysts. No statistically significant association was observed between parasite carriers and the variables studied. Health education activities were directed to the use of gloves, footwear and care in the hygiene of food. The forms of water treatment were presented, importance of using the clay filter and practical demonstration of candle hygiene and hand washing. The implementation of public policies on basic and environmental sanitation and health education practices are essential to reduce the occurrence of these diseases and improve the quality of life of rural communities.

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