ANALYSIS OF ENTEROPARASITOSES IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES OF TIMON-MA

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Text: Enteroparasitoses, classified as neglected diseases, still significantly affect various regions of Brazil, being associated with poor sanitation infrastructure. This study aimed to analyze fecal sam ples and describe the socio-epidemiological profile of three vulnerable communities in Timon-MA, two in rural areas and one in an urban area. Serial fecal samples were collected and analyzed us ing the Hoffman and modified Willis-Mollay techniques. A socio-epidemiological questionnaire was applied, followed by lectures, distribution of educational booklets, personal hygiene kits, clay filters, and recreational activities to prevent intestinal parasitoses. A total of 192 individuals participated, of whom 118 returned fecal samples. Among the 118 tests performed, 24 showed positivity for enteroparasites, with protozoa and helminths identified. Cases of polyparasitism were recorded in 16.6% (4/24) of the positives. The detected parasites were: *Entamoeba dispar/histolytica* (71%), Ancylostomatidae (21%), *Ascaris lumbricoides* (13%), *Iodamoeba butschlii* (13%), *Giardia lamblia* (5%), and *Enterobius vermicularis* (5%). The questionnaire revealed that 52% (100/192) of partic ipants used filtered water, 82.8% (159/192) washed their hands before meals and after using the bathroom, 30.2% (58/192) had piped water, 19.2% (37/192) reported having basic sanitation, and only 17.1% (33/192) sanitized fruits and vegetables with chlorinated solution. These data reinforce that the prevalence of enteroparasitoses is directly related to socioeconomic conditions, exacerbated by the lack of basic sanitation and limited access to treated water. It is concluded that access to potable water and basic sanitation is not only a matter of comfort but an essential right to ensure quality of life and health for the population.

Supported by: PIBIC Fapepi Call nº 004/2022. Process nº 00110.000108/2023-50.

Keywords: Intestinal parasitoses, sanitation infrastructure, community epidemiology