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TERMINOLOGICAL GLOSSARY IN BRAZILIAN SIGN LANGUAGE (LIBRAS) ON NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES (NTDS) AS A TOOL FOR PROMOTING COMMUNICATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION

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Abstract

Inclusive education requires an environment that reflects human diversity, promoting democratic coexistence and accessibility. However, deaf individuals face communication barriers in public spaces, especially in healthcare services, which limit access to essential information, such as that related to Neglected Diseases (NDs), health conditions prevalent among vulnerable populations. This study aimed to identify the sign-terms used by deaf individuals to refer to NDs and develop a glossary in Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) designed for deaf students and healthcare professionals. The glossary addresses technical terms about NDs to facilitate understanding, raise awareness, and assist in the training of healthcare professionals to better diagnose and treat deaf patients with these diseases. A qualitative exploratory research approach was adopted as the methodological framework. During the data collection phase, the study included the identification of Libras signs, the provision of these signs, and their validation by the deaf community through the Content Validity Index (CVI) in healthcare settings. A total of 17 disease-related expressions caused by parasites, viruses, and disease vectors were evaluated, significantly contributing to the cataloging of Libras signs for NDs. The results indicate that the Libras glossary significantly contributes to inclusive access to health and science, empowering the deaf community and facilitating the dissemination of information about NDs. However, it is crucial to understand the urgent need to expand this approach to other areas of knowledge, ensuring the inclusion of the deaf community in the context of public health.

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