

HEALTH EDUCATION AS A MEASURE ESSENTIAL PROPHYLACTIC TO SUPPORT THE PREVENTION OF SCHISTOSOMIASIS MANSONI

DARA MAYARA CARNEIRO MIRANDA SANTANA¹, GEOVANA RODRIGUES TRINDADE¹, ADRIANO MONTE ALEGRE¹

¹ FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF BAHIA, BAHIA, BRAZIL

Introduction: Schistosomiasis mansoni (MS) is a parasitic disease caused by *Schistosoma mansoni* associated with numerous social problems. Among the most common prophylactic measures for MS are: I) avoiding bathing in rivers with a history of transmission and with the presence of the host mollusc; II) adequate treatment of parasitized individuals; III) not defecating near rivers; IV) control of the *Biomphalaria* mollusc and V) health education. **Objective:** To examine the impact of education on the prevention of MS.

Methodology: Integrative literature review was conducted, including data collection, between November 2024 and January 2025 in the Virtual Health Library (VHL), using descriptors such as "Health Education", "Schistosomiasis" and "Public Health". Studies published between 2019 and 2024, in Portuguese, English or Spanish, and with free access were included. Duplicate records and those without an approach to health education and/or MS were excluded.

Results and Discussion: Of the 52 studies evaluated, 13 were selected after applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The analysis indicated that 75% of the studies focused on MS, notably epidemiological, pharmacological and transmission pattern research. In only 25% of the articles was there an association between MS and health education. In these studies, in particular, the authors pointed out that education measures should not be applied in isolation, and that actions to combat MS should be integrated and multi-professional. They stressed the importance of more investment in infrastructure, treatment and control. In order to effectively combat MS during medium and long term, education must not be neglected. **Conclusion:** The study highlights the lack of research on the role of health education in preventing MS. The analyses collected point to the need to improve educational measures in the fight against MS, in line with the common sense that education can interrupt and/or minimize countless problems.

Keywords: Health Education, Schistosomiasis, Actions