

## A PLAYFUL TEACHING EXPERIENCE ABOUT LEISHMANIASIS

VANESCA SANTOS SILVA<sup>1</sup>, FRED DA SILVA JULIÃO<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>INSTITUTO FEDERAL BAIANO - CAMPUS SANTA INÊS, BAHIA, BRAZIL

The importance of playful teaching on Parasitology facilitates the understanding of parasitic diseases for different school levels. The objective was to report a playful teaching experience on leishmaniasis. In an activity developed in the discipline of Parasitology by the students of the Degree in Biological Sciences of the Instituto Federal Baiano - *Campus* Santa Inês, on leishmaniasis, the content was presented to students from different Schools in the Jiquiriçá Valley, southwestern region of Bahia. The activity was developed through illustrative posters, containing a playful activity where spectators interacted and fixed knowledge. In 2024, 10 schools were visited in 6 Municipalities (Cravolândia, Itaquara, Jiquiriçá, Mutuípe, Santa Inês and Ubaíra). Since the beginning of this extension activity in 2013, it is estimated that 15,000 students have participated in the activity, including students from Elementary School (stages I and II), High School, Youth and Adult Education (EJA) and Undergraduate courses. The interest and participation of the students who showed enthusiasm, motivation and curiosity of the information presented about leishmaniasis was notorious. Although the Jiquiriçá Valley is an endemic area for leishmaniasis, many spectators were unaware of the diseases, preventive measures and symptoms, understanding, learning and fixation to content was facilitated with the use of playfulness popularizing the teaching of Parasitology.

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