

EXPERIENCE OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION CURRICULARIZATION IN THE PREVENTION OF GIARDIASIS IN A RURAL COMMUNITY OF BAHIA

AMANDA CAROLINA DO CARMO JESUS¹, DAVID ALVES MACIEL LIMA¹, SILVANE MARIA BRAGA SANTOS² & SIMONE SOUZA DE OLIVEIRA²

¹ STUDENT AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF FEIRA DE SANTANA (UEFS), DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DSAU); FEIRA DE SANTANA, BAHIA, BRAZIL.

² PROFESSOR AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF FEIRA DE SANTANA, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (DCBIO), FEIRA DE SANTANA, BAHIA, BRAZIL.

University extension strengthens the relationship between university and community by providing a space for dialogue and shared knowledge. This study aims to report experiences of undergraduate students in carrying out extension activities in a rural community in municipality of Santo Estevão, Bahia. These activities are part of the activities of a curricular component, with support from the Parasitological Studies Extension Program of UEFS, which defines the parasite profile and promotes health education actions in the community. The methodology consisted of presenting the Program to the community and a conversation circle on intestinal parasites. Stool samples were collected for parasitological examination at the Clinical and Parasitology Analysis Laboratory of UEFS, following the signing of informed consent forms. After the results were delivered, the positive individuals were referred to treatment at the local Health Unit. Subsequently, an intervention proposal was developed and implemented based on identified parasitic profile. A total of 66 families participated in the study, and 216 stool samples were analyzed. The overall positivity rate was 31.5%, with 5.6% for helminths and 25.0% for protozoa (including both commensal amoebas and parasites such as *Giardia duodenalis*). These results guided the intervention proposal, which consisted of holding a dialogue lecture, presenting a video on Giardiasis, and producing informative material on transmission mechanisms and prevention measures. The importance of treated water was emphasized, and a practical demonstration was given on the care needed when using a clay filter. By developing these activities, students demonstrated technical-scientific knowledge obtained in the classroom and applied in practice, in a community. We conclude that the carried-out extension activities strengthen the relationship between the university and the community and contribute to the prevention of parasitic diseases, such as giardiasis.

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