

HEALTH EDUCATION: PLAYFUL STRATEGIES IN TEACHING PARASITIC DISEASES

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Health education is essential to promote disease prevention and the adoption of healthy habits. This paper describes an educational experience carried out with 9th grade elementary school students and 3rd grade high school students in public schools in Macaíba/RN, focusing on raising awareness about human and animal parasitic diseases. The highlight was the use of the game "Pass or Repass Parasitological" to make learning more dynamic and engaging. The activities took place at the Alfredo Mesquita Filho Rural Education Center and at the Ivonete Felipe de Souza Professora State School of Traíras, and were organized in three stages. Initially, there was a presentation of the project and the application of a questionnaire to collect information about socioeconomic profile, hygiene habits and previous knowledge about helminthiasis and protozoa. Then, the students participated in discussions about the importance of good personal and dietary hygiene habits, with an emphasis on parasitic diseases such as taeniasis, leishmaniasis and schistosomiasis. They were also able to observe macroscopic specimens and images of parasites, enriching their visual and practical understanding of the topics covered. In the second phase, the dynamics of the game "Pass or Repass Parasitological" were applied, which reviewed and reinforced the content in an interactive way, with questions and challenges that encouraged active participation from students. In the final phase, participants answered a questionnaire to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities. The results showed a significant increase in the students' knowledge, with advances in the identification of parasites, understanding of the forms of transmission and adoption of preventive measures. The game stood out for making learning more dynamic and participatory, facilitating the retention of content and proving to be an effective strategy in teaching complex health topics.

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