

PARAPREV - EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF PARASITOSEs: STRENGTHENING HEALTH IN BARREIRAS-BA

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Parasitic diseases are a serious public health problem, especially in areas with poor sanitation and education. This reality is experienced in Barreiras-Ba, since data published by the Bahia State Health Department (SESAB) reveal that in 2023, 19.7% of Chagas disease cases in Bahia were concentrated in the west of the state, and 13.5% in Barreiras alone. Furthermore, according to SESAB, from 2022 to 2023, there was an exponential increase in the incidence of leishmaniasis cases in the state, with the West macro-region taking fourth place. The project "ParaPrev - Education and Prevention of Parasitic Diseases: Strengthening Health in Barreiras-BA" aims to raise awareness among the population about the main parasitic diseases present in the region, their forms of transmission and prevention methods. With educational activities in schools and Basic Health Units (UBS), the initiative uses lectures, discussion groups, distribution of informative materials and the use of microscopes to demonstrate infectious forms of parasites. In addition, the dissemination of content through a digital platform on Instagram expands the reach of the information. The project impacts students, health professionals and the community, addressing diseases such as Chagas, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, giardiasis, amoebiasis, helminthiasis, dengue, cutaneous larva migrans, scabies and pediculosis. The methodology involves organized visits to schools and UBS, dividing the activities according to the main groups of parasitic diseases (waterborne, fecal-oral, vectorial and cutaneous transmission). The proposal seeks not only health education, but also critical training of the population on the impacts of parasitic diseases in the social and economic context. Thus, it is concluded that the initiative is of great importance in reducing the incidence of these infections, promoting a better quality of life for the population and minimizing treatment costs in the public health system.

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