

TITLE: THE USING OF PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES IN MICROBIOLOGY FOR TEACHING GOOD HYGIENE HABITS FOR EDUCATION OF YOUTH AND ADULTS

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ABSTRACT:

Youth and Adult Education (in Portuguese, EJA) is a teaching modality that was created in the face to the clear necessity of promoting literacy in the public aged over 15 years. Although the illiteracy rate in this age group has reduced from 20.05% in 1991 to 8.0% in 2015, there are still about 13 million of illiterate people in Brazil. Considering the concept of literacy beyond of reading and writing learn, scientific literacy is an important part of the strategy of social inclusion through education. In these terms, literacy includes to broaden the horizons of the student regarding the basic concepts of life sciences, including microbiology as part of their day by day life and presenting good hygiene habits as fundamental in order to keep the microbiota associated to the body under control. The aim of this work was to use microbiology practices as a strategy to teach good hygiene habits to EJA students. The activity was developed over 3 days, being the first day used to present basic concepts of microbiology and hygiene, as well as to report on diseases caused by lack of hygiene with hands, mouth, feet, hair and genitalia. The second day was used to collect samples, rubbing a swab against the skin of hands, feet, ears and neck, as well as objects of personal using such as cell phone and wallet. The smears were cultured in Petri dishes containing Nutrient Agar (peptone, 5 g/L, sodium chloride, 5 g/L, meat extract 1 g/L and yeast extract, 2 g/L), incubated for 24 h and 37 ° C. The third day was dedicated to observation of slides under the optical microscope, from which the students were presented to the microbial world, and visualized the microorganisms that inhabit the most diverse regions of their body and objects of personal use. After this last activity, the students were invited to report their experience and what importance they gave to good hygiene practices. Among 39 students who participated in the activity, 23 reported on this, with most of the reports having a satisfactory result. The students highlighted the relationship between the activity carried out with the daily life, as one of the participating students points out: "For me, the work that was carried out was important to alert us to some diseases that we did not attempt (...)" . This experience corroborates the idea that theory-related practice makes learning more significant.

Keywords: Youth and Adult Education, Experimental activities, Microbiology, Hygiene habits

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