

PERCEPTIONS OF HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE**PERCEPÇÕES SOBRE SAÚDE E QUALIDADE DE VIDA****PERCEPCIÓNES DE SALUD Y CALIDAD DE VIDA**

Technological advance, associated with the progress of science, has made an important contribution with planning actions aimed at the health-disease process. Health is related to the conditions of life, work and environment, including access to services of health promotion and diseases prevention. Habits and lifestyle are closely associated with people's health condition and the risk behaviors, such as smoking, alcoholism, sedentary behavior, poor diet, among others.

These are part of a broad spectrum of social, economic, political and cultural issues, demanding answers in the health area, particularly with regard to measures of health promotion and disease prevention, circumstances essential to individual and collective quality of life. Health promotion is one of the strategies to seek health care with consequent improvement of the population's quality of life. It favors a shared management among population groups in different life cycles, social movements, among workers and others, producing autonomy and co-responsibility.

In 2016, it was established the State Health Promotion Policy (POEPS), which is the result of an appropriation and activation movement of the National Health Promotion Policy (PNPS), through various municipal and state actors. The construction of this Policy was guided by a methodology that adopts the reference model for the coherence analysis of the actions of health promotion, based on the model of evaluation of healthy municipalities proposed by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in 2005, being also used to the review of the National Health Promotion Policy (PNPS).

POEPS aims to promote and encourage the development of actions that favour equity, improvement of conditions and ways of living, which stimulate the empowerment of individuals and communities, so as to motivate and expand the potentiality of the individual and collective health and social participation, seeking to reduce inequalities, vulnerabilities and risks to health through action on social, economic, political, cultural and environmental determinants.

The latest concepts of health and quality of life broaden perceptions, guiding health professionals for a practice with special attention to the health promotion, regardless of a

culturally feared diagnosis or an unfavorable prognosis. However, oncology patients undergoing surgery and/or chemotherapy, as well as individuals with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), with Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), or even the older adults and individuals who have undergone the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), deserve special attention, as they tend to underestimate health and overestimate the disease and the finitude.

The quality of life and mental health of people in such condition and of professionals directly involved should be evaluated with scientific rigour and treatment strategies and protection measures - especially for health professionals - should be explored with direction for health promotion.

This issue of the Journal of Nursing and Health Care - REAS/UFTM should be highly acclaimed, because it is a series of researches, which establish themes of great intellectual and scientific value, with evidence that guarantee a safe professional practice.

Enjoy reading this issue!

Lislei J. Patrizzi Martins, Prof^ª Dra. do Departamento de Fisioterapia da Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro – UFTM. lislei.patrizzi@uftm.edu.br

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