

**TITLE:** HEALTH EDUCATION AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE FOR SYPHILIS AND GONORRHEA IN INSTITUTIONS OF BASIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF PARÁ

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**ABSTRACT:**

Health Education is the denomination given to educational practice that aims to induce the population to acquire habits that promote health. Pathogenic bacteria are microorganisms that cause various human diseases. These diseases include syphilis and gonorrhoea, which are transmitted through the sexual act without the use of condoms. In Brazil, there was a significant increase in cases of syphilis and gonorrhoea in the last five years, and the highest number of cases in the young population was observed. The objective of this work was to promote health education, to identify students' prior knowledge about syphilis and gonorrhoea and disseminate information for the prevention of the diseases mentioned. Informational lectures on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), with emphasis on syphilis and gonorrhoea, were carried out from August 2016 to March 2017. Informative forms were also given. Before the lecture, the students who agreed, answered questionnaires in order to evaluate the students' knowledge about the subject. After the lecture there was debate for clarification of doubts. A total of 139 questionnaires were answered, of which 55% were female students and 45% were male students. The age range of respondents ranged from 14 to 20 years. From the analysis of the questionnaires it was possible to identify that 44% receive information about their friends' STDs, 24% of the parents, 18% of the media and 14% in the school. About the knowledge about syphilis, only 42% knew something about the disease and 58% did not know about it. Regarding gonorrhoea, 76% had knowledge about the disease and 24% did not. When asked if they knew anyone who had ever been infected with an STD, 36% did not know anyone, 32% knew someone who had been sick, and 32% did not know. When asked about preventive methods for STDs, 89% answered that condoms were the most effective preventive measure, 9% contraceptive pill and 2% morning-after pill. From the results obtained, it is possible to perceive the relevance of studies of this nature, since there is still a great need for information on syphilis and gonorrhoea, and clarification about preventive measures, and health education is an important tool in this regard.

**Keywords :** Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, STD, Health education.

