

DAY-TO-DAY MICROBIOLOGY: DISSEMINATION OF SCIENCE IN SOUTHERN BAHIA, BRAZIL

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Keywords: scientific knowledge diffusion, health, science, microbiology

The advance in biotechnology has brought great benefits to humankind, but the complexity and the way scientific knowledge in this area is disseminated, make it difficult to many people to understand these new findings. In this context, a group called Health with Science (*Saude com Ciência*), made up by docents and students of the Biomedicine and Medicine courses of *Santa Cruz University*, have been spreading the scientific knowledge in the Microbiology field, whose interest is explained by the agreeable and disagreeable interactions between the microorganisms and the human body. The applied activities aimed to show the target public, in itinerant exhibitions and at elementary schools, high schools and universities, the microorganism morphology, including bacteria, fungi and protozoans; the diversity of biological processes in which these microorganisms take part emphasizing the benefits and losses that they cause to mankind, and to establish a comparison between their size and the human cell. In order to do so, monitors for these extension actions prepared laminas containing bacteria from the Yakult fermented milk, biological ferment yeast, fruit and bread mold filamentous fungi, free life protozoans, and human buccal mucosa cells to be visualized by microscope. The preparation of these blades take place at the exhibition spot, given that it does not represent any danger to the visitors health, and it raises the interest and allows interaction between theory and practice. The monitors prepared card games to motivate the public participation, and used Power point resources to produce animations that were used after visualizing the microorganisms, to enable further checkup of the applied action effectiveness. The increase in the number of correct answers obtained in the applied games, before and after the experiments, as well as the public enthusiasm in taking part in the activities, showed the importance of this extension action as a facilitator in the understanding of scientific knowledge.

Financial support: Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq), Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado da Bahia (FAPESB).