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**El derecho a la salud. Concepciones, representaciones, prácticas y participación social. Reflexiones en Terapia Ocupacional.**

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**The Right to Health. Views, Representations, Practical and Social Participation. Reflections on Occupational Therapy**

Human rights - Culture and daily life - Social participation.

This paper presents an occupational therapy applied research on infant and poor families' health, conducted in Mar del Plata city, Argentina by interdisciplinary groups.

Its purpose is to reflect upon the families and health teams' knowledge about the right to health and their participation in individual and collective health decisions, health promotion and disease prevention.

Emphasis is placed on views, social and practical representations of families and teams. Their daily differential appropriations are also recognized, framed by the social issues they address to achieve care, health protection and well-being. Health acquires value in the light of the culture in which it is construed and constitutes a necessary component that materializes in the lifestyle characteristics of each community.

**Objectives:**

To learn about different views and social and practical representations of families and health teams regarding health promotion and disease prevention. Also, to identify the social participation and differential appropriation of families and groups.

**Methods:**

This is an exploratory-descriptive research. Samples include families / household units, health teams, plans, and programs. A quanti-qualitative and research-action methodology is applied. Techniques: semi-structured and in-depth interviews and surveys; participatory workshops, and documentary compilation.

**Summery:**

Conclusions were drawn on teams and families knowledge, representations and daily practices regarding community, food and health impact. In early childhood, growth and development are achieved by the interaction possibilities the environment offers and by the actions by children caregivers, influenced by an empiric know-how that conditions them.

The concept of health is related to food and hygiene habits rather than to food and development.

Health teams assess habits negatively mainly concerning teenage mothers.

Contradictions between objectives and autonomy promotion in families and health beliefs and practices are noticed.

The absence of an explicit mention to rights, though implicit in the description of family problems is perceived.

**Contribution:**

The application in O.T. of a qualitative and participatory methodology in a poverty context contributes to the diagnosis of health and public policies.