Verminosis: perception of students of technical courses integrated to the high school of the North of Minas Gerais- Salinas Campus.

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Verminosis are frequently present in and play an important role in public health. For their prevention and control, it is important to obtain guidance to promote basic health conditions in order to minimize economic losses due to absence of work or decrease in productivity, expenses with medical services, as well as deficiencies in school performance. The aim of this study was to evaluate students' perceptions of three technical courses integrated to the high school of the Federal Institute of North Minas Gerais (FINMG) - Salinas Campus on verminosis. Three classes in each grade of the high school (1st, 2nd and 3rd) of Agricultural, Agroindustry and Informatics courses were randomly selected, totaling nine classes out of 18 existing classes (50%). After the authorization of each teacher of each class, 248 questionnaires were distributed. Among the questions, the following were most frequently answered incorrectly: “What are verminosis?” 83,6% (205), followed by: “Where do the worms go after they leave the human body”? 75,20% (185) and “What do worms eat? 70,61% (173). It can be deduced that there is insufficient knowledge regarding the biology of the agents responsible for verminosis in the investigated classes. Arrais-Silva et. al. (2017), make the argument that lack of formal education on the topic of verminosis has led to a deficiency in student knowledge about parasitosis studied in their research. It is possible that the students who participated in the present study may also reflect this reality. The percentage of correct answers observed were: "How to treat the verminosis?" 88.7% (219); "Why is it important to know about verminosis?" 86.9% (213); "How is a human being contaminated by worms?” 77.6% (190) and "How to prevent verminosis?" 74.8% (184). Based on the results, it is perceived that the knowledge of treatment, transmission and prevention have shown above 70%. Even though this is a relatively high percentage, there was a higher frequency of incorrect answers. It has been noticed that there is a certain difficulty on the part of the students to correlate this knowledge with the biology of the agents responsible for verminosis. The results of the questionnaires have shown that the groups surveyed presented, on average, answered correctly 60% (6/10) of the time. Attesting to a lack of knowledge that influences directly in the prevention of verminosis and consequently in public health. Which corroborates with Lima et. al. (2010) where they affirm in their study that the perception of parasitism is an important factor of increasing the knowledge of the population about health in education. In view of the above findings, it can be concluded that the students of technical courses integrated to the high school of the FINMG – Salinas Campus have a median understanding of verminosis, thus, in need of a greater emphasis of this content during their study program.

Key words: Enteroparasitosis; Knowledge; Parasitosis.