



Senses and meanings of primary health care academic visions in nursing

Sentidos y significados de las visiones académicas de la atención/cuidado primaria de salud en enfermería

Sentidos e significados das visões acadêmicas da atenção básica/cuidado em enfermagem

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Abstract

Introduction: Primary Health Care (PHC) has acquired different meanings for different people, at specific times and places, which poses important challenges for its understanding. **Objective:** To analyze the meaning(s) and sense(s) of Primary/Basic Health Care in the academic views on Nursing/Health in the context of undergraduate Nursing courses offered at two public Higher Education Institutions. **Materials and methods:** Qualitative study with an exploratory approach. Semi-structured interviews and documentary analysis were used as data collection techniques. **Results:** The senses/meanings of Primary Health Care converge with the population's gateway to the health system at the first care level and with the first contact of a person with the health service. However, it is still considered as a less important service within the care network. **Conclusion:** Primary Health Care means a relevant possibility for Nursing/Health care through health promotion and disease prevention actions, with a commitment to respond to most of the population's health needs.

Keywords: Primary health care; health promotion; primary prevention; nursing. (Source: DeCS, Bireme).

Resumen

Introducción: La Atención Primaria de Salud ha adquirido diferentes significados para diversas personas, en momentos y lugares específicos, lo cual plantea importantes retos para su entendimiento. **Objetivo:** Analizar los significados y sentidos de la Atención Primaria de Salud desde una visión académica en Enfermería y en el contexto de cursos de pregrado en Enfermería ofrecidos en dos Instituciones Públicas de Educación Superior. **Materiales y métodos:** Estudio cualitativo con un enfoque exploratorio, para la recolección de datos se emplearon entrevistas semiestructuradas y análisis documental de contenidos. **Resultados:** Los sentidos/significados de la Atención Primaria de la Salud convergen con el ingreso de la población al sistema de salud en el primer nivel de atención y la primera experiencia de la persona con el servicio de salud. Sin embargo, dicha Atención Primaria todavía se considera un servicio de baja importancia dentro de la red asistencial. **Conclusión:** La Atención Primaria de Salud representa una posibilidad relevante para el cuidado de Enfermería a través de acciones de promoción de la salud y prevención de enfermedades, que debe fortalecerse para responder la mayoría de las necesidades de salud de la población.

Palabras clave: Atención primaria de salud; promoción de la salud; prevención primaria; enfermería. (Fuente: DeCS, Bireme).

Resumo

Introdução: A Atenção Primária à Saúde tem adquirido diferentes significados para diferentes pessoas, em momentos e locais específicos, o que coloca desafios importantes para a sua compreensão. **Objetivo:** Analisar os sentidos e significados da Atenção Primária à Saúde na perspectiva acadêmica em Enfermagem e no contexto dos cursos de graduação em Enfermagem oferecidos em duas Instituições de Ensino Superior Públicas. **Materiais e métodos:** Estudo qualitativo com abordagem exploratória, utilizou-se entrevistas semiestruturadas para coleta de dados e análise de conteúdo documental. **Resultados:** Os sentidos/significados da Atenção Primária à Saúde convergem com a entrada da população no sistema de saúde no primeiro nível de atenção e a primeira experiência da pessoa com o serviço de saúde. Contudo, a referida Atenção Básica ainda é considerada um serviço de baixa importância dentro da rede de saúde. **Conclusão:** A Atenção Primária à Saúde representa uma possibilidade relevante para o cuidado de Enfermagem por meio de ações de promoção da saúde e prevenção de doenças, que devem ser fortalecidas para responder à maioria das necessidades de saúde da população.

Palavras chave: Atenção primária à saúde; promoção da saúde; prevenção primária; enfermagem. (Fonte: DeCS, Bireme).

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investment in increasing the capacity of the first care level for disease prevention, early diagnosis and detection of risk factors is one of the main pillars of the Declaration of Alma Ata and of the Universal Health Strategy diseases⁽²³⁾. It is for this reason that PHC is not “poor quality services for the poor”, but the best investment possible to achieve health for all.

This research aims to enhance the training process of students in Higher Education Institutions by unifying conceptual criteria in approaching various subjects related to Primary Health Care. The goal is to prioritize actions based on health promotion and disease prevention. Nursing is considered one of the essential health professions in consolidating PHC. The importance of enhancing the training, updating, and qualification processes for teachers in subjects related to Primary Health Care is evident. This should be coherent with the national health policy and the reaffirmation of PHC as an integral health model.

Based on the results of this study, it is important to propose further research that evaluates the updated approach to primary healthcare in relation to the contexts in which students carry out their professional practices and the institutions in which they work.

Conclusions

Regarding the analysis of the sense(s) meaning(s) of Primary Health Care, it is noticed convergences in the participants' academic views, as they considered PHC as the starting point and gateway for the population to enter the health care system at the first care level, both in Brazil and in Colombia. In this context, the PHC scenario enables meeting most of the peoples', families' and communities' needs, through health promotion and disease prevention actions. However, there are still some views which consider PHC as a less important service within the care network. Nevertheless, PHC is conceived as a service at the care level that articulates its actions with the secondary and tertiary levels of the health care networks, through a referral and counter-referral process, which, up to this moment, needs to be strengthened with the support, responsibility and integrated work of Primary Health Care teams. In addition, according to the participants of this study, investments represent a relevant aspect in PHC to ensure continuity of the health care provided to the population. It is believe that appropriate investments in PHC make it possible to extend over time the development of actions to promote healthy habits, with the purpose of preventing onset of pathologies, managing to reduce costs to the health system due to the emergence of preventable diseases. Therefore, it is consider that the PHC scenario represents a relevant possibility for the development of Nursing/Health care activities, allowing, through a set of individual, family and collective health actions that involve promotion, prevention, protection, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation, to contribute with the commitment to respond to most of the population's health needs.

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