

SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF EXPERTS; ROUNDTABLE ON "EDUCATION AND HEALTH"

The International Meeting of Experts and the Roundtable on Education and Health took place at the Sheraton Libertador Hotel in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, October, 2018.

Presented as a Roundtable, this meeting focused on "Education and Health", with the participation of the following entities: Latin American Federation of Hospitals (FLH), represented by M. Norberto Larroca, Ibero-American Organization of Providers of Health Services (OIPSS), represented by Dr. José Soto Bonel; International Hospital Federation (IHF), represented by Dr. Juan Carlos Linares; Latin American Federation of Health Administrators (FLAS); represented by Dr. Oscar Ressia. Other distinguished guests at the Roundtable from the national and international scene, were: Dr. Luis González Machado, of the Chamber of Institutions and Health Companies of Uruguay; Dr. Gustavo Irico, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the National University of Córdoba; CP Aldo Yunes, President of the Argentine Chamber of Health Companies (CAES); Dr. Ramón Víctor Lozze, President of the Confederation of Clinics, Sanatoriums and Hospitals (CONFELISA); organising authorities: Dr. Carlos Noceti, Executive Director of the FLH and Dr. Héctor Vazzano, Executive Director of the OIPSS. Presentations were coordinated by Dr. Oscar Miguel, Technical Secretary of the FLH.

It is worth mentioning that the meeting took place within the framework of the activities prior to the 24th edition of the traditional International Congress of CAES "Health-Crisis-Reform".



Below the main conclusions of the Roundtable on "Education and Health".

HEALTH AND EDUCATION, THE CURRENT GREAT CHALLENGE

Health at all levels: a broad, multidimensional vision of complexity.

INTRODUCTION

It is a fact that Continuous Professional Development for all health professionals (doctors, nurses, etc.) helps integrate new advances and technological innovation, both at graduate and postgraduate levels. Management of healthcare organizations and training of staff (all health agents) is key to ensure that all healthcare professionals take responsibility for their prescriptions and outcomes. But in the end, it is also about population education, in particular young people at school and working population; to understand risks and prevention.

The importance of the topic justifies efforts undertaken by international organizations to consolidate health and education in a transversal, continuous and progressive manner, as a priority to integrate health to all levels of educational systems stimulating prevention and security in a broad sense. To that purpose it is key to analyze and minimize risks by means of raising awareness, implementing prevention policies and nurturing healthy behaviors. Traditionally, populations have progressed by investing in education of offspring, in every family unit as a required condition to progress.

DEVELOPMENT

The key topics of this discussion are the human body and its basic functions, what are life-threatening risks, accidents' occurrence, awareness and nurturing of self-responsibility as well as healthy habits, to ensure talents to fructify thereby increasing life expectancy where nature enables it. A person is born with a life expectancy and health status linked to his or her health genes. Life experiences will have an impact on both. Education is proved to have the closest relationship to guarantee life best evolution, further than economic development and even investment in health. Ignoring risks, life-caring habits and awareness of these facts, weighs far more in the loss of primary-care prevention opportunities, leading to disease or accident. In other words, a lost in decades of prevention.

Schools have observed these processes of development go hand in hand with Primary Care objectives: health promotion, prevention, medical examination in health, etc. as recommended by the declaration of Alma Ata. Young women planning and postponing pregnancy to after 20 years of age will be less frail and subject to accidents during pregnancy and childbirth, significantly reducing the risks for both her and her child. Also, highest level of studies will ensure, particularly women, independence to decide about their future lives. Along this line, communities may realize that disease "is not something that happens", but the result of lost decades and wasted opportunities.

These ideas should refrain considering tackling disease by the medicalization of society, along the innovation pursuit and technological integration, which increase the risk of collapse of the Health System. As Canada's Minister of Health, Dr. Lalonde put it some years ago, after 50 years of irrational spending in health 90% is still going to infrastructures, retrieving 11% to outcomes with only 1% to 2% invested in healthy life habits and prevention, when results should have reached 40% of it. In education, too over 90% of the budget goes to structure. As a result, due to neglected social determinants (SD), including health education, the system keeps creating new patients to be treated later with enormous human and economic costs. The most significant change the sector may contribute with is to raise awareness of the

importance of integrating education to health through schools to create healthy habits in young people and implement health as a curricular study. This is both a Health Policy and a Healthy Policy.

In Argentina with one of the highest rate of both students and teachers' absenteeism it is necessary first to solve these issues, improving reading comprehension so that the premises described within the concept of education and health can effectively be implemented, with results and real impact in the community.

VALUES

The review of this topic would be incomplete without the question of "values". Transparency is essential in all areas and activities, as well as key to sow confidence among the stakeholders. Health and life are among the first Human Rights, along with the Universal Right to Education. There is the right to defense of the weakest, over coarse mockery, in an era marked by bullying and violence towards women and children, of gangs and chieftains. It is fundamental to value life and warrant absolute respect for the human being, especially of defenseless.

SYNTHESIS

The integration of Education and Health schools, colleges and university programs will significantly reinforce primary care, nowadays considered the backbone of every Health System. By incorporating healthy habits of life and real values in students, will stimulate the surge of new vocations for work, such as first aid, geriatric companions, disabled and other important services. Being human resources, by consensus, essential; then training and continuous professional development are fundamental. Countries are generally considered responsible for reform in education and health systems, as they should allow them to overcome their crisis. It is necessary to change the educational paradigm, especially at undergraduate and graduate level, so that new generations of health professionals change their understanding of medicine as the "exclusive care and treatment of sickness" to think about supporting health and healthy populations.

Source: translated by IHF Secretariat from <https://www.diagnosticsnews.com/asociaciones-y-organismos/31811-la-cita-tuvo-lugar-en-el-sheraton-libertador-hotel-reunion-internacional-de-expertos-sobre-educacion-y-salud>