

EXPANSION OF DENGUE VACCINATION COVERAGE: ITINERANT CITIZEN PROJECT ACTION FOR IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH

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ABSTRACT

The Academic League for Wounds and Dressings (LACEF) actively participated in a community action in response to the increase in dengue cases, integrating into the UniEvangélica Itinerant Citizen Project - ImmunizACTION Health Education, in partnership with the Anápolis Municipal Government. The project, carried out in two municipal schools, aimed to expand vaccination coverage against dengue through educational activities, such as lectures and theatrical presentations, focused on children and adolescents aged 6 to 14. The involved academics were trained to transmit information in a playful and accessible way, aiming to raise awareness among the target audience and their guardians about prevention, symptoms, and the importance of immunization against dengue. The experience highlighted the crucial role of educational initiatives for the promotion of public health and emphasized the relevance of the participation of multidisciplinary academic leagues in projects that integrate education and health, with the objective of positively impacting the community and strengthening the culture of prevention and collective responsibility.

Keywords: Nursing, Dengue, Academic Achievement

INTRODUCTION

In response to the concerning epidemiological scenario of incidence, hospitalizations, and deaths from dengue, the Brazilian Ministry of Health integrated the dengue vaccine into the National Vaccination Calendar in December 2023. Initially, the vaccine was incorporated for children and adolescents aged 10 to 14, the age group that concentrates the highest number of hospitalizations for the disease, after the elderly (ELIDIO, 2024).

Observing this reality, a partnership was established between the Evangelical University of Anápolis - UniEvangélica and the Municipal Health Department of the city of Anápolis, Goiás, through the selection of academic leagues, so that they could develop proposals and community actions to reinforce dengue vaccination coverage in educational institutions in the municipality, culminating in the development of a project

focused on immunization against dengue. The purpose of this initiative was to raise awareness among students about the importance of prevention and immunization against the disease in order to expand vaccination coverage, through educational lectures and theatrical presentations.

In this context, two schools in the municipality were selected to address the dissemination of the dengue virus and promote the health and well-being of the school community, and consequently, the general population. The strategy, integrating the fields of education and health, aimed to positively impact the awareness and action of young people regarding dengue, contributing to the construction of a healthier and more prepared society in the face of this relevant disease.

METHODOLOGY

This article presents a descriptive experience report, produced from an educational action carried out in the first semester of 2024, by the Institutional Project UniEVANGÉLICA Itinerant Citizen - ImmunizACTION Health Education in partnership with the Anápolis Municipal Government. The project was carried out in two schools, both in the afternoon period from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, at the João Beze Municipal School located at Rua 11, Boa Vista neighborhood, on June 7, 2024, and at the Dona Alexandrina Municipal School, located at Alameda dos Palmares street in the Jardim Alexandrina neighborhood, on June 14, 2024.

In May, the LACEF members were selected according to the project's notice and participated in training workshops held at the UniEVANGÉLICA Institution to review and deepen the content on dengue and prepare the students assertively regarding appropriate communication for each target audience chosen by each league participating in the Itinerant Citizen Project ImmunizACTION Health Education. The Academic League brought together students from the nutrition and nursing areas for this event, with the target audience being children corresponding to the public targeted for dengue vaccination, which are those aged 6 to 14 years. During the actions, the academics prepared a lecture in the form of a theater with content directed at children in a simple and playful way, providing informative posters at each school on the subject directed at parents and guardians about prevention, symptoms, and dengue vaccination.

RESULTS

Projects and Actions in the community play an important role in health promotion. The participation of a multidisciplinary academic league in extension events seeks to disseminate the knowledge of academics to ensure that the population is impacted by different methods of approach. The Academic League for Wounds and Dressings "LACEF" is one of the leagues that participated in the Event entitled "UniEvangélica Itinerant Citizen Project - Immunization, Health Education" (figure 1) where it was possible to strengthen and disseminate the importance of vaccination coverage against Dengue through theater and explanations about the transmission process of the Arbovirus and the life cycle of the *Aedes aegypti* vector, since there is evidence and data showing that vaccination coverage is unsatisfactory and far from the established goals (LOUREIRO, 2024).

Thus, in addition to the present teachers and members of the institutions, it was possible to estimate through the enrolled students a total of 250 people impacted by the activities (figure 2). Therefore, through these, it was possible to obtain satisfactory results as well as contribute positively to the formation and practical experience of the participating students.

Figura 1- Discente(s) e Docente(s) Unievagélica Escola Municipal João Beze



Fonte: Autores

Figura 2- Discente(s) e Docente(s) Unievagélica Escola Municipal Dona Alexandrina



Fonte: Autores

CONCLUSION

The execution of the Itinerant Citizen Project ImmunizACTION Health Education, promoted in partnership between the Evangelical University of Anápolis and the Anápolis Municipal Government, demonstrated the relevance of educational actions in the context of public health, especially in confronting diseases such as dengue. The reported experience highlights the positive impact of initiatives that combine education and health to promote preventive practices, such as immunization. The choice of a playful and accessible format, adapted for children and adolescents, was fundamental to achieving the objectives of awareness and expansion of vaccination coverage, crucial aspects for containing the disease.

Furthermore, the involvement of university students in the elaboration and execution of the activities underscores the role of educational institutions in training conscious professionals engaged with the local epidemiological reality. The participation of the academics not only contributed to the dissemination of vital information about dengue but also provided an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in practical situations, reinforcing the importance of the intersection between academia and community. The success of this initiative points to the need for the continuity and expansion of similar

projects, which can, in an integrated way, promote the health and well-being of the population, strengthening the culture of prevention and collective responsibility in the face of public health challenges.

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