



ECOLOGIST'S PERFORMANCE IN THE HEALTH SERVICE: HOSPITAL UNITS
Atuação do ecólogo no serviço de saúde: unidades hospitalares
Desempeño del ecólogo en el servicio de salud: unidades hospitalares
Performance de l'ecologue dans le service de santé: unites hospitalieres

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Abstract

Environmental awareness is emerging in society, and with this, managers, commercial activities, institutions and health services are no different, especially when there are legal environmental requirements related to monitoring and mandatory environmental management for its operation. This fact makes professions linked to environmental monitoring essential for carrying out these jobs in these services. Therefore, the objective of this study is to elucidate the participation of the ecologist working professionally in health services, more specifically in hospital units. The study is characterized as a qualitative research, it does not intend to achieve what is right or wrong, only to understand the reality of its actions and transformations. It was noticed that a hospital management signals as benefits for management the performance of the ecological professional, mainly in the development of actions on environmental issues: Waste from Health Services RSS, preparation of the Health Waste Management plan, monitoring of water quality, monitoring and control of pests and insects, assistance in epidemiological surveillance actions and monitoring and control of hospital infections, composting projects, recycling projects, solidarity economy, and continuing education actions such as training on RSS and biosafety, all of which are fundamental to fostering sustainability within the hospital environment. Considering this, the performance of the ecology professional in health units, innovative in hospital units, this can be an aggregator to the interdisciplinary model to seek environmental improvements considered complex, but that achieve a successfully hospital environmental management.

Keywords: Ecology. Environmental monitoring. Health units. Hospital management. Environment and Health.

Resumo

A consciência ambiental está avançando cada vez mais na sociedade, com isso, gestores, atividades comerciais, instituições e serviços de saúde absorvem essa tendência, principalmente quando existem exigências legais relativas ao monitoramento e gestão. Fato este que torna profissões ligadas ao monitoramento ambiental, fundamentais para execução dessa atividade. Portanto, o objetivo do presente estudo consiste em elucidar a participação do ecólogo atuando profissionalmente nos serviços de saúde, mais especificamente em unidades hospitalares. O estudo caracteriza-se como uma pesquisa qualitativa, que busca apresentar inovações no âmbito da gestão ambiental hospitalar por meio do reconhecimento de habilidades e competências de profissionais ligados à ciência ecológica. Percebeu-se que uma gestão hospitalar sinaliza como benefícios para gestão a atuação do profissional ecólogo, principalmente no desenvolvimento de ações nas questões ambientais: Resíduos de Serviços de Saúde RSS, elaboração do Plano de Gerenciamento de resíduos de saúde, acompanhamento da qualidade da água, monitoramento e controle de pragas e insetos, auxílio em ações de vigilância epidemiológica e monitoramento e controle de infecções hospitalares, projetos de compostagem, projetos de reciclagem, economia solidária e ações de educação

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permanente como treinamentos sobre RSS e biossegurança. Todos estes sendo fundamentais para o fomento da sustentabilidade dentro do ambiente hospitalar. Portanto, considerou-se, a atuação do profissional de ecologia em unidades de saúde, como uma colaboração inovadora fazendo com que o pensamento ecológico seja um agregador ao modelo interdisciplinar para a busca de melhorias ambientais consideradas complexas, mas que alcançam com êxito uma boa gestão ambiental hospitalar.

Palavras chave: Ecologia. Monitoramento ambiental. Unidades de saúde. Gestão hospitalar. Meio Ambiente e Saúde.

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Resumen

La conciencia ambiental avanza cada vez más en la sociedad, y con ello, los gerentes, las actividades comerciales, las instituciones y los servicios de salud no son diferentes, especialmente cuando existen requisitos legales ambientales relacionados con el monitoreo y la gestión ambiental obligatoria para su funcionamiento. Este hecho, hace que las profesiones vinculadas a la vigilancia ambiental sean fundamentales para el desempeño de estos trabajos en estos servicios. Por tanto, el objetivo de este estudio es dilucidar la participación del ecólogo que trabaja profesionalmente en los servicios de salud, más concretamente en las unidades hospitalarias. El estudio se caracteriza por ser una investigación cualitativa, no pretende lograr lo que está bien o mal, solo comprender la realidad de sus acciones y transformaciones. Se notó que la gestión de un hospital señala como beneficios para la gestión el desempeño del profesional ecólogo, principalmente en el desarrollo de acciones en materia ambiental: RSS de Residuos de Servicios de Salud, elaboración del plan de Gestión de Residuos Sanitarios, seguimiento de la calidad del agua, seguimiento y control de plagas e insectos, asistencia en acciones de vigilancia epidemiológica y seguimiento y control de infecciones hospitalarias, proyectos de compostaje, proyectos de reciclaje, economía solidaria, y acciones de educación continua como la formación en RSS y bioseguridad, todos ellos fundamentales para fomentar la sostenibilidad en el entorno hospitalario. Considerando esto, el desempeño del profesional de la ecología en las unidades de salud, innovador en las unidades hospitalarias, puede ser un agregador al modelo interdisciplinario para buscar mejoras ambientales consideradas complejas, pero que logren con éxito una buena gestión ambiental hospitalaria.

Palabras clave: Ecología. Monitoreo ambiental. Unidades de salud. Gestión hospitalaria. Medio Ambiente y Salud.

Résumé

La conscience environnementale progresse de plus en plus dans la société, et avec cela, les gestionnaires, les activités commerciales, les institutions et les services de santé ne sont pas différents, surtout lorsqu'il existe des exigences environnementales légales liées à la surveillance et à la gestion environnementale obligatoire de son fonctionnement. De ce fait, les métiers liés à la surveillance environnementale sont indispensables pour exercer ces métiers dans ces services. Par conséquent, l'objectif de cette étude est d'élucider la participation de l'écologiste travaillant professionnellement dans les services de santé, plus précisément dans les unités hospitalières. L'étude se caractérise comme une recherche qualitative, elle n'a pas l'intention de réaliser ce qui est bien ou mal, seulement de comprendre la réalité de ses actions et transformations. Il a été constaté qu'une direction hospitalière signale comme bénéfique pour la direction la performance du professionnel de l'écologie, principalement dans le développement d'actions sur les questions environnementales: RSS des déchets des services de santé, élaboration du plan de gestion des déchets de santé, suivi de la qualité de l'eau, surveillance et lutte contre les ravageurs et les insectes, assistance aux actions de surveillance épidémiologique et de suivi et contrôle des infections hospitalières, projets de compostage, projets de recyclage, économie solidaire, et des actions de formation continue telles que la formation sur le RSS et la biosécurité, autant d'éléments fondamentaux pour favoriser la durabilité en milieu hospitalier. Considérant cela, la performance du professionnel de l'écologie dans les unités de santé, innovant dans les unités hospitalières, cela peut être un agrégateur du modèle interdisciplinaire pour rechercher des améliorations environnementales considérées comme complexes, mais qui réussissent à atteindre une bonne gestion environnementale hospitalière.

Mots-clés: Écologie. Surveillance de l'environnement. Unités de santé. Gestion hospitalière. Environnement et Santé.

1 Introduction

The construction of knowledge and transformation of it in the environmental area reinforces the ecologist's role in different fields of professional work activities. Ecology represents a theme of interrelationships between living organisms and their environment. By this way, what constitutes nature, begins in the interaction in the complex system from a series of biological, chemical and physical relationships. Therefore, ecology seeks to understand this challenge of uniting a complex and fragmented knowledge, but with its contribution in a totality, contemplating these fragments as a whole (RICKLEFS, 2003; MACIEL, 2018).

In this context, we can mention that the first ecology course in Brazil emerged in 1975 at Universidade Estadual Paulista (Unesp), and there are 7 undergraduate Ecology courses in the country, 69 postgraduate programs, academic masters, professional masters and 46 programs of doctorate (BRASIL, 2021). Thus, the birth of the course and its growth is due to the need for understanding and solving society's demands on ecological issues (LEFF, 2011).

Many themes can encompass this science, like: pollution, solid waste, residual effluents, natural resources, water resources, animal and plant biodiversity, abiotic and biotic environmental resources, environmental management, environmental education, environmental legislation, socio-environmental economy, political factors, between others.

The search for ecological knowledge is born from the great environmental impacts and human questions in order to address environmental issues in a multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary way, namely: cosmos, nature, life and the relationship of man with the environment (MORIN, 2011; MACIEL, 2018). The need for these professionals to work in entities must be taken into account as the environmental knowledge is required to develop some activities related to it.

In this paper, we'll briefly illustrate the ecologist's participation on health services and in hospital units, analyzing the society's paradigms of thoughts and managers on the role of these professionals in the health service.

2 Materials and methods

The study is characterized as a qualitative research, which seeks to show some innovations in the field of hospital environmental management through the recognition of skills and competences of professionals linked to ecological science. The nature of the research follows a process from maieutic understanding to new discoveries.

3 Results and Discussions

When talking about ecology in the health service, we think about epidemiological issues (SIQUEIRA, 2009). In fact, epidemiological studies require a greater understanding of the environment and its relationships with humans to identify the phenomenon that causes pathologies, which can cause outbreaks and problems at public health levels. Thus, public management is faced with these hot flashes generated from environmental imbalances that cause public health problems in their daily lives.

Therefore, environmental surveillance emerges in primary care in municipalities, which performs a work to control diseases related to vectors or environmental imbalances that cause public health problems (BRASIL, 2017). In this context, in the field of environment and health, a space is opened for the work of the ecologist with agents of endemic diseases, that is, together with health professionals to develop actions by applying knowledge in an interdisciplinary holistic manner in search of combat, prevent, eradicate and carry out measures to control diseases caused by environmental imbalance.

But what we want to bring here is the professional performance of the ecologist with roles and responsibilities for environmental management in health services, more precisely in hospital units. The insertion of the ecologist in the hospital unit is closely linked to the needs to manage environmental issues in the hospital. Ranking in first attribute the responsibility of the ecologist to be responsible for the PGRSS (Health Service Waste Management Plan).

Waste from Health Services (RSS) produced in any establishment that is classified as a human or animal health activity, require special attention, given that these represent health and environmental risks

(BRASIL, 2010). Its characteristics are biological, chemical and sharps risks, it needs proper handling and treatment before its final destination, so as not to endanger human beings with the environment (ANVISA, 2018; CONAMA, 2005).

The PGRSS must contemplate the characteristics of the hospital service, quantity of discarded waste, its characteristics, management and stages of Health Service Waste (RSS) until its final destination from the institution, it needs to be correctly guided by (Regulation Collegiate Resolution) RDC 222/2018, (Resolution of the National Environmental Council) CONAMA n° 358/2005. This document is necessary for the acquisition of environmental licensing for operation, provided by state or municipal agencies that give the environmental license to do their activities.

The plan must be accessible, and exercised through continuing education at the institution with the Hospital Infection Control Commission (CCIH) from the unit. With these actions, the unit approaches a standard of quality, sanitary responsibility and biosafety (QUEMEL, 2021). There is a large amount of works published on RSS but the largest number of ecologists have produced academic articles, dissertations and recent thesis in the last 6 years on digital platforms talking about Urban Solid Waste, such as the works of Barbosa Filho (2014; 2017) and Pinheiro (2016). In other words, we are in the process of maturing in this context of the ecologist's performance in the environmental issues from hospital units, which is an activity that can grow and expand.

The environmental issue appears to be more relevant from the moment that environmental imbalances begin to impact management results, indicators, biosafety, sanitary issues, administrative goals, legal and legal issues, economic in their accounting assets and liabilities.

Due to a turnover of health professionals in hospital environments, there is a difficulty in understanding the risks that surround agents and employees in the stages of management of (RSS) requiring the use of environmental education in institutional environments in addition to teaching spaces (BRASIL, 1999).

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Waste management is linked to another theme, pests, as they are potential attractions for them. Knowing that pests are considered natural animals and insects in the urban environment, but it is necessary to carry out environmental control, as they can cause damage to human health. Since hospital environments are conducive to the appearance and proliferation of pests, it is necessary to carry out chemical control to prevent the spread of diseases, as they are vectors of infections, through external (passive or mechanical transmission) or internal (biological transmission) transport of microorganisms (SILVA; RIBEIRO, 2014). Thus, causing health risks to patients and employees.

In this context, we can take into account Section IX "On the Integrated Control of Vector and Urban Pests" of RDC N°. 63/2011 which quotes:

Art. 63. The health service must ensure effective and continuous actions to control vectors and urban pests, with the objective of preventing their attraction, shelter, access and/or proliferation. Single paragraph. The chemical control, when necessary, must be carried out by a qualified company with a sanitary and environmental license and with disinfectant products regulated by Anvisa (BRASIL, 2011).

Still dealing with this issue, RDC N°. 52, of October 22, 2009, says that the service must be carried out monthly in critical areas such as kitchens, pantries, pantries, warehouses and sewage network, which must be disinfected (Brasil, 2009). Every two months, patient care areas such as wards, surgical centers, ICUs, and doctors' offices must be inspected, and it is recommended by the health surveillance that there be disinsectization at least once a year.

Given the above, the ecology professional is a key player in understanding pest control methods in the hospital environment, knowing the nature and behavior of these animals, so that they can act to prevent their proliferation. Knowing that pests need water, access, food and shelter (4S), it is necessary that mitigation actions are carried out in the hospital, preventing the 4S, this action also prevents

the unrestrained release of chemical products into the environment, which due to their composition are naturally harmful to the environment and potentially polluter of soil and water bodies.

So, the fumigation must be seen as a corrective action and not as a solution for pest control. Thus, the ecologist's work becomes an agent of the hospital environmental balance, preventing the proliferation of these disease vectors.

Other monitoring actions carried out by the ecologist with the CCIH are the report on the quality of the water used by the institution, monitoring treatment of effluent residues and biosafety.

In this context, we can cite some examples of the work of the ecologist in two hospitals in Paraíba:

- Composting with organic waste and pruning remains as a sustainable alternative - minimizing the volume of waste in landfills and the environmental impacts associated with RSS, the fertilizer resulting from composting is used in the unit's garden spaces;
- Project aimed at reusing cooking oil donated to the cooperative for the manufacture of soap - supporting the local solidarity economy, reducing oil disposal, minimizing environmental impacts and costs for the unit;
- Sale of sanitizing packaging for recycling activities - the financial return is applied directly to support environmental projects, revitalization of gardens and improvements relevant to the service, the institution transforms the action into a sustainable project, considering that the three pillars are involved, economic, environmental and social.
- Donation of cardboard to self-employed collectors, reducing disposal into the environment, generating income for the community and directing common recyclable waste for recycling, the environment is grateful!
- Conducting training for the body of work with the CCIH on the management of RSS and biosafety, strengthening the unit's continuing education;
- Control and monitoring of waste through manifest;
- Monitoring of water quality;
- Monitoring of the disinsectization service;
- Participation as a member of the Health Service Waste Commission;

Therefore, managers often interpret the environment as something external, far from their management, whether from a macro or micro, National, State or Municipal point of view, the scale of environmental factors interferes in any dimension of collective responsibility or individual and little is defined about the environmental responsibilities and attributions of an institution or activity.

With this, an emerging collaborative paradigm with the manager's activity is clarified when directing the attributions, demands and environmental responsibilities in a hospital unit. In this sense, the ecologist is an extremely important technical human resource to add improvements in the environmental quality of a hospital unit.

4 Conclusions

Given the above, it is evident that the ecological professional is strengthened by the managers, can help in the treatment of demands and decision-making on environmental issues in health services. It is also noteworthy that the presence of ecologists in management teams strengthens the implementation of plans and gives the group a holistic view of the environmental issue.

The work of ecologists in these spaces is an innovation, it is also a contemporary trend to consider the importance of areas with interactive visions such as ecology. Therefore, we believe we are on the right path to obtain better results in the management of health and the environment.

Thus, it is important to promote an environmental culture through continuing education, that health professionals can broaden their perspectives of dialogue and health awareness about the negative impacts on the social and environmental issue. This can be another way to achieve excellence in a service that provides hospital care.

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