

Sustainable human development and oral health.

Guillermo Cruz¹ & Esteban Picazzo.¹

Affiliations: ¹Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Universidad Autónoma. Nuevo León, México.

Corresponding author: Guillermo Cruz. Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales s/n, Mederos UANL, Monterrey. Nuevo León, México. Phone: (01-81) 8329 4237. (045-81) 8010 7760. E-mail: gcp_master@hotmail.com

Sustainable Human Development (SHD) considers an increase in liberties and the overcoming of deprivations that limit the real possibilities for present and future generations to attain full development. Among the main lack of liberties are inequities in health care services, as well as social determinants of health.¹

A person's well-being must be assessed and evaluated from the point of view of their ability to perform the activities they value. Therefore, the approach of SHD is a central point for the implementation of fair and equitable public policies, taking into account social, economic, environmental, cultural and political aspects that support the development of the most vulnerable and unprotected people. It also addresses justice as a form of equity for people from a non-egalitarian viewpoint.^{1,2}

SHD is the creation of environments in which the freedom to be able to organize the capacities, opportunities and the most cherished aspirations of human beings is granted. Thus, freedom is the key point and catalyst that will allow greater social justice.³

SHD in health raises the challenge of reducing social gaps, and improving the quality of and access to health services. The health of people may not only be at risk due to disease, but also due to aspects of their daily lives that threaten their freedom. Therefore, in order to achieve sustainable human development, it is of the utmost importance to guarantee the right to health care in all areas.⁴

SHD can only achieve its goals in the absence of a high prevalence of disease and when populations are able to reach a state of well-being. Measures on social determinants of health for the whole population are important in creating inclusive, equitable, economically productive and healthy societies. Health systems must therefore be strengthened so that all actors can participate and undertake coordinated multi-sectarian action to urgently address the existing health care needs of the world's population. (Available at <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/objetivos-de-desarrollo-sostenible>)

SHD should occupy a prominent place in the health sector, since it proposes a new moral and ethical framework for the professional training of health personnel taking into account empathy and solidarity;¹ being more respectful of people and their rights, and seeking the good of others. This would positively transform the doctor-patient relationship and improve the social commitment of health professionals.

SHD applied to oral health services allows to create consensus and legi-

Conflict of interests: None.

Acknowledgements: None.

Cite as: Cruz G & Picazzo E. Sustainable human development and oral health. *J Oral Res* 2017; 6(3): 57-58. doi:10.17126/joralres.2017.019

timacy to face State reforms that deepen social inequalities and strengthen the free market, where the patient is transformed into a consumer, client, user or subject with rights. Oral health needs increase alongside poverty rates and are intensified by population growth and the inability of the State to meet those needs.⁵

The increase in the number of adults suffering chronic systemic health conditions demands a more specialized, expensive and complex oral care. However, health insurance companies build and run dental clinics and facilities whose target population are those with the ability to pay for the services provided.^{6,7} Therefore, There is a need for the training of human resources in order to implement a more specific level of care model that targets high risk groups, such as the ones mentioned above.

Labor unions must strive to improve the supply of

institutional work available for dentists in order to maintain an adequate labor market and increase the ability to solve oral health problems. It is also necessary to design attractive health care service models of high social impact that can be financed by insurance companies. (Available at http://www.who.int/sdhconference/declaration/Rio_political_declaration_Spanish.pdf) In this way, a competitive capacity and a moral commitment of dentists are required to improve the oral health conditions of the population so that professionals can successfully face the challenges of the 21st century.⁸

In conclusion, the problem of oral health care requires an in-depth analysis of its dynamics and its manifestations. It must consider factors such as socio-economic conditions, access to services and social opportunities that will contribute to a greater development of Latin American societies.

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