

SYMPAB - (16496) - HEALTH EDUCATION FROM AN EMANCIPATORY PERSPECTIVE: THE EXPERIENCES OF THE BACHILLERATOS POPULARES IN ARGENTINA

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Short Abstract

The Bachilleratos Populares (BP) are self-managed middle schools for young and adults referenced in the Latin American tradition of Popular Education, which have emerged in different parts of Argentina. They are inserted in or articulated with social movements and political organizations and have arisen in certain territories with educational needs not covered by the State. In these schools, curricula are constantly being (re)created based on an emancipatory political-pedagogical project. We present an analysis of Health Education in these experiences, based on interviews and collective reflection work carried out with their teachers, exploring the main features of these counter-hegemonic educational proposals. The outcome is a synthesis at the crossroad between Health Education and Popular Education, uniquely developed by the BP, which provides dissident responses to hegemonic rationality and institutionality from an emancipatory perspective. We identify specific characteristics to this Health Education approach, such as: student participation in decision-making and a Dialogue of Knowledges perspective, through which ontologically and epistemologically diverse knowledges are put into play; the denaturation of social reality linked to health, both with regards to practices of power and those specifically related to patriarchy; emancipatory political-pedagogical project the identification of health as a "tool for social struggle" (as part of multiple senses given to the transformation of living conditions) associated with the "ability to self-organize".