

Primary Health Care, analysis from social health determinants

Atención Primaria en Salud, un análisis desde los determinantes sociales de la salud

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Dear editor:

In the Volume No. 22 (issue 5) of the Journal of Public Health, Molano Builes PE., et al. published an article titled “Concepts and guidelines that direct Primary Health Care in diverse Colombian territories. 2017” (pp.1-8). About that, we consider that it is important to recognize every factor that determines the individual and community health. Colombia is a multicultural and multiethnic country. Therefore, it is important to recognize the distinctive features of every context. Actions of the health personnel, either from the health or social science, should be focused on visions based on the objective reality, that shows how the choice of the government in power determines the possibility of developing actions in primary health care not related to capitalist interests.

In this sense, as proposed by De La Guardia and Ruvalcaba, “In the current conditions of the economic and political hegemonic division, it is so difficult to mitigate or put a stop to social inequality to change the reality that determines the health-disease process. It requires either a broad political transformation to disrupt the power relations or a significant reformulation of the policies and sectorial strategies (housing, education, environmental sanitation, transport, etc.). They have features that determines the environment variables that act on health” (1).

The recognition of the reality and the articulation of national policies to design intervention health plans must be strongly related to the real conditions of the territories. The primary health care must be kept in mind as an effective strategy of social intervention to maintain an adequate standard of health of the population. Therefore, the communal and participatory strategies turn into a fundamental basis to achieve the proposed objectives in the public health context.

The centralization of the administrative power of the health system causes the primary health care is not correctly recognized. It is integrated with welfare-based health care subsystems and that distorts its real meaning and its main objective.

In this sense, as proposed Molano, it is important not only to decentralize the administrative power but to articulate all the social players to have a transformative political action. For this it is necessary a real commitment to construct a local power. Hence, the participatory process must be founding and allow the development of individual and collective abilities for the autonomous construction of positive projects for life and health (2). The entrance into political scene is basic to achieve the change of the communities’ reality based on the political reading of the context. Additionally, it is important to be taking a critical and ethical stand that involves a lot of actors, consolidating support networks that revitalize the actions related to the primary health care to achieve the general well-being ♦

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