

# ALLIANCE BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ON THE TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

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## ABSTRACT

The participation of civil society organizations in social care and public health assistance is a strategy for the population to be represented and have a voice in formulating policies for the benefit of the universal right to health. It is known that the control of various diseases has the civil society alliance, not only in Brazil but in many countries worldwide. Such participation is a right of citizenship. This study, looking to the tuberculosis as a theme, aim to reach scientific evidences of the participation of civil society organizations in the control of infectious diseases through a Systematic Literature Review. It was concluded that there is a little evidence that faces directly with the binomial social participation and tuberculosis control. These rare scientific evidences elucidated support the representation of the effectiveness of civil society organizations in tuberculosis control. Than, this systematic review raises the importance of the development of new studies in this issue to strengthen the civil society alliance on the health promotion.

*Keywords: Consumer participation, social sciences, Tuberculosis, health promotion, health diligent alliance.*

## INTRODUCTION

The world control of the Tuberculosis/TB is shown as a complex process of alliance between government, civil society and health professionals. These instances may provide an articulation which increases the construction of politics that can empower the community to take care of their health and within this process the control of tuberculosis. One of the articulations to de development of politics to control of TB is the civil society. The civil society, when organized can represent the population expectations about the TB control, care and treatment.

The civil society, understood as any king of citizen organization that represents common interests can organize itself and contribute to decision making on the diseases control toward alliance with government and health institutions. In Brazil, the civil society participation on the health a political activities is a civil right. According to this aspect the civil society has voice to spread its speech regarding attention and welcomeness (*Filho; Gomes, 2007*).

Assuming that the control of TB can have

the support of the civil society the question of this research is: Which scientific evidences can support the effectiveness of the alliance between civil society and public health systems on the control of Tuberculosis? Toward this fact the present research aims to describe and analyze the scientific evidence on the participation of civil society organizations in worldwide tuberculosis control.

## METHODOLOGICAL PROCEDURES

It was done a systematic Literature review to reach scientific evidences to discuss the research object of study (*Lopes; Fracolli, 2008*). To data collection it was performed a search for scientific articles inside worldwide databases as MedLine/Pubmed, Lilacs, Paho, Wholis. For that search it was used descriptors as shown in the table 1.

It was included in this study: original articles, theoretical reflections and case report, all of them published as full papers in English. All of the articles were strictly related to the research object.

**Table 1. Descriptors used to search scientific evidences about civil society participation on the tuberculosis control. Medline, Lilacs, Wholis e PHAO, 2011.**

Database	Descriptors
MedLine-PubMed/ WHOLIS/LILACS and PAHO	Tuberculosis/Non-Governmental Organizations (NOGs)/Social Moviments/Social Control/ Social participation

**Table 2. Scientif Material selected to the study of civil society participation on the tuberculosis control. Medline, Lilacs, Wholis e PHAO, 2011.**

Crossing words	Number of References	
	Found	Selected
Tuberculosis and Non-Governmental Organizations	6	0
Tuberculosis and Social Movements	9	1
Tuberculosis and Social alliances	2	1
Tuberculosis and Social Participation	62	4
Tuberculosis and Civil Society	0	0
Tuberculosis and Consumer Participation	0	0

## RESULTS

The results are shown on the table 3.

## DISCUSSION

The alliance between the civil society and a public health system is the key to the success on the tuberculosis control. This alliance is fundamental and essential to the tuberculosis treatment adherence and the political representation by the federal government which will, in a large number of countries, fight for the population health. The health professionals are one of

the responsible to the tuberculosis control because the community, family and the health system constructs the structure to walk to the success of the treatment. The literature on this issue reflects this aspects but it is still very sparse. The tuberculosis medical treatment is effective, but it is necessary to analyse and observe the cultural context and the alliances between public health system and the health professionals (Mazzei, et al, 2003).

One of the most important relation that raises the alliance between ordinary people and government to the control of tuberculosis is the construction of Non-Governmental Organizations/NGO (Nagpaul, 1994). This author points out that the governmental power in association with NGO can diagnosis and treat the tuberculosis on the population and with this process can effectively control the Tuberculosis. The partnership with public health professionals and NGO works develops an environment of equity, rust and solidarity.

The continuing process to the medical treatment (Directly Observed Treatment) is the key to the Tuberculosis control and according to Kironde and Kahirimbany (2002), the participation of volunteers, recruited in the community, produce positive results as in clinical and hospital treatment. Toward this fact, it is important to highlight that the alliance between hospital professionals and ordinary volunteers can support the control of tuberculosis. The domiciliary visit, realized by a health professional, is another issue very important when the subject is the alliance between tuberculosis control and civil society (Niazi, Al-Delaimi, 2003).The effect of domiciliary visit is positive to the Directly Observed Treatment.

**Table 3. Description of the studied material. Worldwide database LILACS, Medline, WHOLIS e PHAO. Research realized in Brazil, 2011.**

Authors	Year	Country	Journal	Access	Type
Nagpaul DR	1994	India	Ind.1 Tub	MedLine	Original article
Kironde S e Kahirimbanyi M	2002	South Africa	Afr Health Sci	MedLine	Original article
Niazi AD e Al-Delaimi AM	2003	Iraqú	Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal	WHOLIS	Original article
Zafar UAN et al	2006	Bangladesh	Health Policy and Planning	MedLine	Original article
Filho ETS e Gomes ZMS	2007	Brazil	Rev Saude Publica	MedLine	Theoretical essay
Hanvoravongchai P, Warakamin B, Coker R	2010	Thailand	Health Policy and Planning	Wholis	Original article

The fourth study analyzed, published in 2006, is from Bangladesh (*Zafar et al, 2006*). This is another study that shows the relevance of civil society participation on TB control. This study shows the concept of collaboration as staff work to control any health problem. It was a qualitative study which aimed to analyze the speeches of NGO and Government representatives about the importance of tuberculosis control. This study concluded that to the TB control it is necessary that the patient should be as near as possible the clinical treatment. In Bangladesh this aspects were reached by the alliance between NOGs and Public health institutions which seems to be an effective and efficient collaborative work helping the control of tuberculosis.

From Brazil come in one study that verifies the importance of civil society to making politics for the tuberculosis control (*Filho; Gomes 2007*). The study shows that is the conversational space between civil society and the Government that reaches ideas and solutions to the tuberculosis control. This articulation is the most powerful strategy to highlight the civil society and the health workers to control infectious diseases.

The most recent study found was from Thailand (*Hanavoravongchai, 2010*). It was a study with 34 subjects (works for the Global Foundation against Malaria, Tuberculosis and AIDS) from different NOGs. The interviews were analyzed by the Content Analysis. The study had showed that it is vital that an integration of actions happens. This integration only happens effectively when civil society and health

workers from the government developed a strong alliance. The study showed that the political support (Government support) toward the actions to control the tuberculosis constructs a link between the civil society and the public financial resources. The financial resources, when they become available to the NGOs, build a strong alliance between ordinary people and the public health system in order to control infectious diseases as tuberculosis.

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

With the present study it was possible to observe that the scientific knowledge produced related to the research object (alliance between NGOs and health system workers to control tuberculosis) is scarce. The alliance between NGOs (civil society) and Public Health Systems was not found in the literature, which suggests new studies on this issue. It is known that the tuberculosis is an aggravating disease with a difficult control of the treatment. In association of this fact it is highlighted that the civil society has an important function to control and prevent this disease. But the community participation of this control is not very representative. It is concluded that the approach between civil society and the public health system is a positive and facilitating factor which enhance the tuberculosis control and the continuity of the treatment up to the cure of the disease. In other words, with the alliance of health workers, NGOs and the public health systems the community could be empowered to be responsible for their own health.

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