Health as a Negation of the Negation: A Dialectal Perspective

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Objectives: To present a vision of health and the relationship between health and disease from a dialectical perspective.

Methodology: Analytical Interpretative

Results: The authors begin by critiquing the traditional and hegemonic health system. According to them, it establishes health as a given set of products/services permanently mounted to respond to the disease (seen as inevitable) that produces and encourages preventive and reactive responses to a threat that must be fought at all costs. The disease has become the raison d'être of this production system, which expands the “business of health” as an offer of services and goods, not only for those who are sick but also for those who seek to be “healthier.”

In this way, the authors raised and discussed "two paths" distinct and contradictory in terms of health: 1) the hegemonic, that seeks health through technological control of the disease, which doesn't investigate the reason or cause of the problem but is proposed to subject individuals to the ongoing need to purchase goods and services generated by technology, 2) the anti-hegemonic, which seeks to escape from the artifices of the commoditization of the health-disease relationship and instead find the causes of disease to confront them. They propose to “de-fatalize” the disease and avoiding the technological bias on health: it is necessary to abandon the simplistic dichotomy that opposes health as "natural" and disease as "artificial".

Conclusions: For the authors, the secret of health is not separate it from the disease. The latter is better understood from a socio-historical perspective which researches and understands it from its inclusion within the historical experience of being human. They propose to use the disease pedagogically through this study the ills of society will be revealed. They believe also that this reflection should be an inductive approach: from the disease to the society; and not a deductive one: from the society to the disease.