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Disciplinarization of the mouth, the autonomy of the individual in a working society

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C&SC200611(1)Kovaleski-Torres-Botazzo

Kovaleski D, Torres S, Botazzo C. Disciplinarização de boca, a autonomia do indivíduo na sociedade do trabalho. [Disciplinarization of the mouth, the autonomy of the individual in a working society]. *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)* 2006 January-March; 11(1): 97-103.

Objectives: To analyze the dental health-illness process using the "buccality" concept proposed by Botazzo.

Methodology: Interpretative analytical.

Results: The article shows how the traditional limits of dentistry have resulted in the failure of Brazilian policies for the oral health of the population. They note that social problems are absent from the discourse of dentistry, as factors apart from the mouth itself are underestimated and poorly understood. To dentists, the processes involved in caries are only chemical, physical, and biological. The result is that the dental health-illness process is compressed into an impoverished vision that lacks any link whatsoever with social theory. The mouth is seen in isolation, is technified and poorly understood. The authors cite a study by Freitas which proposes that caries is socially produced and determined. The authors also treat the concept of discipline as producing "useful," "docile" bodies. They accuse dentistry of uncritically positioning its practice alongside the interests of capital, and lacking a commitment to the health of individuals let alone of the population.

Conclusions: The authors propose "buccality," a previously theoretical concept that attempts to change the focus of dentistry from one of considering the mouth less in isolation and more in an autonomous, collective perspective.