Evaluation of two projects on Sleep Education: "Sleep Schools Project" and "Sleep more to Read better"

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Introduction & Purpose

Sleep Education is effective in the prevention of sleep problems and in the enhancement of healthy lifestyles⁽¹⁾.

This work aims to present sleep education and sleep awareness activities, whenever an educational model is assumed: a three-dimensional model about sleep, addressing sleep habits, personal and environmental factors with nine subcategories, together with associated community projects and scientific research activities.

Similar tools used in two projects: "Sleep Schools Project" (SSP) and "Sleep more to Read better" (SMRB) are evaluated.

Evaluation Criteria

In spite of somewhat different objectives, both projects used similar methodologies and therefore are evaluated together.

The observation period is 5 years (from 2009 to 2014) and includes private and public schools with every age levels.

Evaluation of the developed activities was done taking into account:

- 1) The number of targets involved in the educational actions
- 2) Construction and/or validation of sleep questionnaires
- 3) Conception and validation of a 3 educational model of Sleep

Results

1) There were **105** sessions and 46 community projects in schools around the country



Figure 1 – Sessions across regions

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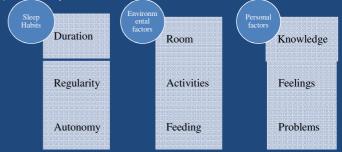
Figure 2 – Community projects ongoing

469 Schools / School networks **7943** - Students

1711 - Teachers **3395** - Parents

- 2) 7 questionnaires validated for the Portuguese population:
- Cleveland Adolescent Sleepiness Question. (2)
- Epworth Sleepiness Scale (3)
- Sleep-Self Report (4)
- Children Sleep Habits Question. (5)
- My Sleep and I (6)
- My children's sleep (7)
- Stress, Anxiety & Depression Scale (8)

3) Development of a 3-Dimensional Model about Sleep



Conclusions

- The two projects show a great increase of the interest around sleep, which is now currently included in educational initiatives across Portugal.
- The results are clear indicators of significant awareness raising about sleep
- The developed/validated questionnaires are essential research tools
- They allowed the construction of a 3D model about sleep in children and adolescents
- The link between educational activities and research was most fruitful, contributing to increased research in the field
- Future work must deal with the measurement of impacts upon Children/Adolescent Portuguese sleep behaviors.