

Globalization and its interface with the environmental crisis and covid-19

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La globalización y su interfaz com la crisis ambiental y covid-19

RESUMO

Objetivo: identificar na literatura a interferência da globalização na crise ambiental e na disseminação da COVID-19. Método: Trata-se de uma revisão integrativa de literatura. Foram definidos os seguintes critérios de inclusão: artigos completos publicados em português e inglês, publicados a partir de 2020, que tenham intimidade com o objeto da pesquisa. Resultados: Nos últimos 02 anos foram encontrados 209 artigos. Após aplicar os critérios de inclusão, apenas 17 artigos foram selecionados para constituir o corpus dessa pesquisa. Após a leitura dos artigos na íntegra, emergiram duas categorias de análise: a influência da globalização durante a crise sanitária de 2020 no Brasil e a influência da crise ambiental durante a crise sanitária de 2020 no Brasil. Conclusão: A globalização contribuiu, definitivamente, para o agravamento da crise socioambiental e Covid-19, do mesmo modo que aprofunda a conturbada relação entre sociedade e natureza.

DESCRIPTORIOS: Meio Ambiente e Saúde Pública; Meio Ambiente; Desenvolvimento Econômico; Covid-19.

ABSTRACT

Objective: to identify in the literature the interference of globalization in the environmental crisis and in the diffusion of COVID-19. Method: This is an integrative literature review. The following inclusion criteria were defined: complete articles published in Portuguese and English, published from 2020, which are intimate with the object of investigation. Results: In the last 2 years there will be 209 articles. In order to apply the inclusion criteria, only 17 articles were selected to constitute the corpus of this investigation. After reading the articles in their totality, they emerged from the analysis categories: the influence of globalization during the health crisis of 2020 in Brazil and the influence of the environmental crisis during the health crisis of 2020 in Brazil. Conclusion: Globalization has definitely contributed to aggravate the social and environmental crisis and Covid-19, as well as deepening the convulsive relationship between society and nature.

DESCRIPTORS: Environment and Public Health; Environment; Economic Development; Covid-19.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: identificar en la literatura la interferencia de la globalización en la crisis ambiental y en la difusión del COVID-19. Método: Se trata de una revisión integradora de la literatura. Se definieron los siguientes criterios de inclusión: artículos completos publicados en portugués e inglés, publicados a partir de 2020, que sean íntimos con el objeto de investigación. Resultados: En los últimos 02 años se encontraron 209 artículos. Luego de aplicar los criterios de inclusión, solo se seleccionaron 17 artículos para constituir el corpus de esta investigación. Después de leer los artículos en su totalidad, surgieron dos categorías de análisis: la influencia de la globalización durante la crisis de salud de 2020 en Brasil y la influencia de la crisis ambiental durante la crisis de salud de 2020 en Brasil. Conclusión: La globalización definitivamente ha contribuido a agravar la crisis social y ambiental y Covid-19, así como a profundizar la convulsa relación entre la sociedad y la naturaleza.

DESCRIPTORIOS: Medio Ambiente y Salud Pública; Medio Ambiente; Desarrollo Económico; Covid-19.

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INTRODUCTION

A broad and current theme, very present in the reality of developing countries, such as Brazil, globalization has been provoking numerous changes, being a social, economic, technological, political and cultural phenomenon whose ideological basis is the overcoming of physical and territorial barriers. Globalization stimulates the advancement of the media, the spread of knowledge and information on a global level, promotes the union and internationalization of society. On the other hand, it also causes negative consequences, affecting moral values, fostering egocentrism, individualism and disputes for control and power over the same areas of positive influence. (1)

In this sense, it can be said that the great driving force of the globalization process is the need for market expansion, consumerism, capital gain by large corporations and the enhancement of immediate profit, to the detriment of whatever damage is caused, including the environment.

Thus, despite all the progress of international discussions on the environment, the proposals and actions practiced until today were not enough to stop the environmental and social degradation, considering that the interests of capital in the process of economic globalization, are still paramount to the detriment of social and environmental aspects. (2)

At this point, it is important to discuss

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human survival itself, considering that globalization has definitely contributed to the worsening of the already existing socio-environmental crisis, in the same way that it deepens the troubled relationship between society and nature. Likewise, the environmental crisis is one of the main existential paradigms of the current model of economic growth and social way of life, characterized by the exploitation of nature, generation of waste and impact on the environment in general, including the human species itself. (1)

With this panorama, in December 2019, in the city of Wuhan, China, the first case of a viral disease called Covid-19 was identified. Due to its high transmission rate and no effective treatment, the State of International Public Health Emergency was quickly instituted. (3)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the emergence of several infectious diseases is associated with human invasion of wild areas, which contributed to increased contact between species and the consequent transmission of pathogens to domestic animals and humans. This is one of the likely explanations for the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and the virus that causes Covid-19 (coronavirus disease - 2019), whose bats are the likely intermediate hosts. (4)

The high rates of transmission contributed to the growth in the number of deaths, especially in vulnerable groups, despite their low lethality rate. In this way, the

COVID-19 pandemic directly affected the globalization system, with impacts on the mobility of people, continuity of industrial operations and service provision, as well as on other economic and social relations. (5)

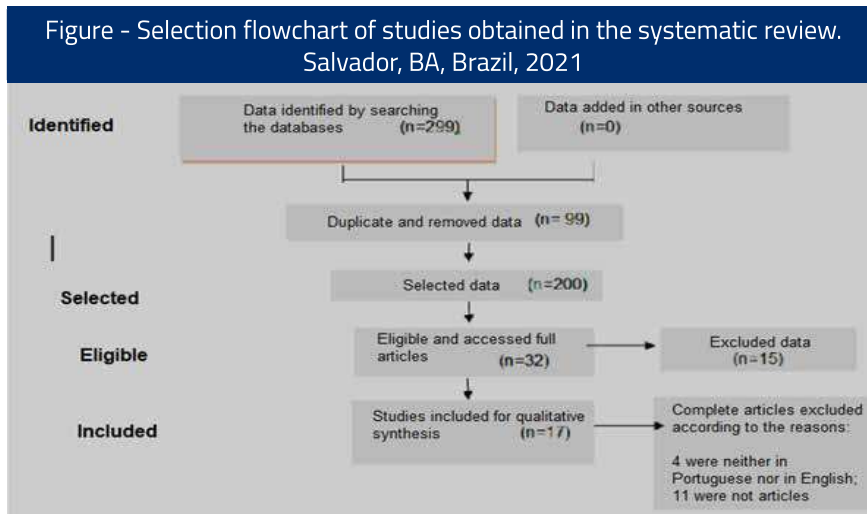
With this perspective, the objective of the present work is to identify in the literature the interference of globalization in the environmental crisis and in the spread of COVID-19.

METHOD

To meet the proposed objective, an integrative literature review was carried out to gather and summarize all data from research on a particular topic. The following inclusion criteria were defined: full articles published in Portuguese and English, published from 2020 onwards, which are related to the research object. Subsequently, the research question was established: what are the influences of globalization on the environmental crisis that contributed to the triggering of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, data collection was initially carried out between April and June 2021 on the Virtual Health Library Portal (VHL), which has several indexed databases such as SciELO and Lilacs and in search engines such as Google Scholar, using the following keywords: "environment (meio ambiente)" and "environmental crisis (crise ambiental)" and "COVID-19" and "coronavirus" and "pandemic" and "globalization", which were used using the Boolean operator "AND".

The EndNote[®]20 reference manager



Source: Own elaboration

software was used to identify possible duplicates. Subsequently, the material found was read. The selection followed the recommendations of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), presented in the Figure below.

The chosen studies were categorized and evaluated according to the research question. Soon after, the results were interpreted, through the reduction, exposure and comparison of the data, as well as the conclusion and verification of the findings and the literature review was presented in the next chapter called Results and Discussion.

RESULTS

In the period from 2020 to 2021, 209

articles were found that addressed either the influence of globalization or the environmental crisis that contributed to the triggering of the Covid-19 pandemic. After applying the inclusion criteria, only 17 articles were selected to constitute the corpus of this research.

Regarding the year of publication, all were published in 2020. Regarding the place where the studies were carried out, most of the articles (29.4%) were published by researchers from the state of Rio de Janeiro.

After reading the articles in full, based on the incidence of the findings, two categories of analysis emerged that responded to the objective of the research: the interface between globalization and the spread of Covid-19 (10 articles) and the influence of the environmental crisis on the develop-

Table 1 - Search strategies used by databases. Salvador, BA, Brazil, 2021.

	Search strategy	Results
Databases available on the VHL Portal and Google Scholar	((("meio ambiente") AND ("crise ambiental") AND ("covid-19") AND ("coronavírus") AND ("pandemia")))	196
	((("meio ambiente") AND ("crise ambiental") AND ("covid-19") AND ("coronavírus") AND ("pandemia") AND ("globalização")))	103

Source: Own elaboration

ment of the 2020 health crisis(7 articles).

DISCUSSION

The interface between globalization and the spread of COVID-19

With the development of globalization, there was a significant change in the political and economic order of States, in which private corporations play an essential role in international relations, causing an inversion in relation to the powers of the State itself, which are dependent on the actions of the world market. (6)

In this way, in order to keep up with the speed of globalization, society has become homogenized by equalizing the standard of living of an entire population, according to the means of production and market participation of the most influential corporations. Thus, countries with greater cultural diversity faced greater difficulty in adapting to this new context. (7) Based on this assumption, it can be said that globalization did not happen equally throughout the world, there was no democratic evolution. On the contrary, this process has increasingly widened social inequalities. (8)

By this line of reasoning, it is understood that the greatest beneficiaries of the globalization system are large corporations, which settle in countries with greater economic and social vulnerability, being able to control production costs through the hiring of cheap labor and exorbitant interest rates. These companies also take advantage of the fragility of environmental legislation, which is generally not very restrictive or has poor supervision, thus being able to indiscriminately use, in their production line, various chemicals and techniques that are harmful to the environment, which provide high productivity at low costs. (9)

In this scenario, the COVID-19 pandemic directly hit the globalization system. By restricting the mobility of people, interrupting the continuity of industrial operations and providing services, as well as other economic and social relations, there was an impact on the development of commercial relations.

As a result, the world economy, inclu-

ding the Brazilian one, is going through a moment of high degree of uncertainty as a result of the pandemic and other political influences, which is causing a significant slowdown in economic activity. (10)

It should be noted that the state of public emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic is more impacting for those individuals or locations with greater socioeconomic vulnerability, who no longer have the income to meet their basic needs

In this way, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted territorial, economic and social inequalities around the world, enhanced by neoliberal policies that make the globalization process happen in a more agile way for the richest countries. The disparities in this process could be observed from the

moment when the most developed nations monopolized the purchase and distribution of prophylactic inputs and personal protective equipment. (11)

It is worth adding that, in the economic sphere, there was a reduction in jobs, in the workload with the partial or total suspension of contracts, which generated an increase in the number of unemployed and discouraged, impacting on the increase of poverty and the number of people in a situation of food insecurity. Studies show that the repercussions of the pandemic contexts on the global economy can increase poverty in the world by up to half a billion people, or 8% of the total human population. (11)

In this context, it should be noted that the state of public emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic is more impacting for those individuals or locations with greater socioeconomic vulnerability, who no longer have the income to meet their basic needs. In addition, there are issues related to housing, as these people tend to live in homes with few rooms, overcrowded and very close to each other, in which isolation and social distancing is more difficult to maintain. (11)

Taking into account that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic tends to be lasting, influencing all spheres of human life and delaying social and economic developments, it is important to rethink the way in which globalization can influence the environmental context and consequently develop new health crises in the world. (12)

The influence of the environmental crisis on the development of the 2020 health crisis

Experts say that the rapid rate of degradation of the environment on the planet tends to make pandemics more and more frequent. Zoonoses, diseases transmitted from animals to humans, result from activities that interfere with the ecosystem and provide the contact of various viruses of animal origin with the human species. (4) Some of these pathologies, such as Chagas Disease, Malaria and Dengue, arise in tropical areas of undeveloped countries and end up being neglected, with few invest-

ments in research, inefficient production of drugs and the non-establishment of control strategies, being considered endemic in populations of low income. (13)

Climate change, deforestation, hunting, overuse of land, overproduction in agriculture and livestock and illegal wildlife trade are among the main causes of the ecological imbalance that results in these zoonotic diseases. The United Nations Environment Program conducted research which indicated that approximately 60% of emerging infectious diseases in humans are of zoonotic origin and are correlated with environmental degradation and ecosystem imbalance. (14,15)

The coronavirus is a more current example of zoonoses, of natural origin, which began through the contact of hosts of animal origin with humans. The study demonstrated that the genome of the virus is similar to that found in bats and pangolins. (16)

Therefore, it is clear that the pandemic of the new coronavirus is also the result of an environmental crisis that revealed all human excesses committed against the ecosystem, causing these ecological imbalances. (17) On the other hand, the state of a pandemic also proved that human activity has great repercussions in the current environmental crisis, as with the declaration of quarantine, with the obligation of distancing and social isolation, associated with the possibility of distance studies and Home Office, measurements have proven the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, by reducing the mobility of people in their external environment. Likewise, there was a reduction in the continuous increase in Greenhouse Gases, due to the stoppage of non-essential economic activities such as some industries and transport. (11)

However, the negative impacts caused by the COVID19 pandemic cannot be disregarded, such as the increase in waste production, since people are at home most of their time and consequently consume more food, water, energy, services such as Communication. It is worth mentioning that the generation of waste is the second impact that most affects the environment, and the economic crisis may trigger the

need to accelerate industrial production and add exorbitant amounts of Greenhouse Gases to the atmosphere. (18)

In this sense, after the worsening of environmental crises caused by the COVID-19

The coronavirus is a more current example of zoonoses, of natural origin, which began through the contact of hosts of animal origin with humans. The study demonstrated that the genome of the virus is similar to that found in bats and pangolins

pandemic, there is a need to promote and encourage strategies that curb environmental degradation, through the establishment of stricter laws, creating more sustainable consumption habits and investing more in the population's environmental education. (18)

Governments must apply environmental and sustainable policies based on the use of green energies to reduce air pollution, encourage family farming, among other actions, understanding that, although the Coronavirus and climate change operate on different time scales, they represent similar phenomena in terms of the evolution and impacts of the problem. It is important to take advantage of this moment of aggravation of the socioeconomic crisis, derived from the already existing environmental crisis, to act correctly now and in the future.

CONCLUSION

Globalization, responsible for the internationalization of the economy and technology and for the development of societies, is the same thing that generates social inequality and increases the environmental crisis. Even after all the discussion about strategies on how to stop the degradation of the environment, the actions currently promoted are not enough, as they still prioritize the interests of large corporations.

With the institution of the state of emergency, caused by the new coronavirus, the globalization system was directly affected, generating impacts on the mobility of people, continuity of industrial operations and provision of services, as well as on other economic and social relations. This resulted in a rapid adjustment of the market to the new functioning situation of society, creating a space for discussion of improvements, considering ecological and sustainable principles.

The data also indicate that the Covid-19 pandemic may not be an isolated event, given that the ecological imbalance and the environmental crisis favor the emergence of diseases that can be even more serious, so it is necessary to encourage the realization of studies that analyze this dynamic between the environmental crisis and the health of the population.

It is also worth mentioning, in order for there to be changes at the governmental level, with the institution of more rigorous and supervised economic and environmental policies, it is necessary to promote and

encourage environmental education at all levels of training, which need to be re-signified, since it is a topic that still needs a

greater academic approach. It is extremely important that environmental education is part of school curricula, in all courses, so

that there is an effective behavioral change in the population.

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