

Representação Social da Velhice, Exclusão e Práticas Institucionais

Social Representation of the Age, Exclusion and Institutional Practices

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Abstract

The following work aims to contribute for the discussion on issues about aging through psycho-social perspective, seeking the understanding of changes that are presently occurring on the development of old age. This study was oriented methodologically by the Societal Psychology and the Theory of Social Representations, where it tried to: 1) identify the common field in the social representations; 2) verify the existence of differences among groups; and 3) explain the anchorage of these representations. The results showed the existence of a field in common of the social representations structured around the concept that aging is synonym of decay and death. It also indicated the existing difference between social groups, to be known: the elderly of the University open for seniors (Unati) related growing old with organic losses; the elderly of the Senior Club emphasized the importance of conquering social rights; and the elderly of the Vila Vida Center emphasize the issue in social rights and organic aging.

Key words: social representation, age, exclusion, citizenship, institution.

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