Abstract

In order to identify the perceptions of the Manaus-Amazonas' community situated at the periphery of the city, about malaria and their relationship with the environment, emphasizing the area occupation process, the environmental changes and the knowledge about the disease, it was made this exploratory and qualitative research. For the data collection we used non-participant observation and interviews with residents. We took the technique of content analysis, according to emerging categories of dialogue. The results were divided into three categories: knowledge about the disease; the process of occupation of the community; and the efforts to control malaria. Deficit was observed in residents' knowledge about the dynamics of the disease, since the early community intervention actions resulted in habitat imbalance and increase in malaria, especially in the beginning of the area occupation. The community needs public services, which their absence are contributing to the persistence of malaria in the area, because this way, the residents are forced to go into the forest to find water in adjacent streams, which expose them to the malaria vector. Despite the control measures being undertaken by the health service, the residents do not adhere to preventive measures. It turned out misunderstanding of malaria with dengue fever, this may be explained by the belief of the inhabitants that the disease is caused by the pollution and the waste. The relationship of malaria to the environment is not clearly perceived by the community. It turned out that even people have passed several times by illness from malaria, there is need for information to be properly understood about the basic principles of disease involving the parasite, vector and host.

Keywords

Malaria, Environment, Perception, Environmental Health.