



LEPROSY LAWS IN BRAZIL AND SÃO PAULO FROM THE COLONIAL TIMES TO TODAY: CRITICAL STUDY

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Abstract

The law and legislation are important research sources for the history of leprosy, allowing different analyzes such as the attitude of rulers over time, adoption of public policies and discriminatory measures adopted. However they have been little researched. In Brazil, the strong stigma, fear of contagion and the growth of endemic, caused the social pressures on governments resulted in specific laws, from all the country was the State of São Paulo who adopted the strictest laws, regarding segregation and loss of patients' rights.

Methodology:

It was used methodology of the area of law and the human sciences to identify the legal, systematic and critical analysis. The survey was conducted: 1) printed collections of laws and decrees 2) Official sites; 3) specific sites in the area of law; 4) specific bibliography. Two databases were organized with summaries and links for viewing the full text were included, which facilitated the analysis of extensive research

Results: Identification of 1,479 legal standards concerning leprosy. Two major indexes were developed: a national legal standards with 711 and another the State of São Paulo with 768 analyzed. We have analyzed the Brazilian and São Paulo legislation, in its different times and identify the discrepancies and unfamiliarity between different spheres of government. Assessment of collected data and the content of legal texts, when faced with the advancement of therapies and the foreign recommendations, revealed that the laws did not always follow or reflect the scientific progress. The vast amount, and the wealth, of information that resulted from this research will encourage further studies and considerations on prophylactic choices and on a deeper concept of Legal Justice.