A NATIONAL STUDY IN THE CRANIOFACIAL AREA: THE FAMILY’S PATTERNS AND ARRANGEMENTS NOWADAYS

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OBJECTIVE: to identify and characterize the family's patterns and arrangements of patients assisted by a Hospital specializing in craniofacial anomalies in Brazil, before and after the birth and currently, as well as to verify the support and intervention by Social Work during the rehabilitation process. METHODS: Quanti-qualitative study whose instrument was the interview. The sample had 149 subjects with cleft lip and palate, from 3 to 11 years old. RESULTS: The data showed that the nuclear family is the predominant model among the subjects of the research, on three stages: 67.1% before the birth, 67.8% after the birth and 63.8% on the current stage. Other family models identified were: extended (9.4%, 8.7%, 10%), reconstituted (15.4%, 14.8%, 16.2%); monoparental (8.1%, 8.7%, 10%). The alteration on the models occurred in 29.5% of the families and the reasons were: changing of marital status, death or sickness of one of the parents, second marriage, increase of family members. Relationship problems occurred in 15.4% of the families due to: disagreement, prejudice/rejection, difficulty on the child care, financial difficulties. On the current stage, it was reported ways of facing the troubles through internal and external resources. Internal: capacity to deal the problems, and religiosity; external: family support, social support, professional support. The contribution of the Social Work for the family dynamics, specifically, was recognized by 39.1%; related to the treatment, the support of Social Work was 100%, including psycho-social support, orientations, mobilization of resources, benefits and others. CONCLUSIONS: the practice of Social Work is recognized as essential in the craniofacial team, aiming the defense of the rights as patients and citizens.

Support: FAPESP