

Journées Annuelles de Santé Publique 2001  
En ouverture sur le monde  
5 au 8 novembre 2001, Montreal

# THE IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON HEALTH SERVICES in *UN*developing countries

Oscar Feo  
IAESP / UCNA

## GLOBALISATION AND HEALTH

### What do we want to do today ?



to understand the impact of economic globalisation  
on the organization of health services  
in developing countries...

**Warning !** We are not developing countries.

“Developing” means becoming more developed.  
We are not !

Every day we are more dependent:  
with more poverty and fewer oportunities.

**We are pheripheral, dependant, 3rd world countries**

## **WHAT DOES GLOBALISATION MEANS ??**

- **Total dominance of the market and “free” trade**
  - **Imposition of the “American way of life”**
- this is what Berlusconi called the “occidental culture”**

**Wealth is concentrated in a few huge corporations**

**20 multinational corporations control  
70% of the world’s trade and wealth**

**The 3 richest individuals in the world have  
more wealth than 50 countries where  
600 million people lived !**

- **External Debt is one of our main problems It has doubled in 150 countries in the last 10 years !**
- **Almost 50% of their national budgets goes to service external debt.**

**GLOBALISATION has increased the wealth  
in a few sectors and increased poverty in  
the rest of he world.**

**95% of economic activity  
is financial speculation**

**One day on the NY stock exchange  
is greater than the Mexican GNP !**

**The logic of the financial sector  
dominates and substitutes  
for the logic of production**

**Worldwide 500 million inhabitants  
live like you and me,  
the other 5,500 million survive in abject poverty**

**As a consequence  
there has been a rise in conflicts,  
a lack of governability,  
and a rise of fundamentalism,  
racism and neo fascist groups.**

## What is Neoliberalism ?

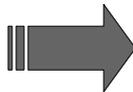


It is a way of thinking and understanding the economy, production and social life

**Health and social security  
are private goods  
that must be traded in the market.**

### Main goal in the Health Sector:

- ☑ Decreasing the role of the state and allowing the market to play a central role



**PRIVATISATION**

## Neoliberal proposals for Health



**To reduce the role of government in the  
organisation and provision of health  
services**

### Main idea

- ↪ Health is a private good, an individual responsibility and belongs to the private sector
- ↪ Health problems must be solved in the context of the market.

**HEALTH SERVICES PRIVATISATION**

## **GLOBALISATION AND HEALTH SERVICES**

**Multilateral institutions  
are promoting “Health Reform”  
in order to privatise the health sector**

**This process has led to a huge deterioration  
of public health services**



**The goal of “Reform”  
is to privatise “retirement funds”  
that are an important attraction  
for the financial sector**

**ARE PENSIONS FUNDS SOCIAL PROGRAMS  
OR FINANCIAL BUSINESS ?**

## **IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON HEALTH**

**PRIVATISATION OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

**INCREASE OF INEQUITIES**

**HIGH MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY RATES AND INCREASE  
OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES EASILY PREVENTABLE**

**MIGRATION OF SKILLED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
FROM POORER TO WEALTHIER COUNTRIES**

## **IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON HEALTH**

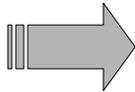
**Do you know that .....**

**less developed countries have 84%  
of the world's population**

**consume less than 11% of the world's  
health expenditures**

**and account for 93% of  
the illness and disease burden**

## **Alternative proposals**



**Health is a human and social right  
that should be guaranteed by the state**

### **Main ideas:**

- ↪ Health is not merely an individual concern.**
- ↪ Health is a collective process determined by the quality of life. Health is part of collective wellbeing.**
- ↪ The State must guarantee and regulate social security and health**

## **WARNING**

**Be careful...  
In most industrialized countries  
Public Health Systems  
are under attack !!!!!**

**These attacks are the first step.  
Afterwards the financial sector  
and multinational medical corporations  
will try to convince every one  
that the health sector may be privatised**

## **CONCLUSIONS**

**OUR MAIN TASK IS DESIGN POLICIES TO CONFRONT  
NEOLIBERAL PROPOSALS IN HEALTH**

**In the health sector we should avoid privatisation  
and defend the role of State in the stewardship and  
Provision of health services**

**We should affirm HEALTH as a social and  
human right, instead of a “market private good”**



**WE MUST GENERATE  
A PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA  
CENTRED IN LIFE,  
EQUITY,  
AND SOCIAL WELL BEING**

**The only way of getting human sustainable development  
on world wide scale  
DEMANDS a global effort for redistribution of wealth**