

Editorial

In this second issue of 2004, *Saúde & Sociedade* proceeds and enriches the discussion of some themes treated in previous issue, as Health Promotion, now through the angle of community and health workers participation and their empowerment. The challenges of some of their instruments are discussed, also in articles: information and communication.

The complexity of these three themes, strongly related, is evidenced in many issues that emerge in the articles. Among them, we can mention: the political culture dominating in the health sector, strongly technical and normative and little reflective, that renders difficult the implementation of actions in the perspective of health as a universal right of citizens; the challenges for implementation of new management and reorganization of working processes, given the dominant relation of medical doctors regarding other health professionals; the importance of community participation in Health Councils, empowerment and the role of communication and information in the construction of SUS (Health System).

Besides this ample theme, the reader will find other relevant issues in public health that are related to the themes above mentioned. The first refers to the relationship among health agents and users of the Family Health Program, pointing again to emerging problems related to medical doctors' power and the (re)definition of competences in public health practice. Another article is about violence against women, with study on cases of Londrina, where we can highlight the importance of gender policies and the implementation of health services to attend women living in violent situation. Another describes, in a short manner, the history of Hansen's disease in the world, in America, in Brazil and in Rio Grande do Sul, where it was eradicated, in opposition to the Northern and Northeastern Brazil where the incidence is still very high.

The relevance of those issues presented in the articles published, once more, allow us to envisage in *Saúde & Sociedade* a space for reflection in public health.