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# Health promotion in the context of technosociality: integrative literature review

**ABSTRACT** | Introduction: In the contemporary world, the use of technologies can be configured as an obstacle or incentive for health promotion. This study aims to find out what has been published about social networks in people's daily lives in the health and illness process for health promotion. Materials and Methods: Integrative literature review in five databases, in the historical section from 2015 to 2019. Results: 12 articles were analyzed, resulting in three categories: 'Technosociality: Social Network in therapeutic engagement'; 'Technosociality: Social Network as an empowerment tool'; 'Technosociality: The production of knowledge. Discussion: The need for evaluation to validate socialized information is highlighted, and a debate on the effectiveness of the practical application of the knowledge acquired by the user. Conclusions: The focus on empowerment in the debate on social networks is mostly focused on the individual perspective, falling short of encouraging community participation suggested in the National Health Promotion Policy.

Keywords: Health; Health Promotion; Social Networking; Online Social Networking.

**RESUMEN** | Introducción: En el mundo contemporáneo, el uso de tecnologías se puede configurar como obstáculo o poder para la promoción de la salud. Este estudio tiene como objetivo conocer qué se ha publicado sobre las redes sociales en la vida cotidiana de las personas en el proceso de salud y enfermedad para la promoción de la salud. Materiales y Métodos: Revisión bibliográfica integradora en cinco bases de datos, en la sección histórica de 2015 a 2019. Resultados: Se analizaron 12 artículos, resultando en tres categorías: 'Tecnosocialidad: Red social en el compromiso terapéutico'; "Tecnosocialidad: las redes sociales como herramienta de empoderamiento"; "Tecnosocialidad: la producción de conocimiento". Discusión: Es necesaria la evaluación para validar la información socializada, y debatir la efectividad de la aplicación práctica de los conocimientos adquiridos por el usuario. Conclusiones: El enfoque en el empoderamiento en el debate en las redes sociales se centra mayoritariamente en la perspectiva individual, sin llegar a fomentar la participación comunitaria sugerida en la Política Nacional de Promoción de la Salud. **Palabras claves:** Salud; Promoción de la Salud; Red Social; Redes Sociales en Línea.

**RESUMO** | Introdução: Na contemporaneidade, o uso de tecnologias pode se configurar como empecilho ou potência para a promoção da saúde. Este estudo tem como objetivo conhecer o que tem sido publicado sobre as redes sociais no quotidiano das pessoas no processo de saúde e adoecimento para a promoção da saúde. Materiais e Métodos: Revisão integrativa de literatura em cinco bases de dados, no recorte histórico de 2015 a 2019. Resultados: 12 artigos foram analisados, resultando em três categorias: 'Tecnossocialidade: Rede Social no engajamento terapêutico'; 'Tecnossocialidade: Rede Social como ferramenta de empoderamento'; 'Tecnossocialidade: A produção de conhecimento'. Discussão: Destaca-se a necessidade de avaliação para validação das informações socializadas, e debate sobre a efetividade da aplicação prática dos conhecimentos adquiridos pelo usuário. Conclusões: O enfoque do empoderamento em debate nas redes sociais volta-se majoritariamente para a perspectiva individual, ficando aquém do incentivo à participação comunitária sugerida na Política Nacional de Promoção da Saúde. **Palavras-chaves:** Saúde; Promoção da Saúde; Rede Social; Redes Sociais Online.

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#### INTRODUCTION

S a social right in Brazil, several actions and policies have been implemented in the different spheres of management, in order to ensure that this right is carried out in accordance

with constitutional principles and organizational guidelines provided for in the Organic Health Law. In this context, the health work reveals its complexity of execution, considering the technological advances of societies, the different socioeconomic realities of our territory and the health and disease issues of the population in general.

One of the ways to overcome these difficulties and implement a more resolutive and humanized care, is through the search for the intensification of health promotion actions. Health promotion, as a public policy, aims to promote equity and improve the conditions and ways of living, expanding the potential of individual and collective health, reducing vulnerabilities and health risks arising from social, economic, political, cultural and environmental determinants.<sup>(1)</sup>

Starting from the expanded concept of health, this policy assumes specific values, principles and guidelines, all related to the social determinants that surround the conditions of living, producing health and becoming ill, highlighting the importance of sustainable development, community participation, creation of healthy environments and territories, as well as the culture of peace and human rights. <sup>(1)</sup>

In a scenario of globalization and complexity of relationships, the importance of discussing the implementation of health promotion actions in the context of technosociality is raised. Technosociality means "the new forms of social interactions, brought about by new technologies, which appear all over the world, everywhere, diversifying the processes in our daily experience, both real and virtual". <sup>(2)</sup>

Nowadays it is essential not only to assume, but also to understand the technologies used in people's daily lives, since these can be configured as obstacles or powers for health promotion. Therefore, it is necessary for health professionals to become familiar with the use of technologies and reflect on how these have been related to the health-disease process in their work territories, that is, to become familiar with "this technosociality". <sup>(3)</sup>

Understanding the daily life as "the way of life of human beings that is shown on a daily basis, due to their interactions, beliefs, values, meanings, culture, symbols, which delineates their process of living, in a movement to be healthy and to get sick, punctuating your life cycle ". (4:7) This journey through the life cycle has a certain cadence that characterizes the way of living, influenced both by the duty to be and by the needs and desires of everyday life, which is called the pace of life and living. In this way, the daily life is not only shown as a scenario, but, above all, it integrates the scenes of living and coexistence. (4:8)

In this scenario, we ask: What are the existing scientific publications, in the national and international scenario, that deal with social networks and health promotion in the context of technosociality? Thus, this study of integrative literature review aims to find out what has been published on social networks in people's daily lives in the health and illness process for health promotion.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

It is an integrative literature review of scientific studies published in the historical section from 2015 to 2019. To carry out this review, the steps provided for in a previously prepared and validated protocol were followed, in order to highlight the scientific findings of the method adopted.

The review protocol and execution totaled six steps as predicted by Ganong (1987) <sup>(5)</sup> : 1) elaboration and adoption of the research question; 2) establishment of the inclusion criteria for the study; 3) presentation of the selected studies in the form of a table; 4) critical analysis and evaluation of the selected studies; 5) discussion of results; and 6) report the review with the evidence found.

To answer the guiding question of this research, a search was made for scientific publications indexed in the following databases: SciVerse Scopus TopCited (Scopus), Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Virtual Health Library Nursing Brazil (BDENF), Latin American Literature and Caribbean Health Sciences (LILACS), Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (MEDLINE) and PubMed.

The health science descriptors (DeCS) adopted were Health; Health promotion; Social network; Health; Health promotion; Social networking. It is noteworthy that the Boolean expressions AND and OR were the resources adopted for the research in order to obtain the largest number of studies on the subject reviewed.

The inclusion criteria for this study were: original research, full articles available, texts in Portuguese or English, published between the years 2015 to 2019. The exclusion criteria considered were: duplicity of articles, editorials, review articles, course conclusion papers (TCC), monographs, dissertations and theses, opinion articles, congress annals and reflection articles, in addition to publications that were not related to the scope of the research.

The analysis chosen to carry out this integrative review was thematic analysis, seeking to identify the key concepts that refer to health promotion in the context of technosociality, and for that, three moments were carried out: pre--analysis; exploration of the material; and treatment of results. (6) In the pre-analysis phase, after applying the filter to the database, titles and abstracts were read in order to identify a relationship with health promotion in the context of technosociality; after that, the material exploration stage began, in which the articles were read in depth. In the treatment and results phase, the last stage of content analysis, the findings were interpreted and the categories previously listed were confirmed or not.

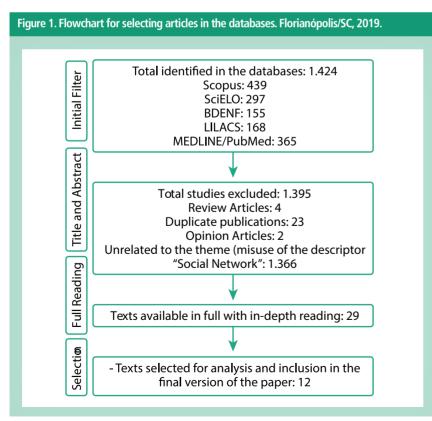
#### RESULTS

The selection process in the databases initially identified a total of 1.424 articles, 439 in Scopus, 297 in SciELO, 155 in BDENF, 168 in LILACS and 365 in MEDLINE/PubMed. As the pre-analysis and exploration of the material progresses, a total of 29 articles eligible for research are identified; at the end, 12 articles were selected to compose the result of this review, as shown in Figure 1.

It is noteworthy that the large volume of publications excluded in this review for not being related to the topic, because they are mostly due to the incorrect use of the descriptor 'social network' by the authors, bringing this term as a family support network and/ or community.

Of the 12 articles selected and that made up the final sample of research analysis, all come from research conducted in Brazil, the vast majority of which are published in journals in the thematic area of collective health (10), demonstrating a greater affinity of this area with the thematic of health promotion. With regard to the region of origin of the research, 07 articles are from the Southeast Region, 02 from the Northeast Region, 02 from the Midwest Region and 01 from the South Region. It is also noteworthy that all articles are of a qualitative nature, as may be be verified in Table 1.

Advancing to the third and final stage foreseen in the thematic analysis developed in this research, the publications were divided into three categories, according to their content's relation to the guiding question of the study: 'Technosociality: Social Network in therapeutic engagement'; 'Technosociality:



Source: Prepared by the authors.

Social Network as an empowerment tool'; and 'Technosociality: The production of knowledge'.

#### DISCUSSION

Currently, the society is flat between the real and the virtual, which generate profound social changes. Criticism of schematic dualism; relativistic sensitivity; the shape; stylistic research; and libertarian thinking, theoretical assumptions and sensitivity present in Michel Maffesoli's studies, provide important elements for building the understanding of technosocial knowledge in society. <sup>(4)</sup>

At the present time there is a constant movement of sciences in studying a lot about the countless technologies available in the market, however it is essential to understand sociality, that is, with human interactions, which are permeated by technology generating technosociality. Often today everything you need to access the world can be in the palm of your hand, just having a smartphone with internet access is possible to access infinite sources of information and countless possibilities for interaction between people.

The archetype formed by the websites, relationship pages, favor the development of new social networks and thus the increasingly personalized creation of information, as it is possible for each individual to create their own blog, website, or FanPage on Facebook. And this sum of information dissemination, with the speed with which information is transmitted, makes the internet and social networks important tools for exchanging information.<sup>(7)</sup>

Based on the concepts that permeate this study, three thematic categories emerged: Technosociality: Social Network in therapeutic engagement; Technosociality: Social Network as an empowerment tool and Technosociality: The production of knowledge.

#### Table 1. Classification of selected articles according to title, objective, magazine, place and year of publication. Florianópolis/SC/ Brasil, 2019.

Brasil, 2019.				
Title	Objective	Journal	Loca- tion	Year of publication
Social Networks and Health Promo- tion: Using Facebook in the Context of Blood Donation	Analyze Facebook's ability to mobilize and its potential for social engagement.	RISTI Revista Ibérica de Sistemas e Tecnologias de Informação.	Ceará	2018
Social networks, privacy, confidentiali- ty and ethics: exhibition of pictures of patients on Facebook.	Study the exposure of patient images promoted by doctors and dental surgeons on Facebook.	Interface - Comu- nicação, Saúde, Educação.	Brasília	2015
Social networks and health practi- ces: influence of an online diabetes community on treatment adherence	Understand how online communities can contribute, in Brazil, to increase the adherence of chronic patients to the treatment prescribed by the doctor.	Ciência & Saúde Coletiva	Rio de Janeiro	2018
"Positive" social networks: narratives of young people around HIV/AIDS and their daily tensions	Bring some reflections on the place and importance of new social networks for this group, highlighting some conflicts, dilemmas and daily tensions around the disease.	Physis	Bahia	2017
Hearing voices: a netnographic study of virtual environments for mutual help	Reflect the formation of a social network created through an internet social media, Intervoice, seeking to understand how social networks are integrated into mutual aid offers.	Physis	Rio de Janeiro	2017
Work and health dialogues: analysis of interactive activity in Rio de Janeiro	Analyze the work and health relationship of military firefighters in the pre-hospital care of the municipality of RJ.	Ciência & Saúde Coletiva	Rio de Janeiro	2018
Use of virtual communities to support breast cancer patients	Analyze the role and nature of support offered by virtual communities to breast cancer patients.	Ciência & Saúde Coletiva	Rio de Janeiro	2018
Participatory assessment of the quality of health information on the internet: the case of dengue sites	Analyze an experience of evaluating the quality of information on dengue sites, developed in a laboratory of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation.	Ciência & Saúde Coletiva	Rio de Janeiro	2017
The experience of abortion on the net: analysis of shared abortionary itinera- ries in an online community	Analyze narratives about the abortion experiences available in an online community, seeking to discuss the methods and strategies that women resort to in view of the legal impossibility of voluntary termination of pregnancy and the effects of the criminalization of induced abortion.	Ciência & Saúde Coletiva	Rio de Janeiro	2018
Development and evaluation of a website on Alzheimer's disease and its consequences for communication	Present the development of a website with information on Alzheimer's disease (AD) and its consequences for communication and verify the technical quality and information provided to the elderly, caregivers of the elderly and speech therapists.	Audiology Comuni- cation research	São Paulo	2018
One, two, three - recording: the Minis- try of Health's audiovisual campaigns on Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika from 2014 to 2017	Understand the use of audiovisual campaigns to prevent dengue, Zika and Chikungunya from the perspective of public, risk and health communications.	Revista Eletrônica de Comunicação, Infor- mação e Inovação em Saúde	Brasília	2019
Fitness bloggers on Instagram: the body and the editorial merchandising of dietary supplements	Classifying and analyzing the content posted by the po- pular fitness profiles in Brazil, ten public accounts were selected to be followed over fifteen days in 2016.	Revista Eletrônica de Comunicação, Infor- mação e Inovação em Saúde	Paraná	2018

Source: Prepared by the authors.

#### Technosociality: social network in therapeutic engagement

Social networks are part of the contemporary context, and it is necessary for health professionals to review their views and ways of caring, including in the health-disease process of people actions aimed at the inclusion of subjectivity and the person as supporting agents of the instrumental process of each health professional.<sup>(4)</sup>

Such a process leads to the formation of a new paradigm the function of the health professional, to act frequently seeking the quality of care through its dynamism, without detracting from the routine of people, and especially families. <sup>(4)</sup> In this context, the studies strongly address the use of social media in order to generate greater adherence to the therapeutic plan, exchange of information and campaigns of important relevance such as blood donation.

The study by Silva et al. (2018) <sup>(8)</sup>, brings in its considerations that the reach power of a great social media like Facebook, is associated with active participation of the virtual community. See, for example, the Facebook of the Hematology and Hemotherapy Center of Ceará (HEMOCE), which supports the dissemination of information and the promotion of campaigns to mobilize causes, seeks to redefine the community with the institutions, the dispersion of information and the way of evaluating services.

According to Pereira Neto et al. (2015)<sup>(9)</sup>, the use of websites, blogs and fanpages provide the sharing of information and experiences about people's health-disease process, which contributes to empowerment, so that they become protagonists in their care process. Because, it leads them to develop their autonomy, creating self-organizing qualities, and as a consequence they establish collective practices, develop a bond between them, so that together they build reality and knowledge hitherto unknown, breaking with a bio-

logist look and making the virtual environment in a holistic, comprehensive and effective assistance space. <sup>(10-11)</sup>

In addition, studies indicate that online communities contribute to the treatment of people with chronic diseases, increase adherence to treatment, acceptance of the disease, emotional support, as well as corroborate to fill gaps left by the health professional. <sup>(12)</sup>



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In line with studies, the management of online groups and interactions with individuals on the social network can produce a place for the exchange of ideas, debates and important reflections on the most diverse diseases, even the most stigmatized ones such as HIV/ AIDS. What favors "social mobilization", leading individuals to new engagements, collaborating to generate the feeling of real belonging, as they identify themselves as part of that context. <sup>(13)</sup>

They permeate the context of the exchange of experiences between those involved, they also favor the approximation of different peoples and cultures, break with the paradigm of physical barriers and bring people who until then felt excluded and isolated, encouraging them to broaden their horizons.<sup>(10)</sup>

## Technosociality: Social Network as an Empowerment Tool

According to Maffesoli (1996) <sup>(3)</sup>, it is necessary for the researcher to observe the hermeneutic logic considering the deep roots of each piece following its own nexus, and not an external opinion, which imposes how it should be. This is the force of conversation in the gaze brought by the author, who brings that primarily the investigations of how the elements of the phenomena are organized and the forces incurred in this disposition.<sup>(14)</sup>

Considering such intrinsic phenomena of each element, the studies emphasize that social networks collaborate with the deconstruction of the imaginary with regard to issues related to health, as they allow users more freedom of expression and participation. On the other hand, they also warn of the growing popularization of the use of virtual social networks by health professionals, for the publication of their professional routines, and in most situations they end up violating the professional code of ethics, with regard to patients' rights to secrecy and confidentiality.

The studies by Duarte et al. (2018) <sup>(14)</sup> and Oliveira et al. (2018) <sup>(15)</sup>, they emphasize that Blogs represent a reconfiguration of traditional media by creating new opportunities for social interaction and act as a new political actor in social relations, demonstrating their potential for building knowledge and understanding meanings, with elements that can transform realities.

In his study: "The experience of abortion on the net: analysis of shared abortion itineraries in an online community", Duarte et al. (2018) <sup>(15)</sup>, evidences that researches that deal with themes crossed by stigmas, such as people living with HIV/AIDS and sexualities considered deviant, for example, have considered the internet as a field that makes it possible to find narratives and interactions that would hardly be possible to observe in a offline environment.

Oliveira et al. (2018) (16), when analyzing the work and health relationship of the military firefighters who work in the Mobile Pre-Hospital Service (APH) of the city of Rio de Janeiro (RJ), with special attention to the sense of work, from the interactive movement in the SOS Firefighters and SOS Blogs Firefighters RJ, concluded that "the social relationships created in the virtual environment, in a network, often show us an innovative perspective and that needs deeper analysis". Blogs, as well as other networks, are considered environments of intense social participation and represent an efficient means of communicating ideas, articulating actions, mobilizing people, etc.

On the other hand, the study by Martorell et al (2018) <sup>(17)</sup> aims to identify potential situations of breach of confidentiality or privacy promoted by heal-th professionals through the publication of images, posted on the Facebook so-cial network, of situations directly or indirectly related to their patients.

The study shows that the recommendation that health professionals should pay special attention to publications that they want to share on social networks, especially those in which private information about their patients can be identified. Because such exposures can have negative repercussions for the entire profession, for patients and for society as a whole, in addition to directly inflicting universal human rights, which have been consolidated by international law and approved by the United Nations (UN) for several decades. <sup>(17)</sup>



The production of knowledge linked to contemporary society presents itself in a paradoxical way, if on the one hand it makes possible the seizure of new opportunities in the collective scope, bringing people and knowledge closer together, weakens individual action.

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Another recommendation from the authors is related to the need for health courses to incorporate, in Higher Education institutions, discussions related to the publication of images of patients on the Internet, especially by the disciplines of Bioethics, prioritizing crossdisciplinary cross-cutting discussions throughout the period of the students' education.

## Technosociality: The production of knowledge

The production of knowledge linked to contemporary society presents itself in a paradoxical way, if on the one hand it makes possible the seizure of new opportunities in the collective scope, bringing people and knowledge closer together, weakens individual action.<sup>(4)</sup>

Following this logic, studies approach that with the revolution of the digital age and, automatically, with the use of social networks for the dissemination of information, the contents related to health promotion are increasingly attracting the attention of social media users such as blogs, websites, Facebook and Instagram. In addition, they draw attention to the quality of the content disseminated and highlight the need for an evaluation to validate the information transmitted and also on the effectiveness of the practical application of the knowledge acquired by the user.

Arakawa-Belaunde et al (2018) <sup>(18)</sup>, reinforces the use of the internet as a facilitator in the development of projects, especially with regard to the development of personal skills. However, the authors warn that if the information is not understood and if it is not correctly and updated, its appropriation by the user may be difficult.

Given this context, it is important to consider factors that can influence the way of understanding and apprehending news and facts linked through social networks, such as media literacy, in order to avoid falling into the distortions of facts caused by the so-called fake news.<sup>(19)</sup>

The study by Pereira Neto et al (2016) <sup>(8)</sup> corroborates with previous authors, pointing out that this information is often insufficient, unsatisfactory, incorrect or incomprehensible. For this reason, they can endanger the health of the citizens. Thus, it is evident the need to expand the debate and reflection on these issues of technosociality and the

production of knowledge, since the expansion of the use of technologies and virtual social networks reaches all parts of the population, from the youngest <sup>(20,21)</sup> to the elderly <sup>(22)</sup>the latter with greater intensity in times of pandemic.

#### CONCLUSION

From this study it was possible to know some of the various possibilities of using social networks as instruments for reflection and intervention on the health and disease process of people and the population in general.

When considering people as protagonists, who are free and conscious to realize their care options, it is observed that this subject in Maffesoli is unreal. There is the person, in rational times, or individuals, in emotional times. The contact of the individual-person is with the conjuncture form, through his sensory system, stimuli that are modified in archetypal images.

In addition, it is observed that nowadays, technologies help to configure new forms of care, especially for individuals with chronic diseases who develop their autonomy. However, it is noteworthy, especially in articles that discuss the focus on empowerment, that this debate on social networks is still largely focused on individual empowerment, thus not reaching the degree of incentive to community participation suggested in the National Policy Health promotion.

It was also possible to verify that social networks demand from the scientific community a space of deep reflections, as in the cases of exposure of people's image, it is essential that there is an increasing debate in health courses about the ethical implications of the use of these technologies.

Finally, the relevance of the use of social networks in the production of subjects' knowledge about their condition is highlighted, revealing how technologies have been present in people's daily lives when they seek information about their experiences related, in particular, to the processes of illness.

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