ABSTRACT
Objective: to identify the social representations about the quality of life of adolescent students in their relation to social, cultural and economic aspects. Method: exploratory-descriptive and analytic study, with a qualitative approach, which is anchored in the core Theory of Social Representations. A total of 33 adolescent students took part in three public schools in Jequié/Bahia/Brazil. The data were collected with semi-structured interviews and analysis, at the light of the technical Thematic Analysis content. The study was initiated subsequently, the approval of the Ethics Committee in Research, Protocol No. 146/2010. Results: representations of the searched about quality of life showed varied social subjectivities represented by cultural and historical characterization. Conclusion: it is necessary to develop continuous actions for the prevention of diseases and promotion of health of these adolescents, which may be favorable for the quality of life. Descritores: Adolescent; Student; Health; Culture; Quality of Life.

RESUMO
Objetivo: apreender as representações sociais sobre a qualidade de vida de estudantes adolescentes em sua relação com os aspectos sociais, culturais e econômicos. Método: estudo exploratório-descritivo e analítico, que se ancorou na Teoria do núcleo central das Representações sociais, de abordagem qualitativa. Participaram 33 adolescentes escolares, de três escolas públicas estaduais do município de Jequié/Bahia/Brasil. A coleta de dados ocorreu com a entrevista semiestruturada e a análise, à luz da técnica de Análise temática de conteúdo. O estudo iniciou-se, posteriormente, a aprovação do Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa, protocolo nº 146/2010. Resultados: as representações dos pesquisados sobre qualidade de vida evidenciou variadas subjetividades sociais representadas pela caracterização cultural e histórica. Conclusão: é necessário desenvolvimento de ações continuas para a prevenção de doenças e promoção da saúde desses adolescentes, o que pode ser favorável à qualidade de vida. Descritores: Adolescente; Estudante; Saúde; Cultura; Qualidade de Vida.

RESUMEN
Objetivo: identificar las representaciones sociales sobre la calidad de vida de estudiantes adolescentes en su relación con el contexto social, cultural y económico. Método: estudio exploratorio-descriptivo y analítico, que está anclado en la Teoría del núcleo central de las representaciones sociales, de enfoque cualitativo. Un total de 33 estudiantes adolescentes de tres escuelas públicas estatales en Jequié/Bahia/Brasil. Los datos fueron recogidos mediante entrevistas semi-estructuradas y análisis, a la luz de la técnica de análisis temática de contenido. El estudio se inició posteriormente, a la aprobación del Comité de Ética en Investigación de Protocolo N° 146/2010. Resultados: las representaciones de los pesquisados acerca de la calidad de vida mostraron diversas subjetividades sociales representadas por la caracterización cultural e histórica. Conclusión: es necesario desarrollar acciones continuas para la prevención de enfermedades y promoción de la salud de los adolescentes, que pueden ser propicias para la calidad de vida. Descriptores: Adolescente; Estudiante; Salud; Cultura; Calidad de Vida.
INTRODUCTION

Adolescents make up a sociocultural group that historically is built from multiple elements and criteria that encompass several changes in the dimensions of the human being, in a biopsychosocial perspective. These changes may reflect the bodies of these individuals, in which there somatic growth, progress in motor skills, strengthening the action of bodily hormones, which contribute strongly to changes in the way we think, relate to one another and their way of expressing with the world around him.

The social representations of adolescent students in relation to quality of life (QOL), it is relevant, since from their beliefs have positive attitudes and / or negative towards your health and contribute to the planning, monitoring evaluation practices and interventions aimed at this population.

Reflecting on the Brazilian context of socioeconomic policies, two major areas are short of what they could offer, which are the fields of education and health, not reaching satisfactorily most of the population. This fact probably has an impact directly on the satisfaction of schoolchildren with their quality of life, which has multidimensional characteristics.

Based on the assumptions described above, it can be understood QOL as a subjective construct multidimensional with positive and negative dimensions, including a self-assessment of the various aspects that make up the life of a human being, a fourth constant momentum which can vary from according to the timing and perception of the individual.

In this perspective, this study aims to understand the social representations on the quality of life of adolescent students in their relation to the social, cultural and economic.

METHOD

The present study was extracted from the Masters Thesis presented to the Graduate Program in Nursing and Health, State University of Southwest Bahia, entitled Quality of life and health of adolescents: a study of social representations.

This is a qualitative study exploratory-descriptive and analytical, which was anchored in the Central Nucleus Theory of Social Representations. This approach emphasizes the complementary structural cognitive-structural dimension of social representations, by organizing around a central core, determining the meaning and organization to a representation.

The survey was conducted between the months of September 2011 and July 2012, the three largest public schools in Jequié, Bahia, Brazil. Study participants were 33 social actors, aged between 14 and 19 years old attending high school in the morning and afternoon shifts and were accepted and approved by parents or guardians to participate in the study.

The instrument used for data production was the semi-structured interview divided into two blocks: the first with questions of sociodemographic characteristics of the subjects and the second with a leading question about the thematic quality of life. Data from the interviews were organized, processed and analyzed in light of the Technical Thematic Content Analysis Categorical, according to the following steps: Phase 1: Pre-analysis, Phase 2: material exploration and 3rd phase: data processing, inference and interpretation. After transcribing the interviews, data were presented in categories. The categories were discussed taking as a principle of analysis to interpret the units of analysis themes that emerged from the content of the responses of the adolescents interviewed.

This study is supported by Resolution 196 of October 10, 1996, the National Health Council, which regulates research with humans, thus respecting the ethical research. The start of data collection was subsequently approved by the Committee of Ethics in Research of the State University of Southwest Bahia, under protocol nº 146/2010. The subjects and their parents and / or guardians signed an informed consent after being informed about the objectives, methods, risks and benefits of research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research presents the representations of teenagers high school students about their quality of life in relation to social, economic and cultural. Furthermore, the reflections present in this, assume important sense for practices and interventions in education and health that are designed for this population, requiring boldness, as one of the greatest challenges today is to promote health and quality comprehensive education, grounded in a commitment to social transformation of adolescents.

It is relevant to highlight some sociodemographic characteristics of respondents in an attempt to create
opportunities knowledge of group membership that was the subject of this investigation. Noting that 33 teenage students participated, of whom 63.6% were male.

Regarding the age ranged between 14 and 19 years, with an average of (16.27) years, with the highest incidence of adolescents aged between 16 and 17 years. As for the race question 45.5% of respondents reported they were white, and item schooling, the higher frequency was student of 1st year, accounting for 42.4% of the students. Still, regarding the shift, most participants studying in the morning shift, with a percentage of 57.5%.

From the analysis of the manifest content, met 39 thematic units, which emerged in the units of meaning that have been translated into four categories (Table 1) for the representation of schoolchildren on quality of life.

The following are described, analyzed and presented to the four categories that are related due to the quality of adolescents who contributed to the construction of scientific research.

**Social relations (SR)**

Our times, society creates and determines living standards to be followed consciously or unconsciously that corresponds most cases, precisely due to the dominant ideology, and there is a process of constant renewal through cultural diffusion that unite expectations and perceptions of adolescents in their lives.

Thus, by analyzing the results, it was noted that adolescent students perceive a sense between quality of life and social relations that are sustained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>N° of units of analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Relationships - SR</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing Power-PP</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work-W</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing-H</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analyzing carefully the units of analysis regarding this category, we find the concepts expressed about quality of life, suffering sociocultural influences, including through the relationship that is established between the teenagers and other humans around them.

It is noticed that the family relationship is evident in the testimonies of nine (09) students, in that moment of conception QOL. Adolescents perceive their family beyond the dimensions of consanguinity. The meanings and dimensions of family to these individuals are directly related to the field of human subjectivities, given that matches the capacity, quality and intensity of affective bonds established and fed back the relations between individual / individual, as well as individual / collective.10

The representation of the family is given based on the meanings that this social group has, since it is within familiar that adolescents seeking support, comfort and strength to achieve your goals and overcome the difficulties and troubles of life. Therefore, it is necessary that the family relationships are satisfactory, since the development and maintenance of emotional balance are directly related to the quality with which they are established family ties.11

It is within the family that learns the first knowledge, beliefs, habits and values, which can exert influence on practices that result in the promotion of health, quality of life and its elements, or the opposite way, that add to the vulnerability of adolescents diseases. Although there have been several changes in living arrangements of modern society, basic functions such as physical and psychological care of adolescents remain, welcoming them to this stage of transition to adulthood.12
The actions that subsidize health practices and care to adolescents need to contemplate family, based on representations and meanings that this has on their development process and therefore the influences aimed at promoting and maintaining their health.10

With regard to friendships, another variable pointed within this dimension, there is also the reports of the school that friends and colleagues influence the quality of life for themselves, stressing fondly those relationships.

There is concern for the QoL of adolescents, not only refers to a single consumer, but also relates to society, in that it enhances the conditions for survival and comfort of these individuals. Therefore, it is a social issue that encompasses different spheres of action, from the state public policies that promote disease prevention, health promotion and QOL of citizens to adopt healthy habits by individuals.13

◆ Purchasing power (PP)

The second category is presented with 13 units of analysis, relying on possibilities of achieving good quality of life from the acquisition of goods and access to money. Reports that underlie this category are willing.

[...] Being good with money, money and more money. (E1)
[...] Is a lot of money to do what you want. (E6)
[...] Money without the other. (E12)
[...] When we think of QOL, then the money comes to mind, and everything it provides, and that’s it. Of course not only that. (E13)
[...] Have money to take care of. (E15)
[...] Have a good financial stability. (E17)
[...] The money is crucial to have a healthy life and a good QOL, we can not deny. (E19)
[...] A person who lives in good with your car, your bike, your money and your wife and daughters. (E28)
[...] Sometimes money does not bring happiness. (E29)
[...] Today I do not have the money that you would have to satisfy me, and have things that I want. (E22)
[...] Have money to dress well, wanted to buy clothes only brand [...]. (E31)
[...] Food with fruits, vegetables [...]. (E5)
[...] Have leisure, staying healthy. (E4)

By observing the units arranged above analysis, it was found that this group belongs to adolescents, not only refers to a single consumer, but also relates to society, in that it enhances the conditions for survival and comfort of these individuals. Therefore, it is a social issue that encompasses different spheres of action, from the state public policies that promote disease prevention, health promotion and QOL of citizens to adopt healthy habits by individuals.

◆ Work (W)

The extract of the eight (8) units of analysis on quality of life presented below ground the third category, comprising one of the meanings of health status and quality of life.

[...] A good job, to have many moments of enjoyment. (E3)
[...] But also be employed, and with that comes self-esteem, dress well to work to help out at home and with woman hussy. (E5)
[...] Is working for a better future, worthy!. (E6)
[...] I want to do is have a tip for tea money. (E11)
[...] I work in a family house, but I'm honest, my boss always gives me some things and I'm very happy with it. (E15)
[...] For me quality of life is to have my parents to give me what I want, and not have to work. (E19)
[...] I want is to stop selling drugs and get a decent job, find a wife and have a kid (E21)
[...] I'll have a job to earn a lot, so I can have everything that gives me pleasure. (E32)

Striking in the speech of the social actors of this study, the element ‘work’ appeared frequently in the testimonies of teenagers, because the design is that through the work they can get their material desires, and can help with expenses at home, desire for freedom and financial independence, lifestyle, satisfying their basic needs and healthy.

Such perceptions may also be explained by the logic of capitalist society, selective and exclusionary, where consumerism is part of the reality of many Brazilians, especially from the current policies of credit on the lower classes, who make up a significant part of the population.

The lifestyle considered healthy, is one of the determining factors across the life situation and adolescent health. However, in most cases this does not happen, not for lack of interest or lack of desire of school, but by the lack of favorable socioeconomic conditions.

Attitudes like balanced diet, prophylactic consultations with doctors, access to rest and leisure, performing physical practices systematized, are not always available to most people. Therefore, the teenagers realize that the more money better, because the greater the possibility of having a satisfactory QoL, at least in the category personal contentment with material goods arising from the possible purchases.

Striking in the speech of the social actors of this study, the element ‘work’ appeared frequently in the testimonies of teenagers, because the design is that through the work they can get their material desires, and can help with expenses at home, desire for freedom and financial independence,
imagination and sense of power that is conferred from the work, thus influencing the quality of life for ourselves.

Commit employment during adolescence has its advantages, as it allows growth as a person endowed with responsibilities possibilities rise in function in exercising, improving self esteem and promoting personal achievements, by overcoming its financial condition current.18

The teenage job also has its disadvantages, which translate into negative aspects of QOL for the students, for example, when that occupation cannot be exercised concurrently with others that are also important and necessary as school activities, interaction with family, leisure, among others.19 21

It can be argued from the speech of adolescents who perceived quality of life related to class work, itself, is the possibility of them having their own money and can contribute in spending on expenses in their homes, which give them the sense of independence, and may also acquire material goods, attend parties, and the feeling of appreciation itself, which will contribute to improved self-image.

House (H)

Reference to the testimony of the participants, there is support for the latter category that reflects the Social Dimension, Economic and Cultural composed of eight (8) units of analysis that bring perceptions, wishes and desires of adolescents on the relationship of QOL with healthy living and happy.

[…] Have a house, lead a healthy, happy, well, no worry, a life where we feel happy. (E1)
[…] Live in a good place, with loved ones. (E2)
[…] Have a house, study, and have good health. (E5)
[…] A person who lives quietly at home. (E11)
[…] Live in a good place. (E17)
[…] Is having QoL and health is living rent in front of a sewer, and I have a lot. (E19)
[…] Health is all we need to build a good home, and have a long life and very quiet. (E25)
[…] In my house we do not have any comfort, it’s the same basic […]. (E28)

The prospect of the school in relation to QOL presents positive and negative aspects, regarding the expectations of life in relation to housing and housing elements, in which one can observe that they intend to have a happy, harmonious, in the home, with a good home, living peacefully with their families. As for which negatively impacts on the QOL of adolescents referred by them relate to the current conditions of their homes, claiming that live in places without basic sanitation and stable comfort.

Living in a quiet place with a mild climate, safe, risk-free industrial, and treated with piped water, electricity, access to media and technology, without human violence, with schools and health services, leisure and sporting activities comprise the universe of perceptions and experiences of adolescent students, regarding the influence of a good home and social environment on the QOL of subjects.21

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CONCLUSION

The specific representations that were made by teenagers in relation to the object quality of life constitute the varied social subjectivities represented by the characterization of these cultural and historical school.

Finally, the social actors of this research include the quality of life as the result of several factors acting in dimensions inherent to human beings, as social, cultural and economic, pointing to the need for continuous development of actions for the prevention of diseases and promoting the health of this population.

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