Introduction: This is an evaluative study on rural health addressing organization, assistance and social participation practices of traditional communities and quilombolas, caiçaras of Vale do Ribeira-Sao Paulo.

Objective: The work aims to understand the specificities and features of General Organization assistance practices, and popular participation in the health of rural communities, remnants of quilombo communities and communities caiçaras of Vale do Ribeira-SP.

Methodology or experience description: The research methodology is based on a Multiple case studies involving social actors of the Ribeira Valley Health System, and research has as locus activities of rural areas family health teams of 13 of the 15 municipalities of the Ribeira Valley under the responsibility of the Regional Department of Health XII. A pilot was conducted in the municipality of Cajati and specifically in the Rural Health Family Team (ESF) serving resident population in the Vila Tatu.

Results: A survey was conducted focusing on two dimensions: cross sectional and historical. On historical dimension were made in-depth interviews with historical characters of health of the municipality who attended the health care in rural areas and a cross-sectional dimension where were interviewed current healthcare actors and users.

Conclusions or Hypothesis: The preliminary conclusions from this pilot study was the need for a different approach for managing those rural health services, addressing the specificity of local needs and service, and supporting teams and local community in providing adequate response for local health, professional training and social demands.