

SOCIAL POLICIES AND SOCIAL WORK

INTRODUCTION

Social work students must know and be able to interpret the importance and role of social policy (the combination of legislation and public and private institutions working for access to social rights) in our society, as it not only involves an institutional, legal and professional guarantee for social intervention, but also offers a way to understand human coexistence subject to conflict and guarantee of social rights. It is this route that encourages the appropriate conditions for access to a dignified life.

For this purpose, it is necessary to know both the concept and features of social policy and its historical development, the various traditions that have been developed and applied, its curbs and potentials, as well as the role played by social work in social policy. A review is undertaken via the fields of social policy in Spain and in the European framework, all within the context of the statistical sources available to procure the comparison and evaluation of social policies. Issues relating to equality policies and situations of dependency receive particular attention, with the factor of gender present at all times.

COMPETENCIES

- Know the historical and theoretical foundations of social policy.
- Identify social policy in the development of the social rule-of-law State in national and international contexts.
- Distinguish and list the various political-ideological orientations in social policy and in welfare regimes.
- Identify changes in the implementation of social policy with particular reference to the Spanish case.
- Analyse and compare social policies with respect to spending on social protection in Europe and Spain.
- Identify and organize social policy actors and the various sectorial policies.
- Interpret and frame social work in social policy.

CONTENT

1. Conceptualization of social policy in the framework of the social rule-of-law State and the Welfare State.
2. Welfare regimes and traditions: processes of change in social policies.
3. Providers in social policy.
4. Social policy and social protection compared across the European Union.
5. Sectorial social policies in Spain.
6. Social policy applied to social work: poverty, social exclusion, equality, individual autonomy and situations of dependency.