

SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

Cultural diversity forms part of the historical memory of Spain. We are currently involved in a process of change involving the arrival and return home of immigrants, transnational families and Spanish persons immigrating to other countries or rural areas.

UNESCO's Universal Declaration states that culture must be considered as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs. When carrying out a social intervention in this context, the impact of different cultural rules, values, beliefs and attitudes on the development of persons, groups and communities cannot be ignored. As such, this subject seeks to offer students the principal theories and practices of social work in the context of immigration, with the aim of shaping social intervention strategies. There is a focus on raising awareness of one's own cultural heritage, as well as analytical categories adapted to the object of knowledge.

The aim is to encourage intellectual and life attitudes permitting future social interventions that are suitable for times of uncertainty in a world requiring the coexistence of very different ideas, peoples and customs. This is added to respect for differences and the defence of human rights.

COMPETENCIES

- Be aware of the contours of one's own identity in order to be more open to communication with others: class, gender and ethnicity.
- Become aware of one's own prejudices and ethnocentric attitudes. Learn to relate with persons belonging to different cultures.
- Develop analytical categories permitting the analysis and understanding of cultural plurality.
- Be able to channel consensus and conflict in relations among different sociocultural realities.
- Know the different strategies for managing cultural diversity and the consequences in terms of individual and social development.

CONTENT

1. Conceptual framework of cultural diversity.
2. How we perceive ourselves: stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination.
3. Education and cultural diversity.
4. Different models for managing cultural diversity.
5. Social intervention with the Roma ethnic minority.
6. Social intervention with immigrants.
7. Intercultural mediation by social workers.
8. Language is not neutral. Communicative competencies.