

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF SOCIAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

This subject, at the heart of the Social Work undergraduate degree, contributes a historical and current view of the foundations of the social services system. It hence focuses on recognizing the path taken by social services and the importance it has attained, giving effect to social action and social protection as well as guaranteeing social rights. This all fits within a defining social policy, also recognized in this subject. The State, during this historical journey, acquires a leading role by installing social services – from its perspective of citizenship, of law. From the State, in its political guise as the government, come the different models for establishing this context of the social services system.

Analysis is carried out from the standpoint of acquisition of rights, from legislation and the different planes of action. The institutional response to social problems is considered for each period. The State, though always present, is not the direct object of study. Rather legislation, social rights, their historical significance, and the State's response to social events are examined.

As regards the historical vision and path, it is recognized that this social services system has developed in parallel with social work, which has always maintained its role in the acquisition of rights and in social changes subsequently integrated and given legal force in the social services system. It is therefore necessary to identify the characteristics that define social services, as well as the different areas and levels of social services action. The current structure of social services shows a democratic system, with civil rights, that retains social wellbeing as a goal, along with the consolidation of those rights that are in many cases given effect in said social services system.

The methodology to be followed in this subject will be a mix of theory and practice, so that students do not merely acquire theoretical knowledge but are also capable of applying that knowledge in constantly changing contexts, having also acquired practical abilities and democratic values.

COMPETENCIES

- Recognize and use basic social services concepts and terminology with accuracy.
- Interpret historical precedents for the current social protection system.
- Know the different theoretical perspectives regarding human needs.
- Analyse and reflect on the social services system in Spain.
- Identify the characteristics defining social services, as well as the different areas and levels of social services action.
- Organize social services literature and publications.

CONTENT

1. Social action in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.
2. From the 16th Century controversies over the poor to the 17th Century transformations through social action.
3. The Enlightenment, reform and modernization.
4. The Industrial Revolution and democracy.
5. From charity to social security to the constitutional enshrinement of social rights.
6. Legal and administrative heterogeneity during the time of Franco.
7. Social services since the Constitution.
8. Principles and structure of the public social services system.
9. Human development and social needs.
10. Social resources and human potential.