

BASICS OF SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS

INTRODUCTION

Basics of Social Work with Groups seeks to provide students with basic knowledge and initial practical experiences such that they become able to operate to a certain extent at this level of social work intervention. It is therefore an introductory course, which must be completed with new learning and contact with the reality of group social work. The programme focuses both on the need for students to acquire a solid theoretical base relating to group social work and on the development of basic abilities and competencies to enable them to work properly in a group environment. The programme presents an introduction to group composition, structure and processes, which students can develop in depth and put into practice in the subject *Intervention Methodology for Social Work with Groups*. But the content of *Basics of Social Work with Groups* essentially focuses on group social work itself. In this regard, the starting point is the idea that social work with groups uses the group approach to achieve the objectives common to all social work. The programme explores different theoretical approaches to social work with groups, without favouring one in particular. It also presents the main types of group that are used in social work, as well as the different objectives these may serve and the peculiarities of the group process in each type. This is all within the framework of the AASWG Standards for Social Work Practice with Groups.

COMPETENCIES

- Establish professional relationships in order to identify the most appropriate form of intervention.
- Intervene with persons, families, groups, organizations and communities to assist them to take well-founded decisions about their needs, circumstances, risks, preferred options and resources.
- Interact with persons, families, groups, organizations and communities to achieve change, promote development and improve living conditions through the use of social work methods and models, regularly monitoring the changes that arise in order to prepare the completion of the intervention.
- Support the development of networks to address needs and work toward planned outcomes, working with people to examine the support networks that may be accessed and developed.
- Encourage personal growth, development and independence, identifying opportunities to form and build groups, using programmes and group dynamics for individual growth and to strengthen interpersonal relationship skills.
- Analyse and organize information provided in daily work as an aid to reviewing and improving the professional strategies required for responding to emerging social situations.
- Administer and take responsibility for work, setting priorities, meeting professional obligations and evaluating the effectiveness of the work programme itself.
- Work effectively within systems, networks and interdisciplinary and multi-organizational teams, with the aim of collaborating to set aims, objectives and timeframes, in addition to contributing to constructively addressing disputes that may arise.
- Research, analyse, evaluate and use current knowledge regarding best practices in social work to review and update knowhow on working practices and frameworks.
- Work within agreed standards for the practice of social work and ensure personal professional development, using professional assertiveness to justify decisions, reflecting critically on those decisions and using supervision as a means to meet professional development needs.

CONTENT

1. Social work with groups. Definition, limits, types and characteristics.
2. The historical development of social work with groups.
3. The group and group dynamics: basic knowledge of group composition, structure and processes.
4. Theoretical approaches and models for intervention in social work with groups.
5. Basic abilities and standards for the practice of social work with groups.

