

GENERAL SOCIOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Sociology is the science that has contributed most to the understanding of the historical genesis of contemporary society and its basic processes of socialization, interaction, stratification, change and conflict. It has hence become an indispensable tool for those wishing to carry out any kind of real social intervention, from the micro level of inter-individual relations to the macro-sociological perspective, such as planned social change. The different problems faced by social work professionals are connected to these basic processes. To be able to address them effectively from the relational perspective, as is characteristic of modern social science, sociology offers a range of concepts, theories and methods to obtain knowledge of the internal dynamics of the processes, backgrounds, positions, aptitudes and practices of social agents.

COMPETENCIES

- Know and apply the main ideas, theories and generalizations in current sociology to human society and culture.
- Develop a relational understanding of the different components of the social world.
- Appreciate the function of the different agents of socialization, the conditions for their proper operation and the possibility of intervention in the case of failure.
- Analyse the origin and dynamics of and possible solutions to social conflicts.
- Identify processes of inequality and social exclusion.
- Develop strategies for social change in the spheres in which social work acts.

CONTENT

1. Principal theoretical perspectives on contemporary society.
2. Culture and society: values and norms. Cultural diversity. Evolution of human society.
3. Socialization processes: primary and secondary socialization. Principal agents of socialization. Socialization and gender. Socialization and the life cycle.
4. Social interaction and daily life: social rules, conversation and speech, contexts and situations. Meetings and temporal space. Interaction in time and space.
5. Conformity and social deviation: rules, laws, crimes and victims. Main approaches, preventive programmes and their implications for social work.
6. Class, stratification and inequality: theories on class and stratification. Class averages. Division and functions of class. Gender and stratification. Social mobility.
7. Social change: process and factors. Globalization: dimensions, impact and debates. The globalization of risk. Globalization and inequality.