

SOCIAL WORK FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

INTRODUCTION

To talk of gender is to emphasize the diversity of social, cultural and economic factors, among others, that determine the identity of men and women. Gender relations and dynamics and conflicts as regards gender positions and sexuality are increasingly important in contemporary societies. Differences and inequalities due to gender and sexuality have a long history, but their form is specific to each particular society and time, which means it is necessary to consider the transformations that have arisen in the current context. The gender perspective has become a fundamental model of analysis, which must be transversally incorporated in the study of social reality. Social work students clearly need to examine its meaning and implications for their future professional activities in depth. This subject hence seeks to develop the theoretical and practical competencies that will allow effective understanding and intervention by students, applying this gender perspective transversally to all social analysis and intervention. The topic is applicable to professional practice at any level of intervention and will allow students to advance on the basis of a model that understands gender from the principles of transversality and analyses the scope and meanings of gender empowerment as a methodological strategy in social work, reflecting on the reasons for the very limited use of the gender issue in social work and the implications this carries.

COMPETENCIES

- Know and understand the incidence of the gender variable in contemporary social relations.
- Introduce the gender perspective as a transversal variable in the analysis of social relations.
- Know and understand the development of different theoretical perspectives and their possible applications in social intervention.
- Develop conceptual and methodological tools directed toward the application of social work to problems relating to contemporary gender relations.
- Ability to apply State and European guidelines with respect to gender equality.
- Know and understand the principal contemporary theoretical perspectives in the study of gender relations and sexuality.
- Know and understand the principal social problems from a gender perspective.
- Know and understand the development of social movements relating to gender and sexuality.
- Recognize the roots and mechanisms of discrimination due to the social construction of a sex/gender system in organizations and groups.
- Know the basic legislation for the development of formal and substantive equality.
- Develop anti-discriminatory and egalitarian strategies, promoting new models of social change in the professional context.
- Identify specialist instruments and resources for problems that are specific to women: gender violence, feminization of poverty.
- Identify good practices in equality and non-discrimination.
- Communicate in writing and verbally using appropriate terminology.
- Critically reflect on gender inequalities, appreciating the diversity of different contexts and circumstances.

CONTENT

1. Basic concepts. The sex/gender system. Socialization of gender: identities, gender and other forms of social stratification (class, race, sexuality). Gender relations in contemporary society: workplace, family relations, health, sexuality, gender and immigration.
2. The fight for the rights of women and citizens. Gender in social movements. Feminist and queer theories.
3. Formalization of the principle of equality: gender policies in Spain and the European Union. State and international regulation.



4. Social problems relating to gender: Gender violence. Analysis of gender in immigration. Feminization of poverty.
5. Diversification of family models. Uses of time.