

## SOCIAL WORK WITH COMMUNITIES

### INTRODUCTION

The aim of this subject is for students to acquire elements of community analysis, as well as developing competencies to intervene in community groups and becoming professionals highly capable of designing and carrying out social interventions in the community. With respect to the latter, students should acquire the ability to observe and analyse community processes and develop skills to form groups that aim to participate in improving the quality of life in their community. The fundamental goal of the subject is to activate strategies to generate the possibility of transforming the problems that arise in communities, with the objective of achieving greater levels of self-management, identifying and working with the aforementioned dimensions and agents of community work. Concepts such as community, social work with communities, participation, power, globalization and the Welfare State have become unavoidable realities in social analysis, and there is a clear need for social work students to examine their meanings and implications in detail in order to carry on their future professional activity. As such, this subject seeks to develop theoretical and applied competencies allowing students to effectively understand and intervene in community contexts.

### COMPETENCIES

- Interact with people, families, groups, organizations and communities to achieve change, to promote their development, and to improve living conditions through the use of social work methods and models, including regular monitoring of the changes arising 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 they can develop and access.
- Analyse and organize information obtained in the course of daily work as an aid to reviewing and improving the professional strategies required for responding to emerging social situations.
- Design, implement and evaluate social intervention projects.
- Administer and take responsibility for one's own 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.

### CONTENT

1. SOME HISTORICAL NOTES ON SOCIAL WORK WITH COMMUNITIES.
  - History of community intervention and community social work.
2. BASIC CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK.
  - The concepts of community and society.
  - The meaning of community in contemporary urban societies.
  - Definitions of community social work.
  - Ethics in community social work.
3. MODELS OF COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK.
  - Traditional models of community social work.
  - Emerging and/or alternative models of community social work.
4. THE FUNCTIONING OF NETWORKS AND COMMUNITIES IN AN INDIVIDUALIZED SOCIETY.
5. PRODUCTION OF NETWORKS AND COMMUNITY INTERVENTION THROUGH SOCIAL WORK.
  - Community experiences.
6. VIEWPOINTS, METHODOLOGIES AND TECHNIQUES FOR COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK.
  - Intervention paradigms and techniques.
7. COMMUNITY MEDIATION.