

SOCIAL WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS

INTRODUCTION

Social work with individuals (casework) represents the origin and traditional form of social work. Its practice is subject to on-going review and examination, produced by studying the changing and increasingly complex contexts in which individuals develop and live. Social work with individuals hence requires extensive and detailed knowledge, from its origins to the present day. That is, it requires knowledge and understanding of its development and of the manner in which it is carried out today. The fundamental characteristic of social work with individuals is the recognition that every individual is unique, and hence the specific nature of interventions.

The subject has the fundamental aim of providing students with broad knowledge of the theoretical and epistemological elements that shape the basis of social work with individuals, as well as the acquisition of competencies in order to select the best practice, taking account of conceptual reasons relating to social work and practical reasons relating to the people to whom the social worker is attending.

COMPETENCIES

- Know and understand the historical context of the origin and evolution of casework.
- Analyse the nature of professional relationships involved in casework, taking into account aspects relating to gender and cultural diversity.
- Know and critically understand the perspectives, theories and practical models in casework.
- Design, implement and evaluate individualized intervention projects using various practical models.
- Identify and resolve ethical dilemmas in casework.
- Work in a collaborative team.

CONTENT

1. Historical context of origin and evolution of casework. Key figures. Functions.
2. The professional support relationship in casework: concept, functions and principles.
3. Ethical dilemmas in casework: concept and typology. Models for resolving ethical dilemmas in casework.
4. The theory-practice relationship in casework: evolution, definitions.
5. Conceptual framework of casework: classification, definitions.