Interamerican University of Puerto Rico
Arecibo Campus
Department of Humanistic Studies and Behavioral Sciences
Social Work Program

Guide for the development of the final project of the course SOWO 4873 - Research Methodology.

Project:

Critical review of a social research that addresses issues linked to anti-racism, diversity, equity or social inclusion (ADEI).

Description:

The goal of this project is for students to demonstrate their understanding and application of course content regarding research methodology in the context of the social work profession. This will entail:

a. the critical analysis of a social research already conducted that addresses issues related to anti-racism, diversity, equity or social inclusion (ADEI);
b. a group oral presentation on the key aspects of the project included in this guide.

Linked CSWE (EPAS 2022) Competencies:

- Competency 1: Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior: you will learn why doing research is part of preparing to be ethical and professional in your practice.
- Competency 3: Engage in (implement) anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion (ADEI).
- Competency 4: Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.

Instructions and Requirements:

1. **Identification and selection of a social phenomenon that catches your attention or interest to explore.**
    - Reflect on a social phenomenon that you would be interested in investigating in more depth. Focus on the thematic axis of anti-racism, diversity, equity or social inclusion in the context of contemporary society. You can use the examples listed at the end of this guide as a starting point.
    - Explain the reasons for your choice of topic.
2. **Selecting a social research topic**
    - Conduct a literature search of the university's Access to Information Center (AIC) databases for published social research articles.
    - Choose a research article related to the field of social work that addresses a social phenomenon related to anti-racism, diversity, equity, or social inclusion (ADEI). It can be a qualitative, quantitative or mixed approach study.
    - Make sure that the article is published in a recognized academic journal within the last five (5) years and that it is accessible to all students.

- You must submit the title and reference of the article in APA 7th edition style.

3. **Identification of key elements of the study**
   - Read the selected article carefully.
   - Identify key elements of the study, such as
     - research topic/problem,
     - objectives,
     - research questions,
     - hypothesis (if applicable),
     - methodology,
     - results
     - conclusions
     - recommendations
4. **Critical analysis of the key elements of the selected article**
   - **Introduction and problem statement:**
     - Identify the topic of the study.
     - Describe the research problem, its objectives and justification.
     - Present the research questions.
     - Evaluate whether the problem is clearly defined and its importance is well argued.
   - **Literature review:**
     - Summarize the background and literature review presented in the article.
     - Analyze whether the literature review is comprehensive and relevant.
   - **Methodology:**
   - **Data collection.**
     - Describe:
       1. the type of study (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed) or research design approach (exploratory, descriptive, or correlational)
       2. participants (population and sample) and
       3. instrument and techniques used to collect data
     - Evaluate whether the methodological design and data collection techniques employed are appropriate to the research problem and approach.
   - **Data analysis and interpretation:**
     - Describe the method or techniques used to analyze the data collected in the study.
     - Assess whether the data analysis is appropriate to the approach and type of study.
   - **Results:**
     - Describe how the data collected were presented: narrative description, graphs, tables, charts, diagrams.
     - Summarize the main findings of the study.
     - Identify any methodological limitations included.
   - **Conclusions:**
     - Summarize the conclusions reached by the researcher(s).
     - Reflect and give your opinion if you consider that the conclusions are adequately supported by the results obtained.

- **Ethics:**
  - Identify the ethical considerations included in the study.
  - Evaluate whether the ethical principles have been respected in the research, considering the ethical principles.

5. **Contributions of the study to the practice of Social Work.**
   - Reflect on the relevance, pertinence, and usefulness of the research results for the professional practice of social work.
   - Propose any recommendations for the practice of the profession based on the findings of the study.
   - Discuss how the research can inform future research in the field of social work.
6. **Reflection on contributions of the project.**
   - Reflect on and explain the contributions of the development of this project in your training as a future social work professional.
   - Each student should present his or her reflection.
7. **Group oral presentation of the project to the class.**
   - Integrate all partial reports into a single working document that will facilitate the preparation of the project presentation.
   - Prepare a PowerPoint presentation that summarizes the key points of the analysis and reflections, as included in this guide. Include the bibliographic record of the sources you consulted and used as references to carry out this project.
   - Make a group oral presentation, through which you will share with the group the required data, your analysis, and reflections. Each group will have 40 minutes to present.
   - Date assigned for the presentation: _____

Addendum:

Examples of possible thematic axes in social work linked to the fight against racism, diversity, equity, or social inclusion (ADEI).

- **Systemic racism in the educational system**: To investigate how educational policies and practices perpetuate racial inequality and affect the academic performance of minority students. This theme seeks to identify the structures that perpetuate racism, discrimination, or social exclusion.
- **Diversity and inclusion in the workplace**: Analyze diversity and inclusion policies in companies and organizations, and their impact on employee satisfaction and productivity; how inclusive practices can improve the work environment.
- **Discriminatory practices in the criminal justice system based on gender:** Examining unequal treatment by gender in criminal populations.
- **Equity in access to health services**: Investigate disparities in access to and quality of health services among different population groups: children, the elderly, people with HIV, people with functional diversity, etc.

- **Impact of gentrification on minority communities:** (Gentrification refers to the process of transformation of a neighborhood or urban area, where wealthier residents move in and displace the original, usually less affluent, inhabitants). Study how gentrification and urban changes affect communities (community diversity) in terms of displacement, access to housing, and changes in community dynamics.
- **Discrimination in access to housing**: Investigate how discriminatory practices in the housing market affect racial and ethnic minorities in terms of access to safe and affordable housing. This topic addresses the equity competency by identifying and addressing barriers that minorities face in accessing housing.
- **Media Representation of Minorities**: Analyze how racial and ethnic minorities are represented in the media and the impact of these representations on public perception; how media representation can influence social inclusion.
- **Gender and Race Wage Gap**: Examine wage differences (inequalities) between men and women of different racial and ethnic groups, and policies that can help close these gaps.
- **Impact of migration on social integration**: To study how migration policies affect the social integration (inclusion) of immigrants and their access to basic services.
- **Police violence and socially and economically vulnerable communities**: To investigate the relationship between police violence and disadvantaged communities, and measures that can reduce these incidents. This theme addresses the anti-racism competency, analyzing how police violence affects communities and seeking solutions to reduce it.
- **Access to Higher Education for Minority Students**: Examining the barriers that racial and ethnic minority students face in accessing higher education and policies that can facilitate their entry and academic success (equity in higher education).
- **Discrimination in the mental health system**: To analyze how human diversity impacts discriminatory practices that affect equitable access and quality of mental health services for diverse population groups.

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