

Final Report SPARC Project

Group work as a strategy for the implementation of the ecosocial dimension in the curriculum of the Social Work Degree at the University of Barcelona

Researchers involved:	Núria Prat Bau; Belén Parra Ramajo, Toni Sangrà Boladeres
Total grant awarded:	535\$ (US)
Grant period:	November 2023 - November 2024

Project Details

Description

This is a project for the education of the ecosocial perspective in the studies of Social Work at the University of Barcelona. Social Work needs to adopt a more ecocentric position in its interventions. Environmental issues are central to the practice of social work, which is why this project aims to reinforce the ecological challenges by activating future generations of social workers to incorporate environmental responsibility into their professional lives, to be able to exercise practices in line with social justice. The project has been carried out in the subject Group Social Work and the subject Communicative Skills with Groups and Communities with a teaching approach of group work, reflection work and group learning and group simulations. Group work in all its aspects, enhances processes that emphasize the capabilities, potential and resources of individuals, the group itself and by extension the community.

General Objective

To introduce and validate the learning of competence in the field of eco-social crisis in the teaching plans of the two subjects involved in the project: Group Social Work and Social and Communicative Skills.

Specific objectives

- To promote theoretical and reflective understanding of the relationship between the ecosocial crisis and social justice and the implications it has on the professional practice of Social Work.
- To develop the ecosocial dimension in the intervention method of group Social Work.
- Facilitate that the transversal competence of ecosocial crisis is part of the learning objectives of the subjects involved.

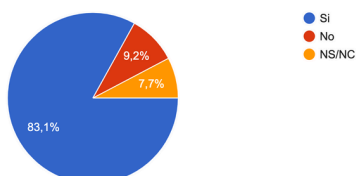
Development and activities

1. Development and application of a questionnaire to explore environmental awareness.

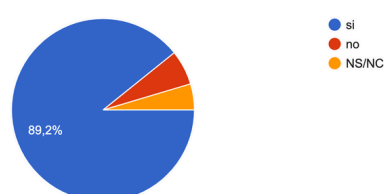
[questionnaire](#)

Examples of some results of the questionnaire

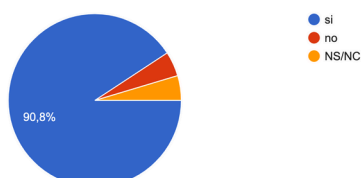
Interactues amb l'entorn natural?
65 respuestas



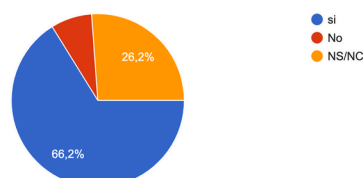
Quan necessites espais de calma mental, incorpores l'entorn com espai de cura?
65 respuestas



Creus que els humans son els responsables del canvi climàtic?
65 respuestas



Els problemes ecològics estan connectats amb les intervencions del treball social?
65 respuestas



2. Theoretical presentation by an expert professional



**Injustícies ambientals:
implicacions per a la pràctica
del treball social**

Conferència a càrrec de Nuria Baeza

**Environmental injustice:
implications for social work
practice**

Talk by Nuria Baeza

12 MARÇ 2024
12 MARCH 2024
10:30 - 12:30

Sala de Graus Rosa
Roig (Edifici Migdia I,
3a planta, Mundet)

IASWG International Association for Social Work with Groups, Inc

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA
Facultat d'Educació

3. Elaboration and analysis of 2 case studies of environmental conflicts.

Two case studies are developed jointly with the professional expert:

CASE 1	CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN FOR/WITH HOMELESS PEOPLE
BACKGROUND	Lack of access to green space for homeless residents/families living in shelters. Lack of relationship between residents/families in the homeless shelter. The institution and the architectural design of the center does not contemplate and does not allow the inclusion of green spaces.
OBJECTIVE	Creation of a green space in the form of a community garden to foster relationships among residents and a sense of community.

CASE 2	
BACKGROUND	International mining corporation threatens to degrade land ecosystem. La explotación minera genera residuos tóxicos cerca de casas y escuelas. The political parties of the territory agree with mining because it provides employment and generates economic benefits (through taxes) to the municipalities.
OBJECTIVE	Generate political and social action to organize the community in defense of its environmental rights.

Elements of analysis are elaborated for the preparation of the group action of the cases:

- In general, how does society relate to the environment or natural surroundings? What connections do humans have with nature?
- Reflect on the quote: “the social work profession should promote the protection of the natural environment as an inherent aspect of its well-being” (AASW, 2020, p. 9).
- What political, economic and ideological factors are present in the cases?
- To what extent do the effects of climate change continue to disproportionately negatively affect the lives of vulnerable populations with whom social workers often work?
- How can we use the Social Work group methodology to act in the situations presented?

4. Group simulation “Role play” in which the ecosocial perspective is applied to a group social work and the associated social and communicative skills.



This image shows a group social work simulation based on case 1



This image shows a group social work simulation based on case 2

IASWG's contribution and support to the Project

The project has made possible the organization of a local educational practice (University of Barcelona) with the promotion of the IASWG's self-help groups in which international social work educators interested in introducing this perspective into the curriculum participate. With these objectives in mind, the ecosocial lens has been promoted through mutual aid groups within Social Work education.

Both the recognition and the financial support of the IASWG has allowed the involvement and interaction in a joint work, carried out by practice professionals, students and teachers. Their support has made it possible to advance in the recognition of the incorporation of the eco-social perspective in the curriculum of Social Work studies at the University of Barcelona. The participating students, future social workers, have incorporated an eco-social perspective that will enable group work practices in their organizational environments and communities.

Project dissemination

This experience and its results have been presented in:

1. **IASWG Annual Symposium, Madrid, June 2024**
2. **V International Congress of Social Work (CIFETS 2024) and XIV Congress of Faculties and Schools of Social Work, April 2024.**
3. **Article for the Special Issue (work in progress): Social Work and the Promotion of Sustainable Social Development of Social Sciences Journal**



Núria Prat Bau

Barcelona, 11 November 2024

