

COURSE CODE: OSP 303

COURSE TITLE: SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH PROJECT PAPER

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to equip students with knowledge and skills needed for conducting social work research. Research is an occupational requirement for social workers. It is important that professionally qualified social workers base their practice on the best evidence of what works. To use research effectively, there is a need for social workers ‘to make use of research to inform practice’. In addition, professional social workers must first recognize the value of research and analysis and be able to evaluate such evidence to inform their own practice. It is not only necessary to understand and use the evidence generated by others but, most importantly of all, by undertaking research ourselves we can help improve the lives of service users locally and promote social justice. This course will enable students to chart out intervention strategies as well as give them ability to learn the best way of dealing with issues from other research and see how the same can be applied to their chosen area of research proposal writing. The social work research project paper is option for those students studying Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (BASO). However, BASO students are also encouraged to enroll in this course to gain the basic skills on how to write the research project paper to enhance their practice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, students should be able to;

- Apply theoretical knowledge of social work in various social settings.
- Apply the ethics and values of understanding the society.
- Communicate effectively both verbally and non-verbally.
- Engage with community in identifying and analyzing their social problems.
- Professionally analyze, plan and design appropriate alternative interventions and assessments’
- Collaborate with experts in working as a team.
- Produce a sound and professional research report that can be used to inform practice.
- Use research reports to inform research activities in order to improve practice.

COURSE CONTENTS

Social work project paper is a core course to all students taking BSW. At the beginning of every academic year the Department of Sociology and Social Work will identify the research agendas to be used by students in that particular academic year. The research agenda will be available in all regional centers so that every student registered for this course can be able to access the information. Every student will be required to choose a topic of interest under the given research agenda and will be allocated a supervisor who will be guiding the student in the whole process. In the end every student will write a report and submit to the respective supervisor for grading. The Department of Sociology and Social Work requires all students registered for this course to follow the following format when they are writing their social work research project paper.

I. Introduction:

- Rationale
- Purpose

II. Review of the Literature and Related theory/ research:

- Conceptual/Theoretical framework

III. Methodology:

- Theory development or research approach adopted central theoretical/research questions idea generation strategy or data collection procedures

IV. Approach to Data Analysis

V. Time Frame and Resources Required

VI. Ethical Consideration

*In the academic year 2018/19, students will select to write their project papers from the following research areas:

- a. Child welfare agencies
- b. Homelessness
- c. Childhood Trauma
- d. Social work and cancer research

- e. Anxiety disorder
- f. Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- g. Healthcare and health promotion for vulnerable groups
- h. Risk and child abuse
- i. Children's rights/child protection
- j. Management of child protection systems
- k. How Social Workers Help in Preventing School Dropout

NOTE: These research areas will be changed by the department from time to time.

SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO THIS EMAIL ADDRESS; project.paper@out.ac.tz

By Dr. Mariana Makuu



Head, Department of Sociology and Social Work