

MSW-2nd Year

Paper-15

Guidelines for writing Dissertation of MSW Course

MSW-Dissertation

Social Work is a profession as well as an academic discipline, which aims to enhance the social functioning of the Individual/Groups and Communities, by the application of some very Scientifically developed Methods. The discipline of Social Work is committed to work both in the Micro as well as Macro level, i.e. it works directly with the individuals and small group at the same time it works with large communities, and engages itself with in advocacy, networking as well as policy formulation.

According to the International Federation of Social Work 2014 “Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing”

From the above definition of Social Work, it is clear that Social Work is completely devoted to Humanity and create such living conditions which enables each and every one of the society to live with peace, harmony and dignity. Social Work is therefore more concerned with thoroughly investigating into those social conditions which are responsible for giving rise to some social problem by perhaps deviating from the social norms. Social Work Researchers thus needs to probe into these problem by carrying out in depth investigations to understand the ground realities and explore the root cause of these social abnormalities.

Before going any further we must have to realise the fact that, human beings often fall easy prey to these social problems, from which they cannot come out of their own. Thus we first have to understand, why do people suffer from these problems, how does these problems arise, who are responsible for creating these problems, to what extend do these problem exist in our societies, how do we perceive such problems and how can we put an end to these problems. It is the duty of the Social Workers to answer these questions, and this can be done by understanding some theories and perspectives of Social Work which will help us to go deep into the matter and frame our views in this connection These theories help us to know why certain things happened and what may be its consequences in the future. Social Work Discipline, is to a great extend influenced by Sociology and Psychology. Thus most of the theories are borrowed from some allied disciplines while some theories are developed keeping in mind the core indigenous perspectives of Social Work also.

While understanding these social situations we may consider the following Theories which may help us to carry out our investigations-

Theories for Social Work (Borrowed from other discipline)

- Theories of Personality
- Learning Theory
- Behavioural theory
- Cognitive theory
- Theory of Social Disorganization
- Theory of Social Stratification
- Social Control Theories\
- Theories of Social Deviances
- Anomie Theory
- Critical Theory
- Conflict Theory
- Social Choice Theory
- Differential Association Theory
- Labelling Theory
- Compensation Theory
- Feminist Theory
- Post Modern Theory

Theories of Social Work (Indigenous Theories)

- Ecosystem Perspectives
- Strength Perspectives
- Anti-oppressive Theory
- Crisis Intervention Theory
- Family life cycle theory

Social Work Research Methodologies-

Social Work must have its own indigenous Methodologies to investigate cause and effects of the Social Problems. This is a discipline which explores, analyse, describes and understand the various social relationships and their impact on the lives of the human beings. Therefore, Social Work may adopt both Positivist as well as Heuristic epistemologies for carrying out its investigations. Positivist approach will help us to carry out an evidence-based Research, and the information thus gathered will be helpful in chalking out more effective problem solving practices. The Heuristic approach on the other hand helps to understand the problem from the respondent's own perspective and thus gives a rich detail to the problem and increases the scope for inclusion of marginalized segment also.

Thus the Researcher must be innovative enough in planning a Research Methodology which would be in accordance with the area selected for carrying out the research.

Format for writing the Dissertation

The learners are expected to remember and incorporate the following points while writing their Dissertation -

1 **Section of Topic**-The topic must be strictly pertaining to Social Work issues and have enough Scopes for Social Work Intervention

2 **Title**- The Title must highlight the Social Work Problem/issue along with the Target Group and Geographical Area where the study would be conducted.

Chapter 1-

Introduction-

- A brief prelude about the problem/issue

Significance of the Problem-

- Genesis of the Problems which should be substantiated with enough statistical data
- Contemporary problems
- Problem in International and National scenario
- Relation of the study with areas/ theories of Social Work

Chapter 2-

Review of Literature

Review of Literature is a very important part of any Dissertation, as it helps us to understand the topic of research by reviewing the already existing secondary data. Thorough Literature Review enables us to plan our Research Design, frame our Objectives and chalk out Methodologies.

As many as contemporary (may be within 10-years) Journals/Research Papers/ articles as possible to be reviewed with proper analysis. Following table may be used to give the analysis of the Literature Review.

Source/Author/Citation	Type of Study	Methodology Adopted	Data Collection Approach	Purpose	Limitation	Result

Based on the Review of Literature, a researcher would be able to figure out the research gap and thus frame the study to further investigate and explore those areas.

Rationale of the Study

Why the particular topic was selected by the learner must be specified here from the learner's own perspective. In this segment the Researcher would justify why she /he has taken up the given study and how will the study help in near future.

Objective of the study

The Researcher would give an idea about what is to be explored from the study

The Objectives must be limited between 4-5.

Chapter 3-

Methodology

What is methodology and why is it important

Research Design

To be specified as per Qualitative/quantitative or Eclectic

Universe of the study

Sampling- Method, Logic of choosing method and sample size

Research Approach-

Whether the research is Exploratory or Descriptive

Tools of Data Collection-

Tools should be specific for primary and Secondary Methods

Propose the method for Data compilation

Ethical Concern (Consent form) if any

Chapter 4-

Profile of Respondents-

Statistical analysis or the case studies/oral histories must be given and analysed as per as the Qualitative/quantitative or Eclectic Research Design.

Chapter 5-

Major findings

Result of the data analysis based on the objective of the study must be given here.

Chapter-6-

Discussion and Conclusion

Social work interventions must be given, along with the role of Social Workers, NGOs and Government organization.

Reference

Proper citation should be given to avoid plagiarism in APA style