

## Teaching methods of sociology research and social work to students at Vietnam Trade Union University

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### **Abstract:**

*Sociology and social work have the same focus – that is the study of people as the specialties of the social sciences. Despite this, Sociology is part of the Social Sciences, while Social Work is part of applied science and expertise. So, between these two disciplines in addition to the similarities, they also have some very different points in the approach to scientific research. This article analyzes the specific aspects of these two sciences in teaching practice for students at Vietnam Trade Union University*

**Keywords: Social work, Sociology, methods, social sciences**

### **1. Introduction**

As we all know, Sociology and Social Work are very closely related because both of these sciences are geared towards the study of social problems. However, social insurance does not delve into the study of individual and specific fields and contents, but the overall study of social insurance in a complete systematic structure, so it is very close to social insurance because of the synthetic, multifaceted nature of social insurance. To a certain extent, the topic or subject of study of social and social insurance (as independent) is also very close to each other. Moreover, social insurance is considered the foundation of social insurance.

However, social engineering and social engineering are still two independent sciences. Therefore, in terms of research methods between social insurance and social insurance, there are both similarities and differences. Therefore, it is necessary to show the similarity and difference between the method of social research and the method of social research so that on that basis, know how to apply

the methods to suit the topic and research subjects of each industry, avoid the mistaken use of methods to achieve high efficiency in the work. (Huu, 2021)

Sociological research is the systematic study of people, institutions or social phenomena using measurement techniques such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, ethnography, or a comprehensive analysis of texts. Sociology research may also include the analysis of data collected by government agencies or other sources. (Antoshkin et al., n.d.; Vlaicu et al., 2019)

*Systematic* words emphasize the main difference between this type of research and online search. A sociologist uses a formal system or process through which we collect data. An online search is often unsystematic and in fact is largely driven by the search engine's algorithm of privilege for some sites over others. This means that the top results are often determined by factors such as which websites get the most traffic. While we can learn some basic information in this way, it's not accurate sociology research. (Forces & 1929, n.d.; H. E.-S. R. Online & 1997, n.d.; Takata et al., n.d.)

Social work research means conducting scientific investigations. The purpose of social work research is to build a foundation of social work knowledge to solve practical problems in social work practice or social policy. Investigating phenomena in a scientific manner requires maximum adherence to empirical principles, such as conclusions based on observations that have been systematically, comprehensively and objectively collected. The sources in this section discuss how to do that as well as how to use and teach research methods in social work. (H.M.-J. of E. for S. Work & 1967, n.d.; S. H.-B. journal of social work & 2001, 2001). Other sectors and fields often generate applied research that can guide social policy or social work practices. However, at this time there is no commonly accepted distinction between social work research methods and research methods in areas related to social work. Therefore, useful references relating to research methods in related fields that can be applied to social work research are included in this section. (research & 1991, n.d.; Sociology & 1968, n.d.; Taylor et al., 2015)

## 2. Comparison of sociology and social work research methods

To become an independent science, according to (Maier, 1967; Parton et al., n.d.) Every science must meet four groups of factors:

- (i) It comes from practical needs.
- (ii) There is its own conceptual system.
- (iii) Have your own theoretical system.
- (iv) And there is a system of research methods.

In this article, the author approaches the similarities and differences in the research methodology between Sociology and Social Work.

### ***2.1. Common characteristics in approach to sociological research and social work***

- *Goals and subjects of study*  
All study people and society to make recommendations to solve problems posed by people, communities, society, natural environment.
- *Researchers*  
Must be people who have professional knowledge, knowledge and grasp research skills and methods.
- *Study results:*  
It is theoretically and practically valuable and is used to make recommendations on solutions that are relevant to reasoning and practice with the goal of development and efficiency.
- *Work ethic:*  
Close adherence to the principles of professional ethics during research (Elliott, 1997)

### ***2.2. Similarities and differences in sociology and social work research methods***

#### ***a. Investigative methods (including in-depth interviews and questionnaire interviews):***

- *Same:*

All to collect information.

Everyone asks and answers in communication.

The source of information obtained is the behavior, the answer of the interviewed subject.

The questions are prepared in advance, the questioner conducts the interview in accordance with the content, order of the question, reasonable notes. (P Dunk-West & Verity, 2016)

- *Different:*

Sociology	Social work
- Due to the overall study of social insurance in a complete systematic structure, the socialists mainly use the interrogation method using questionnaires to gather information quickly, in large quantities, representative.	- Due to the study of a social department (individuals, groups, communities that need regular help), social workers mainly use the in-depth interview method to obtain detailed and in-depth information about the subjects to be studied.
-. Because the audience is more accessible, the interview is easier, the requirements for the interviewee are not as high as in the social security.	- Because the subject is a vulnerable group, so in the process of interviewing social insurance, it is necessary to be patient, understand the subject as well as give the subject a sense of respect and trust in social insurance. From there they can share their circumstances. (Review & 1944, n.d.)

**b. Observation method:**

- *Same:*

Through observation, the information obtained is the behavior of the individual and group of people studied.

Observation is made in a certain setting.

All observations are intended to supplement information about the subjects studied.

The information obtained is always checked for its stability and meaning (repeated observation). (R. S.-S. R. Online & 2010, n.d.; J. E.-S. Work & 1956, n.d.)

- *Different:*

Sociology	Social work
<i>-. The object is easier to observe, get a direct impression</i>	<i>-. The subject of observation is more complex and difficult because it is not only observing external behavior, but also understanding and explaining it.</i>
<i>-. Observations are fast and convenient.</i>	<i>-. The observation process is more difficult, longer.</i>

**c. Case study and overall study.** (D Howe, 2017; S. W.-B. journal of social work & 2001, n.d.)

- *Same:*

Both social and social insurance use a combination of these two methods to collect complete and detailed information about the subject.

- *Different:*

Sociology	Social work
<i>-. The socialists use mainly the overall research method to collect representative information</i>	<i>-. Social services often use case studies methods to obtain insights and details about the</i>

	<i>subject.</i>
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**d. Field research methods.** (David Howe, 2017; McKie et al., 2012)

- *Same:*

Both social and social insurance use this method to obtain practical information in the research area.

- *Different:*

Sociology	Social work
<p>- <i>Extensive research area</i>  <i>The information obtained is the reality of the issue of social science is studied and jointly represented (Priscilla Dunk-West &amp; Verity, 2016)</i></p>	<p>-. <i>Narrow research area (one individual, one group, one community).</i>  <i>- The information obtained is the reality of the object to which the social insurance intervenes in a particular nature. (H. D.-S. R. Online &amp; 2000, n.d.; Riessman et al., 2005)</i></p>

**2.3. Sociology and Social Work's problem-solving approach based on illustrative examples**

To better recognize and distinguish the approach and problem-solving of the two sciences of socialism and social security, let's consider the following example:

*P is the son of a family: father drives long-distance truck, mother works as an accountant for a furniture business. But only once did she have sex with a prostitute, P's father was infected with HIV, then transmitted to P's mother. When P's father died, P's mother also tried to kill herself because when she found out she was infected with the disease, everyone at the agency always avoided her and tried to let her quit. Unable to withstand the indifference and coldness of the friends and colleagues, Mother P quit her job at home. P is in the 9th grade is also shunned by*

*neighbors, no one dares to be near P, more and more I feel guilty, alienated from friends. The teacher was very worried about P and went to the social worker.*

***a. The approach to problem solving by sociology.***

In this case, P and P's family were subject to hiv family research. The most appropriate sociology method is to conduct sample research with P as a representative sample (in the sample set of hiv families) with quantitative and quantitative research methods as the dominant

*Quantitative method:* conducted through face-to-face interviews with questionnaires (along with many similar cases such as P and his family). The number of samples depending on the scope of the study of the topic and the sample of choice must be guaranteed representation and reliability. P is a sample case that is in the sample base selected according to the methods of quantitative sample selection (random sample, stratification sample or system sample).

*Quantitative method:* Conducted through in-depth personal interviews to understand the situation, causes and propose solutions to solve the common problem of hiv families (P and his family are the study representative sample)

Through quantitative and quantitative research methods, the researcher will describe the situation of hiv-affected families, the main difficulties faced by hiv families, so that the researcher can propose general policy solutions to support hiv-affected groups and family members affected by HIV as is the case. P's.

***b. The approach to problem solving is by the method of social work.***

Unlike sociology, the approach and resolution of social workers with some skills to observe, hear, empathize and apply specific methods of socialism such as individual, group and community methods:

- *Phase 1: Before contacting your client*

Observe P in the classroom: sitting alone, not paying attention outside, not talking, interacting with friends ...

Observe P at home: talk less, or sit alone in a room, not communicating with the outside, cold even with his mother.

- *Phase 2: Contact with the client*

Observation: when first exposed: uncomfortable to interact with employees, express fear, anxiety ...

After the initial observation, social workers must create trust for their client by: talking happily, not in a hurry, making children feel friendly ...

When creating trust, the staff suggests that P have the opportunity to express his confidence and circumstances.

At this time, continue to use listening, observation, empathy skills (focusing on listening to all that P has to say; showing friendliness through the eyes, ...).

- *Phase 3: Planning for intervention*

Social workers will diagnose and identify problems of family P (including mother P and P); Disassembling of each problem for appropriate intervention

The intervention plan must be based on the needs that P's family needs: medical assistance, educational support, livelihood support to ensure life; Integrating into the community...

- *Phase 4: Implementation of the intervention plan*

*Social workers can apply the processes of individual, group and community social workers to implement a help plan for P and his mother*

*Social media presents its roles: as a counselor (psychological support); defense roles (when there is legal relationship); The role of connecting (with organizations and individuals) can support P and his family.*

- *Phase 5: The amount of the intervention process*

*After applying the methods of social insurance, the social insurance will evaluate the result of the intervention.*



*Indicators to measure the effectiveness of the planned intervention process: health indicators, changes in livelihoods, ensuring education, avoiding feelings of guilt, inferiority; Good integration with the community...*

*Social workers will decide to pause the intervention (if the direction of the intervention is successful) or continue to intervene (if the indicators have not achieved the expected results).*

*Whether social workers pause or continue to intervene depends on social security service providers to provide for cases such as P's family (social security is a profession of social services).*

### **3. Discussion and conclusions**

Thus, between the social insurance method and the social insurance method, there are similarities, differences and characteristics of each industry, so it is necessary to use the right methods in the process of social insurance and social insurance practice.

Social security, as a science, is the collection and codification of objective knowledge of the social environment and the social and professional activities of state organizations, of the social community, of individuals, of experts to solve the social problems of individuals, families, groups, communities.

Each science combines theory and practice. The characteristics of social security as a subject, a science, therefore the analysis of the forms and systems of existing social security methods, the introduction of optimal methods and processes to solve the social problems of those in need of help is one of the most important tasks of social security as a science and as a science. A professional profession. The method of social research is understood as the synthesis of skills and manipulations in social insurance and is considered as the means of achieving a certain purpose and ways of solving a specific task.

Social security research methods depend a lot on the specificity of the research subjects that social workers must aim for. On the other hand, these methods are also defined by professionalism – in other words associated with the

occupation of social workers, associated with social work ethic. The general methods used in social security research are associated with basic theories from which to come up with appropriate methods, associated with social research methods but focusing on the field of social insurance. The results of research from these methods will help the research and practice of social insurance to be highly effective in solving problems of individuals, groups, communities and society. Social workers need to understand and apply the methods and skills in each specific situation and environment, and understand the problems that they need to solve in the process of working with their client.

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