

SSW 5054: Gerontological Social Work

Course Objectives

- To develop an understanding pertaining to the concept of aging
- To understand the various challenges related to aging, healthy aging and problems of the elderly in difficult situations.
- To identify the organization working for elderly in different settings and gain an insight into process of working with elderly.
- National Policy for elderly and the role of INGO and NGOs in improving the quality of life of the elderly.

Course Outline

Unit I: Concept of Gerontology

Gerontology – Definition and scope. Understanding the elderly – demographic, developmental, and psychological, socio cultural, economic, and health perspectives.

Unit II: Issues pertaining to geriatric population

The issues pertaining to elderly- psycho social, health, occupation, income, retirement planning, family support, property Rights

Unit III: Psycho social support to elderly

Issues in health care, changes in family structure, issues of aging process, physiological, economic, safety, status in the family and other issues, Healthy aging, quality of life, coping with demise of the life partner, bereavement, resolving one's own death.

Unit IV: Care settings for elderly

Care settings for elderly: General hospitals, geriatric wards/ hospitals, home-based care, homes for the aged, nursing homes, day-care-centers, hobby centers, and facilities for homeless elderly, elder helpline, and senior citizen forum.

Tools for assessment of the problems of elderly, intervention and follow up services and evaluation.

Unit V: Social policy and programmes

Social work intervention measures for senior citizens through methods of social work: Caring of careers

National Policy on Older Persons, Legal and governmental welfare benefits for senior citizens, Role of INGO and NGOs working for elderly. (visit to old age homes/ interaction with care givers)

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