

Methodological Innovation of Social Intervention in Higher Education: A Conceptual Look

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Abstract

This research seeks to propose a proposal for methodological innovation of social intervention. It is intended to develop through the investigation of some scientific contributions and the creation of analytical categories, as well as the experiences or knowledge generated in the interview by 3 experts in social intervention programs. For this, it is important to identify the approaches of authors regarding the construction of methodological foundations of social work in their historical periods. The starting point was the background that indicates approaches and developments to the Methodologies supported by (Baena, 2017), (Castañeda, 2014), (Arias, 2012), and (Cazares et al., 2010). In this sense, the formulation of the problem allows us to visualize the variety of meanings and even inaccuracies about these concepts in the development of the profession, which leads to formulating the objectives, methodological design and conceptual reference, as a basis for the development of instruments, collection and analysis of information. The present work aims to contribute from the research experience on methodological innovation in accordance with the books published and used by professionals for the attention and resolution of social problems in response to the demands demanded by the various contexts.

Keywords: Innovation, Methodology, Social Intervention, Higher Education

INTRODUCTION

(Malagón & Leal, 2006), Social Work as a discipline and profession emerged in Latin America at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century. As Latin American countries experienced processes of industrialization, urbanization and modernization, inequalities and social problems became evident, which generated the need for intervention by social workers.

In general, it is considered that the emergence of Social Work in Latin America began in Argentina in 1912, with the creation of the School of Social Work at the National University of La Plata. Later, the profession expanded to other countries in the region. (Oliva, 2006)

(León et al., 2015), the initial approach of Social Work in Latin America was influenced by the European model, focused on social assistance and well-being. However, as the profession evolved, more critical and contextualized approaches emerged, incorporating Latin American perspectives and fighting for social transformation.

Throughout the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, Social Work continued to develop in Latin America, adapting to the social and political changes in the region. Professional associations and colleges were established, academic training programs were created, and numerous investigations and theories specific to the Latin American reality were published. Over time, it has been consolidated as a discipline and profession, adapting to the particularities of the Latin American reality and contributing to social transformation. (Capote, 2016)

(Castro et al., 2017), social intervention methodology is a structured and organized process that is used to address social problems and promote positive changes in the community. The design of this methodology involves the planning of different stages and steps that must be followed to achieve the desired objectives.

Talking about methodology innovation in Social Work is entering into the topic of social intervention, social changes in problems and the transformation of the social subjects involved in this process, especially people

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who live in difficult situations, for the simple fact of living away and marginalized from the goods, products and services that are generated in society, which categorizes them as vulnerable subjects. (Mustieles, 2022)

The structure of the social service methodology allows us to identify the important moments that led to its development. Professionalism in the field of social services has its deepest roots in the origins of social inequalities and begins with the establishment of the State to promote and maintain the interests of the owners of the means of production. Social services are based on the emergence of social needs, differences according to the degree of satisfaction and dissatisfaction, describing various forms of social assistance.

(Bason, 2013), highlights that we face the need to create a new society together; a sustainable society in which development is not thought of in terms of economic growth, but is based on a new model based on the principles of democracy, integration and respect for the environment.

For (Castro et al., 2017), universities are non-profit organizations that play an important role in the development of society because they contribute to it through their activities in teaching, research and education. Answers are provided to real social problems in the country.

(Hernández et al., 2016), methodological innovation of social intervention refers to the application of new approaches, techniques or methods in the design and execution of projects or programs aimed at social intervention. These innovative approaches seek to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of intervention processes, as well as achieve more significant and sustainable results.

Innovation can be related to various aspects of social intervention, such as the identification of needs and problems, the design of strategies and activities, the mobilization of resources, the participation of key actors, impact evaluation, among others.

Some forms of methodological innovation in social intervention include:

- Participatory approaches: the active and direct participation of beneficiaries is promoted in all stages of the intervention process, from the identification of needs to the evaluation of results. It seeks to strengthen the autonomy and empowerment of communities.
- Use of technology: technological and digital tools are used to improve the efficiency and scope of projects. For example, mobile applications can be used to collect data in real time, online tracking and monitoring systems, virtual training platforms, among others.
- Evidence-based approaches: Scientific and theoretical knowledge is used to inform social interventions, ensuring they are supported by robust empirical evidence. Measurable and verifiable results and impact are valued.
- Gender and diversity approaches: the gender perspective is considered and the specific needs of vulnerable and minority groups are addressed, promoting equity and inclusion.

Kickul, Griffiths and Bacq (2010) methodological innovation of social intervention and its impact on experimental learning from the University must adapt to the changes and challenges of today's society, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by new approaches and tools to achieve better results. in the promotion of social well-being and the transformation of communities.

METHODOLOGY

For the development of this research, a qualitative approach was used, which allowed contrasting the different concepts on methodology and innovation of social intervention, allowing the application of an inductive process for the construction of an updated concept of social innovation, supported by the different conceptions generated both from indirect observation and review of the different bibliographic sources consulted, and from interviews with experts in social innovation to achieve a broader conceptualization of methodological innovation of social intervention.

Which (Ander-Egg, 2002) defines the methodology of social work as a set of operations or activities carried out systematically within the framework of a specific process in order to understand social reality and act accordingly.

RESULT AND FINDINGS

It can be seen that methodological innovation in social intervention seeks to find new ways to address social problems and improve the results of interventions (UNIR, 2022). This may involve the development of new techniques, approaches or intervention models that are more effective, efficient and sustainable.

Some areas of innovation in social intervention could include:

- The use of technology and digital media to reach more people and expand the reach of intervention programs.
- The design of intervention programs based on scientific evidence and data-driven approaches.
- The participation of communities and beneficiaries in the design and implementation of intervention programs to ensure that they are culturally and contextually relevant.
- Collaboration between different actors and sectors (government, non-governmental organizations, private sector, academia, etc.) to improve the coordination and effectiveness of interventions.
- The application of approaches based on human rights and gender perspectives in social intervention to address inequalities and discrimination.
- The implementation of continuous evaluations and monitoring of intervention programs to ensure their effectiveness and make adjustments if necessary.

Methodological innovation in social intervention represents an opportunity for social intervention organizations to respond in a creative and useful way to growing social problems, adapting their services to the real needs of people. (Torrás et al., 2021)

To carry out this contextualization of methodological innovation in social intervention, several perspectives will be addressed starting from the philosophy that is the base science. In this sense, Aristotle made some contributions, he was a great innovator in his time, because his contributions marked philosophical and scientific thought for centuries. (Echeverría, 2008)

Table 1

Social innovation from a philosophical perspective	
Author	Theoretical contribution
Aristotle	Innovation is a concept linked to creativity and human thought. From a philosophical perspective, innovation implies the ability to create and develop new ideas, concepts and forms of knowledge. Aristotle considered innovation to be essential for the progress and improvement of society. He believed that human beings have the potential to generate new knowledge and apply it in novel ways, leading to advances in different fields, such as science, technology, art and politics.
Francis Bacon	For Bacon, social innovation is not only about introducing new ideas or technology, but also about challenging long-held norms and beliefs that may be limiting social progress. In this sense, social innovation implies an attitude of openness towards new

	<p>ways of thinking and acting, as well as the willingness to question what is established.</p> <p>From a Baconian perspective, social innovation is based on three fundamental concepts: observation, experimentation and prudence.</p>
<p>Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz</p>	<p>Social innovation, according to Leibniz, is based on the human ability to think and create new solutions to existing problems. He considered that knowledge and creativity were fundamental for social progress. Leibniz believed that education played a crucial role in promoting social innovation, as it provided the skills and knowledge necessary to address society's challenges.</p> <p>Furthermore, Leibniz defended the importance of collaboration and dialogue in the search for innovative solutions. He believed that the exchange of ideas between different people and disciplines could lead to significant advances. This idea aligns with the contemporary notion of social innovation, which is often based on collaboration between various actors, such as businesses, nonprofits, and the public sector.</p>

Source: Own elaboration on philosophical thought.

Interview on methodological innovation with experts:

According to the interview carried out with 3 experts in social work, all of them refer to the definition of social innovation similar to what has been developed in conceptual definitions.

The experts interviewed in innovation and social intervention interviewed were: L. Folleco, I. Pincay, A. Zambrano. All university professors and experts in social intervention projects.

a) Methodological Innovation in Social Intervention:

L. Folleco

Methodological innovation in social intervention is a comprehensive, participatory, human, social, cultural process that even involves the use of new technologies to propose innovative social, educational and socio-technological solutions.

It is an innovative methodology that must be generated from the bases; It is born from a social problem, it is worked with society and it is resolved with society through technological resources. The participatory action of the social group itself must lead to solving its needs. Communities must be taught to use these resources, this methodological strategy that allows universities to provide them with support and not be agents that poorly teach them how to solve their problems.

I. Pincay.

This refers to a working model that promotes change and improvement in social interventions. Methodological innovation in social intervention is essential to adapt to the changing needs of communities and maximize the impact of programs and projects.

Methodological innovation involves the incorporation of new approaches, tools and techniques that can help more effectively address social problems and achieve better results. This may involve implementing evidence-based approaches, using technology and encouraging active participation of beneficiaries in the design and development of interventions.

A. Zambrano

Methodological innovation in social intervention is essential to achieve progress in this field and generate more effective and sustainable results. Social intervention seeks to improve the quality of life of people and communities in vulnerable situations, and to achieve this it is necessary to develop and apply new methodologies that adapt to specific needs and contexts.

In this sense, methodological innovation allows us to explore new ways of addressing social problems and find more efficient and effective solutions. This involves incorporating approaches and techniques from different disciplines and practices, and creating new methods and tools that adapt to changing realities.

a) Measurement of social impact through methodological innovation in intervention

L. Folleco

The social impact of methodological innovation in intervention can be measured in several ways, depending on the objectives and expected results of the intervention. Some of the common ways of measuring social impact include qualitative indicators, quantitative indicators, evaluation of results, feedback from beneficiaries.

I. Pincay

The person who develops a social intervention project, to measure the impact through methodological innovation in intervention, can use different indicators and tools. Some possible measures that do not help are: qualitative analysis, quantitative indicators, comparison of previous results, impact evaluation.

A. zambrano

This assessment process can be detected by first defining the objectives of the social intervention, identifying innovative methodologies for this context, designing social impact indicators, and analyzing data.

a) Important to innovate methodologically in social intervention processes:

L. Folleco

Methodological innovation in social intervention processes is important for several reasons; allows to improve effectiveness through new ways of addressing social problems, which can lead to more effective interventions and better results in terms of social impact.

This methodology leads us to adapt to social changes: Social problems are dynamic and constantly changing. Methodological innovation allows us to adapt to these changes and respond more efficiently to the emerging needs of society. And finally, it promotes participation and empowerment, because with this methodological innovation the active participation of people and communities in social intervention processes can be encouraged.

I. Pincay

Methodological innovation in social intervention processes is very important because it allows improving the effectiveness of interventions, adapting to social changes, promoting participation and empowerment, identifying creative solutions and generating learning and knowledge.

Methodological innovation involves research and experimentation of new practices. This generates learning and knowledge about what works and what does not in social intervention processes.

A. Zambrano

It is fundamental in social intervention processes because it helps improve results, because it allows finding new ways to address social problems, which can lead to more effective and positive results in terms of social impact.

It is efficient and effective because it can contribute to optimizing available resources, using more efficient and effective techniques and approaches. This translates into a greater capacity to achieve the objectives set in the

social intervention processes. As well as generates participation and empowerment in communities in social intervention processes. By proposing new approaches and methods, spaces can be opened for people to become more meaningfully involved and make decisions regarding their own development.

Discussion

Methodological innovation of social intervention refers to the creation and application of new ways of addressing and solving social problems. It is fundamental in the field of social intervention, since it seeks to improve existing practices and adapt to social changes and people's needs. There are different approaches and techniques that can be used to innovate in social intervention. Some of the most common include:

- Evidence-based approach: it is based on the use of scientific information and data to make decisions about the actions to be implemented. This involves conducting research, evaluations and analysis to identify the most effective interventions.
- Community participation: seeks to involve members of a community in the design, implementation and evaluation of social interventions. This approach encourages the active participation of people affected by a problem, promoting their empowerment and allowing them to propose solutions.
- Multidimensional approach: involves addressing a social problem from different dimensions and perspectives. This implies considering aspects such as socioeconomic structure, health determinants, gender, culture, among others. By considering these multiple dimensions, more comprehensive and effective interventions can be designed.
- Use of new technologies: the advancement of technology has generated new opportunities for social intervention. The use of digital tools, such as mobile applications, online platforms and social networks, can facilitate communication, the dissemination of information and the participation of people.

Methodological innovation in social intervention not only implies the application of new techniques or approaches, but also the ability to adapt and learn from the results. It is important that social intervention professionals are willing to try new ideas, reflect on the results and adapt to the changing needs of the people and communities they serve.

CONCLUSION

Methodological innovation in social intervention is an approach that seeks to improve and transform traditional practices of social work and other fields of social intervention. This innovation is based on the application of novel methods and techniques that allow social problems to be addressed more effectively and promote social change.

Methodological innovation in social intervention involves the exploration and adoption of new ideas, approaches and techniques that may be more appropriate to address the needs and challenges of vulnerable people and communities. These innovations can come from different disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, education or social work, among others.

Some of the methodological innovations in social intervention include the use of information and communication technologies for data collection and information management, the use of participatory approaches that involve people in vulnerable situations in decision-making and action planning, and the application of evidence-based strategies and human rights-based approaches.

Methodological innovation in social intervention also involves the adaptation and customization of existing approaches and techniques so that they are more effective and appropriate for different situations and contexts. This involves the combination of different approaches and techniques, cultural adaptation and consideration of contextual, social and political factors.

To conclude, methodological innovation in social intervention seeks to improve and transform traditional practices of social work and other fields of social intervention through the application of novel and effective

methods and techniques. This innovation involves the exploration, adoption and adaptation of different approaches and techniques to more effectively address social problems and promote social change.

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