



Social Work and Follow up to Graduates at the Universidad Tecnica de Manabi



Leila Alava Barreiro ^a
Fabian Gustavo Menendez Menendez ^b
Eva Alcivar Medranda ^c
Karol Liceth Pico Sornoza ^d

Article history:

Received: 18 January 2016

Accepted: 30 March 2017

Published: 31 May 2017

Keywords:

education;
employment;
graduates;
health;
social;

Abstract

The article presents an analysis of social work in the areas of health, education and social protection, exposing the role that should characterize social work professionals in the areas analyzed. It is characterized by the analysis of data related to the province of Manabí and especially to the city of Portoviejo. Some results related to the follow-up activities for graduates at the Universidad Tecnica de Manabí are presented, based on documentation investigated by the Monitoring Committee for Graduates and Labor Insertion of the career of Social Work of the university, in relation to the jobs That occupy the professionals and their intervention in the labor field. A survey was applied to 161 social workers who were graduated in the period 1984-2017, the results obtained demonstrate the significant aspects that allowed the graduates to insert themselves in the work to be done finding as more significant aspects to have the title of the career, personality And pre-professional experience.

2395-7492© Copyright 2017. The Author.
This is an open-access article under the CC BY-SA license
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)
All rights reserved.

Author correspondence:

Leila Alava Barreiro,
Graduate in Social Sciences,
Universdad Tcnica de Manabi, Portoviejo, Manab, Ecuador
Email Address: licethpico24@hotmail.com

1. Introduction

Aranda (1990), it is possible to analyze that from the functional point of view, the first vestiges of social work are found in the emergence of the family, since from its bosom emerges a social group created by ties of kinship or marriage present in all the human conglomerates.

^a Graduate in Social Sciences, Universdad Tecnica de Manabi, Portoviejo, Manabi, Ecuador

^b Degree in Communication Sciences, with a Masters in Education and Local Development

^c Degree in Social Work Magister in Education and Social Development

^d Graduated in Social Work Degree from the Technical University of Manabi Social Work Career

Cichon *et al.*, (2012), the family is defined as the set of persons united to each other by ties of a marriage or kinship, either by consanguinity or affinity, living under one roof with common interests, with rights and duties among them, reciprocally assisting in the Care and attention of their lives. Castaño-Castrillón *et al.*, (2012), the family is constituted, developed and acts within a human group which is called society.

But in the complex framework of social relations taking place within modern societies, this activity significantly transcends the traditional limits of the family, being linked to an important number of social activities, among which are: Education, health and social protection.

The objective of the work is to show a part of the results achieved by the Committee on Follow-up to Graduates and Labor Insertion of the Universidad Técnica de Manabí, in order to contribute to the improvement of the career of Social Workers and increase the labor incorporation of the newly Graduates of that career.

2. Materials and Methods

The methods used were: bibliographic and quantitative; The bibliography consisted of gathering information on the objectives and competencies of the Commission for Monitoring Graduates and Labor Insertion, as well as the aspects on the professional profile of graduates in Social Work, while the quantitative method consisted of obtaining data information Registered real statistics of different Zonal Districts (Zone 4) which were: Health, Education and Social Security. It was established a sample of 161 surveys applied to professionals graduated in the UTM, the career of Social Work between the years 1984-2017.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1 Social work in the area of education

The social worker linked to the education area is related to the social welfare of the students and their family, to the current situation in which they attend to needs that are concentrated outside the work environment related to disadvantages that the students can demonstrate, thus fulfilling the functions: Information, assistance, research, and management of social resources, meeting the individual demands, as well as at the group level of the educational community.

The role of social workers in the educational area can be developed in the following levels of work: Pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher education; Ministry in national, regional or local research and planning departments; Interdisciplinary teams with the psychologist, vocational counselor, doctor, teachers, and managers of the schools.

In the school context, the social worker acts as a mediator of conflicts between the members of the educational community, who carry out treatment therapies with families, groups, individuals, to seek the resolution of problems within the framework of social interrelations. The relationship within the scope of higher education has three functions preparation or training; Socialization and; Distribution function of status or social position.

The intellectual learning is acquired during the academic training, while the execution of the knowledge obtained takes place in the field of practical action, favoring the formation of a professional who is able to implement the previous theoretical knowledge.

The current labor demands and the historical changes that Ecuador has undergone in recent years in its education system have set the tone for the country's universities to undertake relevant projects that allow a relevant education, establishing lines of research and well-structured curricular programs. To agree to form men and women capable of taking decisions and promoting actions that contribute to the development and social transformations of the country.

The education district in zone 4 counts on 58 professionals of the social work, carrying out its activities in the different instances and institutions of education through the accomplishment of activities according to the professional profile that fulfills the social worker, where concrete results are registered in a variety of Functions and activities that are reflected in the direct attention of the users and within them the following can be mentioned: planning and developing the social assistance programs of the educational center; Advise and collaborate in the formation and organization of student clubs for the purpose of taking advantage of the student's free time; Promote family interaction; Investigate family socio-economic background that guides the teacher when the student presents problems of absenteeism, maladaptation, desertion, and irregular behavior; Encourage periodic interdisciplinary meetings to evaluate work and renew programs.

Within the educational institution, the social worker maintains a direct relationship with the student, carrying out the following activities: awakening the student's confidence through the oriented dialogue and the interest of their needs; Discover and address problems affecting the education of students; Detect and combat the problems and difficulties that cause delay or abandonment of studies; Promote student participation in groups, to discover skills and develop potential in sport, art, science; Plan actions according to the diverse needs related to the age and growth of students; Promote and carry out recreational programs, where one teaches to compete healthily and to recognize authority and fellowship; Promote effective relationships with parents and other relatives of students.

The interrelationships with the teachers emphasize the following activities: to inform extensively about the socio-economic and family background of students who show difficulties in their performance and behavior; Constitute a bond of trust between the student and the teacher, when the interview reflects some misunderstanding; Suggesting stimuli or penalties when it is proven that the student requires it; Collaborate with the teacher in the search of material and / or economic human resources needed to expand his chair.

3.2 Social work in the area of education

Social work in the health area is a professional task complementing and supporting the actions of the physician. This requires a social work professional empowered with his role, but with the capacity to work in teams with other experts, forging correlations that promote the development of the community and the well-being of the users.

The health entities in which a social worker can intervene can be, among others, the following: Ministry of Health; Health Districts; Hospitals; Institutes of Hygiene; Centers and Sub-Centers of Health; Board of Beneficence and Dispensaries of Health.

Some authors [Herrán Gascón et al., \(2016\)](#), suggest that the progress of promotion, prevention, care, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation in therapeutic intervention and resource mobilization is done for the benefit of the community. Actions are corresponding directly to the work of the professional in social work in the field of health. So these activities can be considered as the main axis of social work.

[Schomburg \(2004\)](#), [Solera & Saboría \(2017\)](#), the health district of zone 4 of the city of Portoviejo currently has 33 professionals from the social work, playing their role in the different health instances through the performance of functions according to the professional profile they fulfill in their workplace, where they are registered Contributions in a variety of functions and activities that will achieve quality care and warmth to the users and within them can be mentioned the following: cooperates in the primary health care, offering information to the physician on socio-economic background of the patient's family; Performs the punctuation of data related to the health problem; Participates with other specialists in the elaboration of plans of physical and emotional rehabilitation; Works to increase family and social resilience; Facilitates the doctor's relationship with the institution, the patient's family and their environment; Knows the medical diagnosis of each particular case through patient interviews; Elaborates the social card that contains the whole process of medical evaluation, as well as the familiar and work aspects; Works to get the patient to interpret his illness and medical treatment; Provides information on the social insurance scheme and provides guidance on the cost of the medical service and insurance; Works to achieve the relationship of the patient with the resources of the community.

The work of the social worker is conceived as a system of joint action, because in the area of health the patient requires psychological support, where the family plays an indispensable role, so that social workers intervene in the performance of different activities : It guides the groups of chronically ill patients and their relatives in order to ensure continuity of treatment and recovery (hypertensive, diabetic); Performs educational work when the patient is rejected for fear of contagion, or considering it a burden; Attends cases of temporary placement of minors, as well as children of deceased patients; Facilitates the procedures to be followed in the institution in relation to funeral or social security benefits in the case of mortuary actions among others.

3.3 Social work in the area of social protection

According to the National Association of Social Workers (ANTS), the main mission of the social worker is to improve human well-being and help meet the basic demands of all human beings, paying special attention to needs and empowerment.

Social work aimed at human rights implies a commitment to provide social protection to the community. The purpose of the profession is to improve social protection systems so that users can live inequitable social environments, trust, security, dignity and full implementation of their rights.

The main function of social work is to ensure active support in the development of systems and programs to reduce poverty, family, community and social capital as a key sustainable form of social protection. This is embodied in the concept of community capacity development.

From the perspective of social work, social protection systems and welfare states should be designed to promote the sustainability and well-being of the population, the social work profession is geared towards ensuring that social protection systems are organisms for transformation of society, [Ibañez Cedeño, K. E. \(2015\)](#), focusing on promoting solidarity within human conglomerates and between communities, to promote self-determination by fostering democratic participation and strengthening voices in society at large.

In the province of Manabí, social workers who are immersed in the area of social protection, those who act based on the policies of the institution and have 46 graduates and graduates in social work, who perform various activities to improve the most felt needs of the population, such as: investigate conflicts of a family nature (juveniles and the elderly) related to abandonment of the home, lack of economic resources, begging, lack of relatives; Carry out a social diagnosis aimed at specifying the social and economic background of the assisted person, which allows the institution to adopt the necessary mechanisms for its personal study and development; Prepare reports regarding the adoption and possession of minors; Achieve the adaptation and / or rehabilitation of the assisted to its family nucleus; They participate in the educational process to the family of the young person, young person or old, on the risks to which they are exposed outside the home and their obligation to watch over them; Coordinate activities with social science institutions; Encourage volunteer groups to provide family assistance, school support, library and cultural activities; Promote recreational activities by encouraging good humor and resilience; Support activities for the civil defense, children's canteens, maternity gardens, tourism and camps, workshop and vocational training, job market, activities for the elderly, prevention of alcoholism, narcotics, smoking and infectious diseases and sex education ; Promote and support the prevention of juvenile delinquency and prostitution, working to avoid forced child labor and outsourcing.

3.4 Graduate Tracking

The Central American Agency for Accreditation of Postgraduate Programs (ACAP) in its Accreditation Manual [Moreira et al., \(2015\)](#), defines as graduates and graduates, those professionals who completed the curriculum and obtained the expected professional academic profile, by virtue of which Grants them a degree corresponding to an academic degree; Considers the linkage of graduates with research and extension projects that contribute to the social and economic development of the country and the region, so it is important to implement a system of follow-up graduates, not only because they are susceptible to evaluate, but also because they offer Knowledge about the contributions that the titled people are providing to society.

According to [Olaya & Tatiana \(2014\)](#), it is necessary to continue with the self-evaluation and accreditation processes of the teaching programs, ensuring the elaboration and execution of the resulting improvement plans.

The improvement plans are developed in order to contribute to the improvement of the quality of future professionals, imparting knowledge from a work perspective, aimed at the improvement of the student, which is why are constantly undertaken evaluation processes directed to the educational community.

The Graduate Monitoring and Labor Insertion Committee of the Technical University of Manabí, aims to implement and develop a graduate monitoring system that allows the institution to obtain and process reliable and relevant information about the real situation of its graduates in the working environment, the degree of satisfaction of their professional training, professional performance, among others, that allows the institution to adopt the changes and reforms that are considered necessary, [Ovares Elizondo \(2012\)](#), to optimize and improve the academic training that is taught at the university.

The School of Social Workers of the Technical University of Manabí, has the mission of training professionals in different areas, contributing to the development of society, whose action is aimed at improving the quality of life of people achieving social equity, to This articulates knowledge and skills that guide their actions, focusing basically on the proposal of alternative solutions, in accordance with the changes and different situations presented by the social subjects with which they intervene.

Table 1 shows the situation of social work professionals graduated from the Technical University of Manabí who is in charge.

Table 1
Social workers depending on their activities

Entidad	Hombres	Mujeres	Total
Graduados en la UTM (1984 – 2016)	37	696	733
Área de Educación	-	58	58
Distrito de Salud	1	32	33
Seguridad Social	2	44	46

In the data shown in table 1 it can be seen that social work is a profession dominated by the female sex with 95% of the total graduates. The largest numbers of those located were in the area of education, followed by social security and health.

With the research made it was possible to know that in the the Technical University of Manabí in a span of time of 32 years have graduated 81 professionals in the social profile and of the 19 are currently working in the social work profession.

During the research 161 social work professionals were surveyed, who graduated from the Technical University of Manabí in the period 1984-2017, being able to verify the following results:

Of the 161 professionals surveyed, 155 proposed to be working within the field of study learned at the Technical University of Manabí, which represents 96%. Figure 1 shows the graphical relationship on the labor location of the respondents.

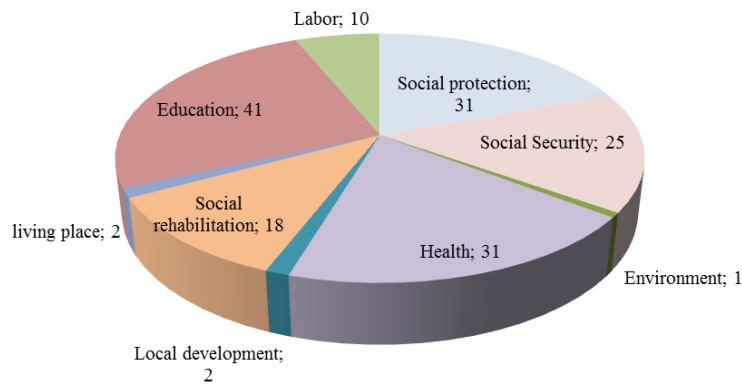


Figure 1. Working location of the respondents

It was verified that there is coherence in relation to the elements of the curriculum of the career and those that have been used during the exercise of the profession, where the subjects of method, technique, and instrument stand out; Pre-professional practices; Diagnostic research process. The graphical relationship of what is analyzed in figure 2 is shown.



Figure 2. Curriculum elements used in professional practice

The result of the survey allowed verifying the expectations of graduates after graduating from the university, being able to verify that the majority chose to find a suitable job, followed by the fulfillment of their work activities, results shown in figure 3 shows the Graph with the percentage on the professional expectations of graduates.

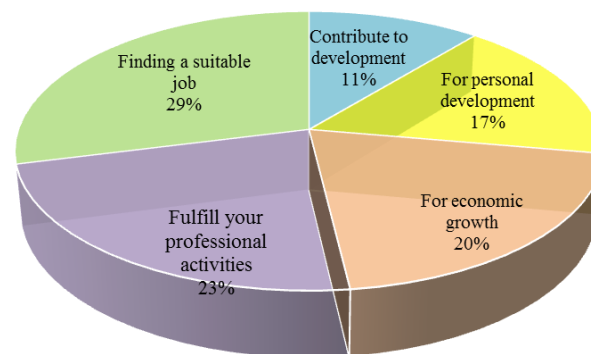


Figure 3. Professional Expectations of Graduates

It was verified that there were aspects that had a heavy influence to obtain the job placement once graduated between them were: the title of the race; Personality and; The pre-professional experience. Still, others are considered among those that are: the referential recommendation; The average grades; Computer literacy; The university where he graduated; The experience abroad and; knowledge of languages. The above graphical relationship is expressed as a percentage in figure 4.

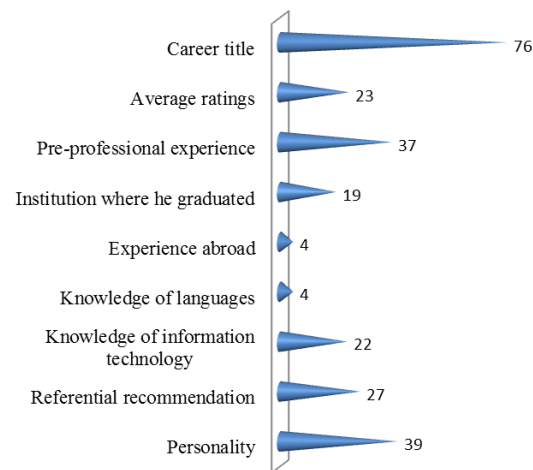


Figure 4. Greater relevance in the work placement

As can be seen in the graph, there are three aspects that influenced to be able to be linked in a job as they are: the title, its personality and the pre-professional experience, of which the most weight has presented is to have obtained the title aspect Which has been improving, because many students finish the curricular subjects but do not present their final graduation exam and this implies that it is not awarded the title, an aspect that has been strengthened by the university entities in the graduate follow up.

As can be seen in the graph, there are three aspects that influenced to be able to be linked in a job as they are: the title, its personality and the pre-professional experience, of which the most weight has presented is to have obtained the title aspect Which has been improving, because many students finish the curricular subjects but do not present their final graduation exam and this implies that it is not awarded the title, an aspect that has been strengthened by university bodies in graduate monitoring.

4. Conclusion

Provide a statement that what is expected, as stated in the "Introduction" chapter can ultimately result in "Results and Discussion" chapter, so there is compatibility. Moreover, it can also be added to the prospect of the development of research results and application prospects of further studies into the next (based on result and discussion).

Conflict of interest statement and funding sources

The author(s) declared that (s)he/they have no competing interest. The study was financed by UTM.

Statement of authorship

The author(s) have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The author(s) have approved the final article.





Acknowledgments

A special thanks to the group of professors who have monitored the research contributing ideas of their experiences in the follow up to the graduate of the race by several years.

References

- Aranda, M. M. (1990). El trabajo social en el sistema de salud. *Servicios sociales y política social*, (20), 76-84.
- Castañó-Castrillón, J. J., Echeverri-Rubio, C., Giraldo-Cardona, J. F., Maldonado-Mora, Á., Melo-Parra, J., Meza-Orozco, G. A., ... & Rodríguez-Arias, E. A. (2012). Adherencia al tratamiento de pacientes hipertensos atendidos en Assbasalud ESE, Manizales (Colombia) 2011. *Revista de la Facultad de Medicina*, 60(3), 179-197.
- Cichon, M., Schmitt, V., Bonnet, F., Galian, C., & Mazelkaite, G. (2012). *Analysis of the Viet Nam National Social Protection Strategy 2011-2020 in the Context of Social Protection Floor Objectives: A Rapid Assessment*. ILO.
- Herrán Gascón, A. D. L., Pinargote Ortega, M., & Véliz Briones, V. (2016). Génesis de una universidad inclusiva en Ecuador. La Universidad Técnica de Manabí. Revista: Revista Iberoamericana de Educación.
- Ibañez Cedeño, K. E. (2015). *El uso de la paja toquilla como material de diseño de interiores para fortalecer la identidad ecuatoriana* (Bachelor's thesis, Guayaquil: ULVR, 2015.).
- Moreira Moreira, S. C., & Vines Garcia, J. G. (2015). *El trabajador social y su labor en las unidades educativas fiscales y particulares de la ciudad de portoviejo, 2014* (doctoral dissertation, tatiana moreira chica).
- Olaya, Z., & Tatiana, N. (2014). Causas de la desintegración familiar y sus consecuencias en el rendimiento escolar y conducta de las alumnas de segundo año de la Institución Educativa Nuestra Señora de Fátima de Piura.
- Ovares Elizondo, R. (2012). Analysis of strategies executed by Miramar's High School Teachers and Staff, from the Regional Board of Education of Puntarenas, Costa Rica, to Prevent Desertion and Students Population Retention. *Gestión de la educación Vol. 2 Núm. 2 2012*.
- Schomburg, H. (2004). Manual para estudios de seguimiento de graduados universitarios. *Honduras. Serviprensa SA*.
- Solera, N. L., & Saboría, M. M. (2017). Un desafío innovador con impacto social Estudio de seguimiento a graduados de seis programas de posgrado de la UNED, con indicadores de calidad académica y mejoramiento continuo. *Posgrado y Sociedad. Revista Electrónica del Sistema de Estudios de Posgrado*, 11(1), 50-75.

Biography of Authors

	<p>Degree in the Social Work Technical University of Manabí. Magister in Education and Social Development. Teacher-researcher with 16 years of experience in Teaching University. Coordinator of the Commission of Follow-up to Graduates and Labor Insertion of the Career of Social Work of the Universidad Técnica de Manabí. <i>Email: licethpico24@hotmail.com</i></p>
	<p>Degree in Communication Sciences, with a Masters in Education and Local Development, works as a Lecturer, Deputy Dean of the Social Work Career of the Faculty of Humanistic and Social Sciences. He worked for 16 years with the EDIASA (El Diario) group as a reporter and editor of the website, currently a teacher of the Universidad Técnica de Manabí.</p>
	<p>Degree in Social Work Magister in Education and Social Development, Assistant Professor Full Time Directs the Commission responsible for Career Assessment. University Teacher with 16 years of experience, currently teaching at the Universidad Técnica de Manabí.</p>
	<p>Graduated in Social Work Degree from the Technical University of Manabí Social Work Career, Faculty of Humanistic and Social Sciences, Pre-Professional Practices in Solca Manabí, carrying out coordinated activities with the Ministry of Health, follow-up of cases and direct communication with users</p>