

## Assignment 1: **SOCIAL PROBLEM SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS**

The purpose of a situational analysis written assignment is to help increase knowledge about the context of a social problem, identified and selected by the student. The selected problem may be local, national, global or specific to another country. With this in mind, it is important to understand the context and system of which the problem is a part, as well as the circumstances and influences that may have resulted in the situation. This type of exercise is essential to developing a deeper understanding of how any proposed future recommendations or initiatives might impact the system, all communities and stakeholders.

Students are encouraged to follow their interests and passions, looking broadly (locally, nationally, globally, etc.) to identify a compelling social problem. Through research, students will learn about the context of the problem; describe the current status of the issue; examine the causes and factors that have contributed to the problem; and provide an analysis of key strategies addressing the issues.

In preparing the situational analysis, please reference appropriate sources (literature and reports) and interpret and apply findings to regional issues (i.e. nutrition, health, education, the economy, environmental sustainability, etc.). This macro level background information will provide an important contextual backdrop. Elements of the situational analysis include:

- Background/Context ~ brief description of the situation in the region (i.e. country, province/state, city, etc) in terms of economy, climate, political structure, religion, gender and other factors that could have an impact on the problem space you are exploring. Consider regional differences and particularities.
- Issue Status ~ research and statistics about the relevant issues.
- Causes of Issues ~ summary of factors (i.e. historical, political, cultural, climatic, etc.) that might be contributing to the current state of affairs relating to the current situation.
- Current Key Intervention Strategies ~ brief analysis of strategies that are currently being implemented to address the issues, including why the strategies may have been selected (consider appropriateness from a cultural and national perspective). What might be some of the challenges with these strategies?
- Resources ~ references clearly indicated for all sources used.

**Please Note:** This assignment is to be completed with a partner, in groups of two students and represents 20% of the final grade. The main body of the situational analysis should be five (5) pages. References and supporting appendices (if required) are to be included in addition. Clear structure, communication and grammar are essential to a well-written piece.

**DUE: Due 6pm Sunday October 2, via Canvas.**

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