



## SIGNATURE PEDAGOGY OF SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION: FIELD WORK PRACTICES IN CORRECTIONAL SETTING

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### **Abstract**

*The signature of pedagogy of social work education has characteristics form of teaching and learning. The conceptual paper would focus on the scope of fieldwork practice in correctional social work. The article highlights the skills, techniques and knowledge of social work which required for correctional social workers who works in on institutional and non-institutional fields of social work.*

**Keywords:** *Fieldwork, pedagogy, skills, correction.*

### **Introduction**

Social work is a practice, action and intervention oriented profession. It is a educational programme and based upon "learning by doing" principle which has developed specialized skills and techniques, body of knowledge, methods and the philosophy of professional work. Practical experience is the integral part of social work. Practical experience in social work teaching is through the method of field work. Field work in social work implies both training and education for the different levels of social work trainee (students) and it involves on educational process that faster learning and helping students to acquire knowledge in the field. It is an integrated approach that goes concurrently with the classroom instruction.

Council on social work education (CSWE) in its “the 2008 educational policy and accreditation standards” has rightly identifies the field education as the signature pedagogy of the social work profession. Social work, being goal-oriented and intervention – oriented professional education, aims at helping social work trainees to acquire and internalize deep knowledge of the theory and techniques for achieving social work objectives. (**Sanjoy Roy 2012.**)

‘Signature Pedagogy of social work education’ is a terminology first coined by **Lee Shulman**. It has characteristic forms of teaching and learning. Teaching is process to train students in thinking, performing and acting with integrity. The Field education is ‘signature pedagogy’ of social work profession (**CSWE, 2008**). The formulation of pedagogy is a process to integrate theory with practice. Socialization of students has a vision of fieldwork practice. Field work programme provides opportunities to the students to apply their theoretical knowledge taught in the classroom in different practical situations.

**M. S. Gore (1981)** has stated that “if the practical experience is to be an integral part of educational programme, then these must be clarity connecting what student is to learn it. The setting up of objectives for classroom teaching has long been accepted as basic step in curricular building. Equal attention must now be given to a classification of the objectives and content of the practical experiences for the students at various stages in his training. in other words, we must spell out for the students, agency and the school the knowledge and the skill which students will be expected to acquire in the field”.

Signature of pedagogy of social work education has characteristics form of teaching and learning. Teaching is process to train students in thinking performing and acting with integrity. The formulation of pedagogy is a process to integrate theory with practice. Socialization of students has a vision of fieldwork.

Most important components in the domain of field work programmes are:

1. Orientation programme
2. Concurrent field work
3. Block field work
4. Rural/urban/tribal camps
5. Study tours
6. Skill development workshops
7. Summer/winter placement

### **Field work placement**

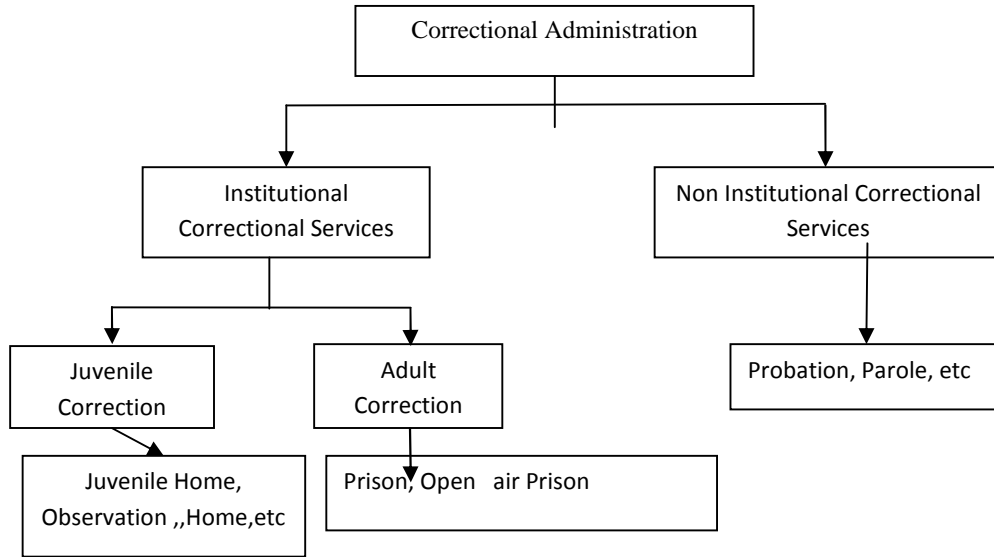
Students are placed in all the fields of social work like women & child welfare, social work with youths, elderly, medical, industrial and correctional field. Field work in correctional setting has been neglected due to its less employability compared to other fields like, medical, industrial fields, etc. But field work practices in the correctional setting are highly



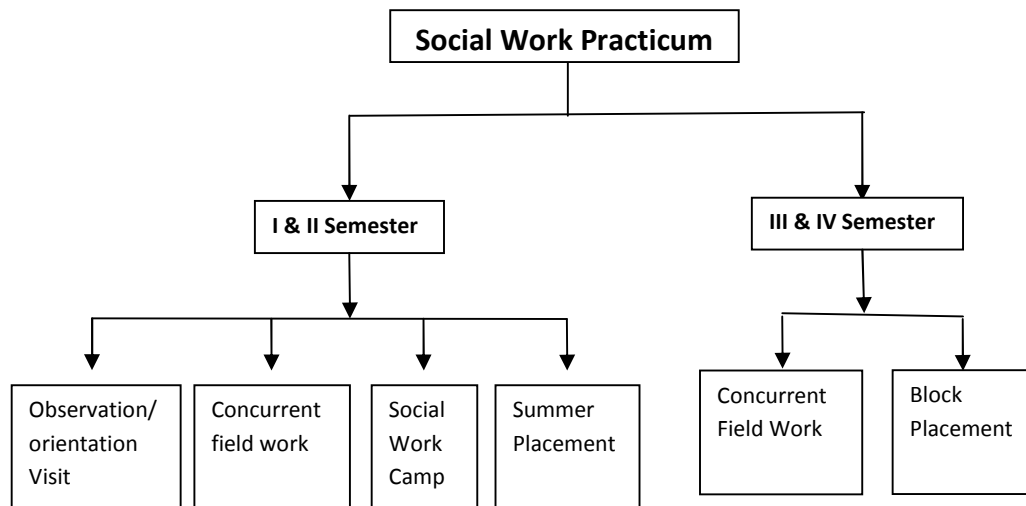
neglected specialisation in social work education. With reference to researchers Doctoral thesis (**A Study on Social Work Education in Karnataka**) study regarding specializations offered none of the social work schools are opting Correctional Administration as specialisation. And a least importance is for Correctional Administration in curriculum.

**Field Work Practices in Correctional Setting**

Social work intervention and field work practices in the correctional settings is highly dynamic in nature. Where social work trainee can work with inmates of different sex and age group in correctional institutions.



Correctional administration covers the entire gamut of programmes initiated by the government to rehabilitate and reformation of individuals coming in conflict with law, within the overall system of crime prevention and criminal justice. In India the origin and development of correctional services has shift in focus from crime to the criminal and the modern penology recognizes that punishment is no longer regarded as Retributive or Deterrent, but it is regarded as ‘Reformative’ or ‘Rehabilitative’. It focuses on an individualised treatment and reformation of the offenders to bring back to social mainstream.



**I & II Semester:**

Orientation visits & concurrent field work programme.



### **I. Field work placement**

Observation home, juvenile home for boys/girls, state home for women, fit persons institutions and prisons and open-air prisons etc. child welfare committee juvenile justice bureau, Courts and police stations.

#### **Social work trainee work with..**

- Special children
- Individual conflict with law (under JJ Act)
- Child in need of care and protection
- Women, destitution (under PITA –Act)
- Prisoners -under trial convicts etc.
- Probationer, parolee
- After care
- Welfare of criminal and delinquent and their related services

#### **What social work trainee can work/do:-**

- Trainee can encourage and teach life skill education.
- Take up social case work.
- Form a group or conduct a group work like – Educational, remedial, treatment, therapeutic and recreational and task oriented groups.
- Counselling
- The group therapy
- Crisis intervention
- Marital or family counselling
- Advocacy
- Value education
- Capacity building activity
- Short term training programme
- Structured experience laboratory activities.
- Ex:- role play, team building exercises , counselling rapport building.

#### **Social Work Interventions**

- Social work trainee can adopt social work methods:-
- Social case work
- Social group work
- Community work
- Study the personal records of the client (if authority permits).
- Attend the seminars, case presentation, and group discussions.
- Attending relevant workshops and seminars and conferences.

#### **Learning expectations from students in correctional institutions:**

- To Understand and acquire information about criminal justice system.
- To observe the roles and functions of correctional institution/ administration.
- To explore the problems faced by the inmates in the institution in particular and problem of correctional institution in India in general.
- To Gain knowledge of processes and problems of implementing the programmes sponsored by the government
- To study the role of police, prosecution and judiciary.
- To acquire knowledge and understand the role of prison, prison staff, prison discipline and prison problems and vocational training.
- To understand and observe the function of juvenile court and child welfare committee.
- To understand the parole system and its function and process.
- To study the probation system and its advantage and role of problem officers.
- To understand the structure, functions, treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare Programmes to inmates.



### **Social Work Camp**

Schools shall organise social work camp in open air prison (if the prison department permits)

**Summer placements:** it is continuous three weeks training programme in end of second semester. Students will be placed in organisations usually outside the head quarters.

In summer placement social work trainee shall be placed in District jails/sub jails. Or institution comes under juvenile justice Act, etc

Learning at summer placement in correctional institutions:

- It gives an opportunity to experience day-to-day work in the organization.
- To establish initial contacts and rapport.
- To develop capacity to understand the different aspects of an organization.
- To assess the felt needs and problems of the organization.
- To undertake small empirical study or few case studies.

### **Field work practices during III & IV semesters**

#### **Filed work placements**

Students shall be placed in central prisons, open air prison or jails or sub jails, under probation officer or institution or non institutional correctional services.

#### **Block field work**

Schools of social work or department shall place a student for block field work programme. Block placement enables learner integrate learning and generate new learning by participating in the intervention process over a period continuously.

Block placement programme enables students to integrate learning and get new learning opportunities by participating in the continuous intervention programme over a period of four to six weeks (**UGC Model Curriculum on Social Work**

#### **Education 2001).**

At the end of the fourth semester students are required to undergo Block field work or Block placement work training usually outside the district. It is a pre-employment training. The block filed work agencies/projects are selected with the consent/choice of students. During the block field work programme, a student is required to send weekly reports to the concerned faculty supervisor. If it possible department shall take confidential report about the performance of the students in the agency from the agency supervisor. Successful completion of block field work is mandatory before the degree in social work can be awarded.

#### **Field Work practices in Block Placement**

- Trainees should acquire knowledge about organizational structure and functions of the agency.
- Trainees should involve in daily routine and short and long term services provided at the institutions.
- Trainees should acquaint with relevant Act and rules such as prison manuals, prison Act, \Juvenile justice Act 2000, P.O. Act functions of the courts, prison, probation, parole and child welfare committee..etc
- Use of Social Work Intervention at psycho-Social intervention at individual and group levels social case work and social group work.
- Trainee should do evaluation of the case and terminate the case and do the follow .
- Trainee should help the inmates to solve these problems like social, psychologically legal and financial and make them pre-released preparation.
- Trainee should take part in after case programmes.
- Trainees can take project in consultation with the institution and faculty supervisor.

#### **Skill in social work practicum for practicing in correctional institutions.**

Skills in field work nothing more than a social work trainee's capacity of applying their professional knowledge, principles, and values for practising in an efficient and expert manner. Skills are based on the approach, such as problem solving approach, radical approach, etc.



The skills applied by the social work trainee during this practice in correctional setting as follows:

- Observation skills
- Communication skills
- Helping skills
- Involvement skills
- Empathy skills
- Monitoring evaluating skills
- Elaborating skills
- Analysing and convincing skills
- Persuading skills
- Crisis management skills
- Collaborative skills
- Supervisory skills
- Relationship skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Rapport building skills
- Skills in linking with individual, group and other social agencies.
- Successful of field work programme in correctional institution is based on mutual cooperation and commandment of teacher, trainee and agency supervisor.
- The faculty supervisors should pay their visits to the field work agency regularly so that students could resolve these problems and other obstacles in the field only.
- The students should be placed only in the agency where the trained professionals with MSW background of social work are working.
- The school should provide field work guidance's to agency supervisor.
- Regular individual conferences and group conferences, report corrections and proper input should be given to student from time to time.
- There should be cordial and good relationship and understanding between the department and the agency supervisor and they can be invited for extension learners in the department.

### **Correctional Social Work Counselor**

This is counselling work in correctional setting, the social worker counsellor may do interviewing, referring and aiding inmates or providing rehabilitation services for formerly incarcerated individuals in need of social services. social worker in the Inmate Services Assignment are responsible for interviewing and screening inmates for possible drug or alcohol abuse problems and recommending and developing treatment plans. social worker in the setting are responsible for assessing the needs of formerly incarcerated individuals to provide educational and vocational resources to assist in successful reintegration into society. Work includes scheduling and conducting individual and/or group counselling sessions and identifying short/long-term goals and objectives. Establishing and maintaining positive relationships with clients, eliciting detailed personal history information and recommending appropriate courses of action are important aspects of the work. Work is performed under the supervision of a technical superior and involves conditions which can only be partially controlled.

### **Knowledge, Skills And Abilities Required For A Correctional Social Work Counselor Knowledge of**

- The methods, practices and techniques of interviewing persons with social problems, and persons addicted to drugs or alcohol for the inmate services assignment
- The social and psychological factors contributing to the cause of criminal behavior and drug or alcohol addiction for the inmate services assignment
- Individual and group counselling methods and techniques
- The community, state and other resources available in the area of social services
- The rehabilitation of drug and alcohol addicts for the inmate services assignment
- Case history preparation method
- The practices and techniques of job placement and employment services for the rehabilitation services assignment
- The local employment market and community resources for the rehabilitation services assignment
- Knowledge of laws, regulations and codes related to employment and equal employment opportunity regulations for the rehabilitation Services Assignment.



### Ability to

- Perform assessments and provide referral services for inmates and formerly incarcerated populations.
- Understand the behavior and attitude of persons with social and emotional problems, and persons addicted to drug or alcohol, and to deal with unusual behavior and avert hostile attitudes tactfully and effectively for the Inmate Services Assignment.
- Recommend and develop drug or alcohol addiction rehabilitation plans for the Inmate Services Assignment.
- Schedule and conduct individual and group counseling sessions.
- Prepare case histories and evaluations which are accurate and concise.
- Prepare recommendations for position appointment and encourage inmates to participate in recommended programs.
- Aid clients in social services, legal and court-related issues.
- Present ideas effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Develop training curriculum and provide workshops related to the area of assignment.
- Identify and recommend community employment opportunities for the rehabilitation Services Assignment.
- Establish and maintain relationships with local businesses and community partners for the Rehabilitation Services Assignment.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with inmates, families and associates.
- Speak and understand the designated local language or the Bilingual specialty.

### Conclusion

Social work is a helping process, together with other disciplines helped to introduce both treatment and prevention philosophy into this practice. The role of social worker in these agencies is different and specific in nature compared to other fields of social work. Social work trainees are required to work in correctional institutions with these inmates who are come in conflict with the law and they have to undergo reformation and rehabilitation process to return back to the society. Now the modern penology recognised and adapted the Reformation theory. This theory presumes that the adamant and habitual offender can also be changed into a law-abiding citizen by reformation. Mahatma Gandhi said: 'Hate sin, but not sinner.' and he opined that correctional institutions are hospitals and criminals are treated as patients. Hence their correction and reformation is essential and important. Entire reformatory theory is depended upon this principle. The social worker involvement with the criminal justice system can began at the time of arrest and terminates at the person release and end with the follow up would be made when the offender returned to his family and in the society. To give the professional approach to correctional setting government may appoint professional social workers in all Observation home, juvenile home for boys/girls, state home for women, fit persons institutions and prisons and open-air prisons etc. child welfare committee juvenile justice bureau, Courts and police stations.

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