

Study on the Correctional Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency and Social Work Intervention Mechanisms in China

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Abstract: Based on specific analyses of cases of juvenile delinquency, it is found that the reasons why minors commit criminal acts are to a large extent related to their own special psychology, and that correcting minors for their special psychology and guiding them towards a healthier, more positive direction is of significant value to the effective education of juvenile delinquents. At the present stage of analysis, crime correction is no longer the exclusive responsibility of judicial personnel, but social workers and volunteers can also actively join in, and their participation will make the actual effect of juvenile crime correction significantly better. The article analyses the corrective treatment of juvenile delinquency and the involvement of social work, with the aim of better preventing juvenile delinquency in the future and enabling them to embark on the right path in life.

Keywords: Correction of juvenile delinquency; social work; pathways.

1. Introduction

Information on crimes committed by minors is commonplace in news reports. As far as the analysis of the current information is concerned, juvenile delinquency has become a problem that needs to be focused on in China's judicial practice. On the one hand, the law on the protection of minors provides minors with legal protection, but the legal protection has become an important reliance on which they can escape from committing crimes. On the other hand, juvenile delinquency has triggered a general discussion among the public, which has given rise to the remarks on the fairness and impartiality of the legislation [1]. Out of the consideration of fairness and justice of legislation and the impact of juvenile delinquency, China's judicial institutions and relevant departments are actively improving the law. In fact, analysed from the perspective of juvenile education, many juvenile crimes are closely related to their psychological problems, and to correct juvenile crimes based on special psychology requires scientific knowledge and correct methods. Social workers and social volunteers come from different fields, and they have outstanding value in the corrective treatment of juvenile delinquency, emphasising the significance of the intervention of these people in improving the effect of the corrective treatment of juvenile delinquency.[1]

2. Current Situation of Juvenile Delinquency

Understanding the current situation of juvenile delinquency is of outstanding practical value for thinking about and constructing crime prevention mechanisms and systems. As far as relevant data are concerned, in the 1990s, the number of juvenile offenders in China basically remained at 30,000-40,000 per year, but after entering the 21st century, the number of juvenile offenders in the whole country has

risen significantly. In recent years, the number of juvenile offenders has risen exponentially compared to the beginning of the 21st century, and in terms of offences, juvenile offenders are committing even more serious crimes, with a more prominent social impact. Based on this situation, the national judicial institutions should actively introduce relevant countermeasures, in order to effectively prevent and control juvenile delinquency. Minors' physiology and psychology are maturing, and they have the ability to distinguish between right and wrong, but in the complicated social environment, minors are easily influenced by the bad social atmosphere, so they become the target of unlawful elements and eventually become criminals. Summarising the current cases of juvenile delinquency, it is found that the causes of juvenile delinquency are diversified, such as family, school and social reasons will induce them to go astray. After summing up, it is found that the social factors have the greatest influence on juvenile delinquency, mainly due to the deviation of juveniles in the process of socialisation. [2]For this reason, minors who have already committed a crime or who have a tendency to commit a crime should be educated as the main focus, with penalties as a supplement. An analysis of the correctional work for juvenile delinquents based on the relevant provisions of the Criminal Law shows that the main institutions that carry out correctional work are the courts, prisons, correctional institutions, work study schools and so on, and that the correctional work carried out by these institutions is essentially custodial education. Under the environment of continuous social development, based on the unique physiological and psychological problems of minors, new and scientific correctional methods are needed in the process of correctional treatment. As far as correctional work is concerned, it is no longer the exclusive preserve of the judiciary, with the addition of social workers and volunteers. At present, correctional work for juvenile delinquency is recognised and valued by all sectors of society, and with the involvement of social work, the effectiveness of correctional

work has been significantly enhanced, which has outstanding practical value for the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency.

3. Social Work Intervention in The Correction of Juvenile Delinquency

Social work intervention in the correction of juvenile delinquency is of positive significance to the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency. The concept of correctional treatment is originally a medical term, which refers to orthopaedic treatment, i.e. to help the deformed part of the human body to restore the normal function and form by means of surgery or medication, so as to effectively improve the quality of life of the patients. Based on the understanding of correctional treatment in the judicial field, it specifically refers to the education and reform carried out by the penal enforcement agency for the sentenced person in the process of execution, that is to say, through education and reform to help criminals change their psychological structure and behavioural style, so as to achieve the purpose of reshaping their personality and make them better adapt to the society. [3] In the practice of correctional treatment of juvenile offenders, the involvement of social work is of outstanding practical value, and clarifying the ways and means of social work intervention is of outstanding guiding significance for the concrete implementation of correctional treatment.

3.1. Social work intervention in criminal trials

In the trial of juvenile delinquency cases, the courts attach great importance to the investigation reports submitted by social workers on the victims. As far as the investigation report is concerned, it is mainly prepared by the social worker through research into the case, his family and the surrounding social contacts, and its main contents include the case's personal social background, personality traits, and the causes and nature of the criminal behaviour, among other things. As far as the social worker's investigation report is concerned, its purpose is not to defend the defendant's innocence, as lawyers do, but to provide more detailed information on the basis of the admission of the crime, so as to provide reference for the court's judgement. By interpreting the report, the court is able to make a judgement more conducive to the rehabilitation of the suspect. In the current judicial practice, because the investigation report about the owner of the case is positively helpful to the individualisation of sentencing, and can better reflect the role of punishment in special prevention, so in the process of juvenile delinquency correction, emphasising the social work intervention in the field of criminal trial is of outstanding value. [4]

3.2. Social work intervention in the field of judicial correction

As far as the correction of juvenile delinquency is concerned, social work can also effectively intervene in the field of judicial correction. Based on the difference of intervention subjects, the intervention methods need to be elaborated separately. Firstly, it is the intervention method in social encounter. The so-called social treatment is also called community treatment or out-of-facility treatment, which refers to the community-based measures for correcting crimes. There are three main ways for social work to intervene in social treatment: 1) Accepting employment by judicial authorities. Social workers can be employed by the judicial

authorities as probation or parole guards to provide corrective treatment to offenders in the process of guarding; 2) providing residential training opportunities for juvenile offenders; and 3) assisting in the implementation of community corrections or community servitude. In short, social workers have a certain degree of professionalism, and their role in correctional practice is very significant. Secondly, there is the method of intervention in prison sentences. Social workers can provide services to underage prisoners who are serving their prison sentences. From a realistic point of view, the underage prisoners have to enter the society to work or study again after serving the sentence, but because of the influence of the prison environment and the influence of their own psychological factors, a lot of underage prisoners can not adapt to enter the society after serving the sentence, so they will continue to commit crimes. In order to provide good corrective treatment for juvenile offenders, social workers can provide psychological services for juvenile offenders, on the one hand, by observing, analysing and diagnosing the psychological characteristics of juvenile offenders and the need for corrective treatment, and on the other hand, by providing suggestions for the relevant work in prisons, in this way, the effect of corrective treatment for juvenile offenders will be more outstanding. [5]

3.3. Social work methods in the field of security management

The main ways in which social workers intervene in the treatment of juvenile offenders based on the field of security management are: 1) Providing accommodation. Some juvenile offenders will not be accepted by their families for the time being, and there are also some homeless juvenile offenders, social workers can provide accommodation for these people and supervise and counsel them in the process of accommodation. 2) Provide counselling on employment and schooling. After serving their sentences, juvenile offenders need to re-study or join the social work, social workers provide employment and schooling counselling to juvenile offenders, so that they can integrate into normal social life more quickly, which is of outstanding significance to the correctional treatment of crime. 3) Provide medical insurance services and life counselling. 4) Provide material assistance. Most of the underage offenders will have material shortage at the end of their sentence, and assistance to them can help them to live better. 5) Provide behavioural discipline and guidance. After serving their sentences, the behaviour of juvenile offenders will improve, but they are still on the verge of committing crimes and are dangerous. Social workers provide behavioural constraints and guidance to them, which is of positive significance for crime prevention. To sum up, juvenile delinquency is relatively common in the current stage of social practice, and juvenile delinquency is on a high trend in our country, which not only has a great impact on the stability of social security, but also has a not insignificant negative effect on the future sustainable development. Summarising the current situation of juvenile delinquency, studying the specific methods and approaches of social work intervention in juvenile delinquency correction, helping to enhance the effect of juvenile delinquency correction, which has outstanding practical value for crime prevention and control.

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