Social Treatment of Offenders
In Correctional Setting

V. V. Devasia *

Social Work is an emerging fast developing profession. Its focus is on the interactions between individuals and systems in the social situation. Individuals are dependent on systems for help in obtaining material or emotional resources and services and opportunities they require to actualize their aspirations and to help them cope with their life tasks.

It has been asked by many whether principles of social work are applicable in correctional settings. The answer is in the affirmative. So, different methods of social work, like case work and group work are applicable in correctional institutions, probation and parole. There are restrictions which the correctional settings imposes upon the delinquent or criminal. Yet, if the correctional experience is to be useful one and social worker’s service a genuine helping, these limitations must be easily dealt with. Therefore, social work principles, based upon an understanding of the dynamics of the helping process, hold great promise for useful service in correctional settings.

Values and Characteristics of Social Treatment

According to the Social Work Curriculum study1 “Social Work seeks to enhance the social functioning of individuals, 

---

* Lecturer, Post-Graduate Department of Criminology and Correctional Administration, M.S.S. Institute of Social Work, Bajaj Nagar, Nagpur-440010.

The author is thankful to Prof. J. J. Panakal, Head, Department of Criminology and Correctional Administration, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay-400088 for his valuable comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

singly and in groups, by activities focussed upon their social relationships which constitute the interaction between man and his environment. The activities can be grouped into three functions: restoration of impaired capacity, provision of individual and social resources, and prevention of social dysfunction.” Hence, social work is a discipline, which takes remedial action on problems in several areas of society. It helps families in economic or emotional difficulty. It works in medical and school situations. It seeks to correct the causes underlying delinquency and crime. The three functions of social work, restoration of impaired capacity, provision of individual and social resources and prevention of social dysfunction, are intertwined and interdependent.

Restoration can be curative or rehabilitative. Its curative aspects are to eliminate factors which have caused breakdown of functioning, and its rehabilitative aspects to organize and rebuild interactional patterns.

Provision of resources can be developmental and educational. The developmental aspects are designed to further the effectiveness of existing social resources or to bring to full use of personal abilities for more effective social interaction. The educational aspect is structured to make familiar the public with specific conditions and needs for new or changing social resources.

Prevention of social dysfunction, involves early discovery control, and elimination of conditions and situations which potentially could hamper effective social functioning. The two main divisions of prevention of social dysfunction are prevention of problems in the area of interaction between individuals and groups and second the prevention of social ills.

The underlying assumptions of social work according to Boehm are:

“1. Social Work like all other professions has problem solving functions.

2. Id., pp. 41-42.
2. Social Work practice is an art with a scientific and value foundation.

3. Social Work as a profession came into being and continue to develop because it meets human needs and aspirations recognized by society. Hence, it assumes some of the socialization and control functions of society.

4. Social work practice takes its values from those held by the society of which it is a part. However, its values are not necessarily or altogether those universally or predominantly held or practiced in society.

5. The scientific base of social work consists of three types of knowledge: (a) tested knowledge: (b) hypothetical knowledge that requires transformation into tested knowledge, and (c) assumptive knowledge (or “practice wisdom”) that requires transformation into hypothetical and thence into tested knowledge. The practitioner uses all three types of knowledge, and carries a professional responsibility for knowing at any time which type of knowledge he is using and what degree of scientific certainly attaches to it.

6. The knowledge needed for social work practice is determined by its goals and functions and the problems it seeks to solve.

7. The internalization of professional knowledge and values is a vital characteristic of the professional social worker since he is himself the instrument of professional help.

8. Professional skill is expressed in the activities of the social worker. It constitutes his artistic creation resulting from three internal processes: first, conscious selection of knowledge pertinent to the professional task at hand; second, fusion of this knowledge with social work values; and third, the expression of this synthesis in professionally relevant activity.”

These assumptions constitute commitment for the social worker. It also means that the functions assigned to social work
by society represent a two-fold responsibility. The first is to determine the professional activities through which it seeks to reach its socially approved goals and modify them as necessary in the light of changing social needs. The second is to exercise discipline and control over practice that would keep its professional accountability. A problem developed in the area of social interaction whether raised as a problem by the individual or by a group in the community, calls for the professional services of the social worker.

Social work not only helps individuals, groups and community to solve problems, but also assists them to prevent problems and enrich daily living. So, the main focus of the social worker is upon helping people to improve their social functioning. The social worker usually works with clients on a conscious level, helping them to face realities and solve problems without searching into the realm of the unconscious.

Social work is an art because it requires great skills to understand people and to help them to help themselves. It is a science because if its problem-solving method and its attempt to be objective in determining facts and in developing principles and operational concepts. It is a profession because it encompasses the attributes of a profession.

Social work values are basically the values of democratic societies which are mainly the worth of the individual, the inherent dignity of the human person, society's responsibility for contributing to the common good etc. For the National Association of social workers the following six values are listed basic to the practice of social work: “1) The individual is the primary concern of this society (2) There is interdependence between individuals in this society (3) They have social responsibility for one another (4) There are human needs common to each person, yet each person is essentially unique and different from others (5) An essential attribute of a democratic society is the realization of the full potential of each individual

and the assumption of his social responsibility through active participation in society (6) Society has a responsibility to provide ways in which obstacles to this self-realization can be overcome or prevented." These values are verifiable observations. When values are focused on as ultimate assumptions about man and what is desirable for him, it becomes obvious that relatively few basic values exist. So the primary values of social work according to Gordon⁴ are:

(1) Society has an obligation to ensure that people have access to the resources, services, and opportunities they need to meet various life tasks, alleviate, distress, and realize their aspirations and values.

(2) In providing societal resources, the dignity and individuality of people should be respected. All other values in social work originate from the primary values and contribute to the achievements of goals based on the primary values. The values dictate ways in which the worker should interact with others in carrying out his professional activities so as to actualize the primary values.

Knowledge of social work may be enhanced by consideration of some of its distinguishing characteristics. Social work stresses the total person in the total environment. Its emphasis is on the importance of the family in moulding and influencing behaviour. Utilization of Community resources in helping people to solve problem is another important dimension.

Social work uses six basic methods. Among them Case work, Group work and Community organization are important. Case Work involves a close face-to-face relationship, mainly on an individual basis in working with people and their problems. Group work utilizes the group as the tool to bring about desired changes in social functioning with troubled persons. Community organization is the intergroup approach toward facing and solving social problems.

The worker-client relationship is the key in the social work process. The social worker attempts to make it possible for the client to face and solve his problems through this warm, accepting and understanding relationship.

In Social work, four fundamental activities can be distinguished: assessing the problem, planning for solution of the problem, implementing the plan and evaluating the outcome. Assessment of the problem requires various evaluative steps, logically consecutive, but in practice synchronized. In the light of this assessment, a plan of action must be structured. Implementing the plan involves rendering all the specific and interrelated services appropriate to the given problem situation in the light of the assessment and planning. Finally evaluation determines the effectiveness of service in the light of the expected outcome formulated as part of the planning activity.

CORRECTIONS AS A SOCIAL WORK PROCESS

For Studt⁶ “Corrections in a social process by which modern society deals with officially identified law breakers.” So, corrections is a part of social control. The correctional agency tries to rehabilitate or neutralize delinquent or criminal behaviour of adolescents or adults through corrections. Corrections function with social and legal authority after the criminal court has held an adult to be guilty of violation of law, or when the Juvenile Court acts in an youngster’s interests after a referral has been made alleging a delinquent act.

As delinquents and criminals were sentenced to institutions and were placed on probation and parole, various professional agencies became interested in making these efforts as effective as possible and social work is one of these.

The present day correctional system emerged from social work, in the last century, as the result of major modifications in the penalty system. Death, mutilation and banishment were

the primary penalties for lawbreaking before 19th century.\textsuperscript{7} The administration of these punishments needed only the hangman and the warden of the prison as personnel where criminals and delinquents were held for trial and execution. In the beginning of last century, due to the writings of Rousseau, Bentham and other writers human life received more dignity and respect and substitution of varying periods of restricted supervised status in the penalty system for execution gradually emerged. At the same time social work as a profession was growing fast and an important area of focus involved the delinquent and the criminal. The Curriculum study\textsuperscript{8} emphasizes the point as follows: "The modification of the penalty system did more than require a different kind of administrative structure and personnel. It made possible the idea of treatment. With the increasing knowledge about the dynamics of human behaviour and how it is modified, which has become available in the 20th century, it has become possible to give attention to the rehabilitation of the offender. Hence, corrections as a social work process has understood as the administration of the penalty in such a way that the offender is "corrected." It means the criminal's or delinquent's present behaviour is controlled and his general life adjustment is modified. So the correctional task requires both control over the behaviour of the delinquent or criminal during the period of his penalty, and services designed to help him achieve socially acceptable mode of participation in the community.

The goal of social work in corrections is reformation and rehabilitation of the offender. It means to help delinquents and criminals to understand themselves, their relationship with others, and what is expected of them as members of the community in which they live.

\textbf{Correctional settings and Task of Social Worker}

To deal with officially identified delinquents and criminals, every democratic society has created a system of correctional

\textsuperscript{7} \textit{Ibid.}

\textsuperscript{8} \textit{Id.}, p. 7.
agencies. These agencies have been given the task of administering the penalties assigned to delinquents and criminals. These agencies are expected to protect the community during the offender’s period of supervised status by controlling his behaviour. Furthermore they are expected to help the offender so that he can return to normal status better able to be a constructive member of the community.

Correctional institutions and Community corrections, which are Probation and Parole, are the two main agencies in the correctional system. Different kinds of institutions are as follow:

1. Prisons
2. Borstal schools
3. Certified, Special, Approved school
4. Remand, Observation Homes
5. Beggar Homes
6. Reception Centres, Protective Homes
7. State Homes, Probation Hostels

The nature of the penalties which these agencies administer is essential that of a handicapped personnel and social status. This period of down-graded status is spent under supervision either in an institution or in the community under the guidance of a correctional personnel. The handicaps inherent in this status include: (1) Loss of certain Civil rights such as voting, right to enter into certain contracts, etc. (2) Loss of liberty (3) Restrictions on mobility (4) Restrictions on privacy: i.e., the offender must keep in contact with the supervising officer and must discuss most aspects of his basic social adjustment.

In Correctional agencies social workers may be known by such titles as classification officer, treatment worker, case worker, group worker, diagnostic clinic worker, house master, etc. Among these in the social treatment point of view, case worker and group worker stand prominently. It is characteristic of the social work task in the correctional setting that the worker may need to engage the administration in identifying needed services
and in reformulating job descriptions so that the correctional setting may benefit from a fuller use of social work skills.

Social Workers' specific tasks in corrections are condensed by the Curriculum study as follows:

1. Act as the Officer of the court or other quasi-judicial body to investigate and report on the offender his social situation, contributing the results of such social studies in an appropriate and meaningful way to the making of legal decisions.

2. Supervise the client's social activities in such a way that:

Violations of the conditions of his status and his success in meeting conditions are perceived and can be reported.

The general control plan provided in the status is individualized according to the client's need for constructive social control.

Controls are provided by the worker in such a way that the client is supported in viably conforming behaviour and inner growth toward self-control is stimulated.

3. Help the involuntary client to:

Handle the stress produced by the law enforcement and correctional process constructively.

Become motivated to ask for and use help in problem solving.

Modify his behaviour in the direction of increasingly viable conformity with social expectations.

4. As the formal authority person in the client's life, work with other authorities associated with the client (parents, teachers, employers, social agencies, institutional personnel) in such a way that:

The problems of these authorities with the client are alleviated.

The activities of the authorities support the clients' efforts toward satisfactory behaviour.

The client is more soundly linked with the resources of his groups and his community.

5. Administer a caseload or groupload in such a way that:

The worker's decisions are appropriate and responsible.

The decisions of other personnel in the administration of criminal justice are respected, implemented, and appropriately influenced by the social worker's knowledge.

The necessities of legal and administrative deadlines are observed.

The emergencies in the lives of clients are met with full attention to their significance for change.

6. Enact a role in a multidiscipline agency involving shared decisions and teamwork obligations in partnership with:

Personnel from other professions

Personnel in the same role as his but with other educational backgrounds.

Personnel with sub-professional assignments and backgrounds.

Personnel from other agencies in the administration of criminal justice.

Personnel in other agencies who have served the client or will in the future.

7. Take a responsible part in the social change of his agency and in the development of the field of service to which his agency belongs, contributing from his professional knowledge and experience to the determination of policy.

8. Contribute to the developing professional knowledge of social work in corrections.
The Social worker helps the offender to change his offending behaviour, therefore he can relate constructively to others and becomes socially acceptable. This is done through working with the individual to help him to change through better understanding of himself and by tapping his own strengths and resources; and through modification of his environment to bring about a more healthy social climate in which he has to live. The worker encourages the offender to talk about his problems, to feel about them, and to come to an insightful understanding of himself, accompanied by socially constructive behaviour.

According to Curriculum study\(^\text{10}\) the tasks of the social worker in corrections include four particular aspects (1) Investigation and surveillance for the purpose of securing information about the client’s failures or success in meeting the obligations of his legal status. (2) The use of controls to modify client behaviour (3) Acting as a legal authority in the client’s life with responsibility for value change. (4) Correctional decision making. Working with offenders, all these are important especially helping them to adjust better to society. The Correctional social worker’s most important task is to change the values and behaviour of the offenders so that they become agreeing in action with the values of the particular community. Therefore social worker’s aim is to help the offender, not to punish him. The goal is to utilize the knowledge and skills of the profession in corrective manner, to rehabilitate the offender, to help him to help himself, so that he can return to and become a part of his society and to lead a constructive life.

The professional worker who would be effective in work with delinquents and criminals in the correctional caseload will require:

“Knowledge of:

Delinquent and criminal behaviour as one form of deviance; The Psychological and social strains which in various constellations press individuals toward such behaviour;

\(^{10}\) Id., p. 15.
The body of techniques which is learned by the offender in order to commit offences and to protect himself in dealings with community authorities;

The diagnostic approaches now in use and the problems inherent in applying them to the correctional caseload.

Skills in:

Identifying the social as well as psychological strains effective in the causation of offending behaviour;

Modifying the offender’s environment so that strains toward conformity are substituted for those which press toward criminal deviance.

Attitudes of:

Acceptance of delinquent and criminal deviants without condoning anti-social behaviour;

Scientific interest in the contributions of social structure to causation and treatment as well as in psychological determinants;

Readiness to work experimentally and without undue discouragement in a field where present knowledge is limited, prognosis is uncertain, and failures frequent.”

These knowledge, skills and attitudes help the professional social worker to deal more effectively with the offender, i.e. for the reformation and rehabilitation of the offender.

Next is the specific functions of the correctional social worker. He helps to strengthen motivation of delinquents and criminals. Though talking with them sympathetically and understandably, the social worker aids them. The correctional social worker allows the offenders to ventilate their feelings. Most offenders need to share with someone, in confidence, their inner feelings, their fears and frustrations, as well as their hopes and aspirations. In correctional settings the social worker provides

11. Ibid.
a safe emotional climate in which offenders can express and verbalize them.

The social worker provides needed information to the offenders in correctional settings. By giving information probation officer can help offenders to make decisions. The probation officer do not make decisions for the probationers, but he helps them to consider rationally, their problems and the alternatives which face them.

By defining situations and problems the social worker helps the offender. He assists the offender not only in thinking about a problem, but also in feeling about the situation. The social worker also assists the offender in modifying his environment. With his knowledge of community resources, the social worker is able to help the offender and his family to tap different kinds of financial and social resources to meet their needs.

Reorganizing behaviour patterns of the offender is an important function of the correctional social worker. This includes helps for sexual deviants, chronic alcoholics and drug addicts and those who have deep personality problems.

Facilitating referral is another important function of the correctional social worker. Referral may be made to a clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, school teacher, physician, or other professionale who may help the offender with a particular problem. The social worker’s comprehensive knowledge of the community resources is used to advantage in making referrals.

SOCIAL CASE WORK IN CORRECTIONS

In correctional settings improvement of social functioning is achieved by means of mobilizing the capacities within the offender. The mobilization of inner capacities and environmental resources is accomplished primarily through the relationship between the caseworker and the client. The relationship which is established during the period of treatment process enables the client to work toward a constructive solution of his problems.

Social case work is an art in which knowledge of the science of human relations and skill in relationship are used to
mobilize capacities in the individual and resources in the community appropriate for better adjustment between the client and all or any part of his total environments. So casework is the process of dealing with the individual case. It is concerned with the individual in relation to his social environment and aims at his successful adjustment.

A professional casework relationship is one that enables the client to express facts, attitudes and feelings with a guarantee that the worker's response will be geared to the client's needs, not to the worker's need. The case worker is responsible for facilitating communication both verbal and non-verbal, without which no relationship can be established and developed. This relationship is connected with the treatment process.

The two types of casework treatment currently used in correctional settings are the supportive treatment method and the modifying treatment method. The former requires the use of a number of techniques that help the client to improve his functioning within the framework of his established ego mechanisms of defence. The latter requires the use of different techniques that help the client to improve his functioning through modification of selected ego mechanisms of defence. The outward form of the client's behaviour and selected internal process are modified.

In correctional institutions case worker keeps the relationship a realistic one, using the possible elements in the relationship to motivate and influence the client toward a maximal solution of his problems. Thus in the correctional settings, the caseworker's activity in respect to motivation is directed toward reducing the strength of factors inhibiting the client's use of help, toward identifying and utilizing the constructive motivating forces that the client has already developed. This is for purpose of adaption and mastery and toward offering opportunities that may induce constructive motivation where it does not exist.

In correctional settings the social case worker attempts to establish a relationship which, over a period of time, frees the individual to express his feelings, muster his ego strength, change his anti-social values and become law-abiding citizen. Thus re-
Relationship is the core of social case worker's contribution along with the use of community resources. It means the case worker accepts the client, understands and respects him. The client gradually develops feelings toward the caseworker, and shares his ideas, emotions, and worries. Then, through a bond of warmth and support, changes are effected. The case worker is non-judgemental, sensitive to the needs of the offender, and conveys a feeling of respect for the integrity and individuality of the offender regardless of his criminal conduct.

According to Pray the helping process depends "upon a relationship between worker and client within which the client may if he is able and willing, ask, receive, and use help in clarifying his own wants and purposes, in relation to the resources available to him, and in mustering his own powers to achieve his chosen ends." In many instances the offender is likely to express his needs about concrete situations such as the way he left things at home, or the job he left behind, or some detail of institutional life such as change of work assignments, or living quarters, or a suspected discrimination against him in privileges. "The basis of the client's complaints may be real and may furnish a specific issue upon which the caseworker and the inmate can work together." But case-work with offenders is not primarily concerned with the individual offender as a separate entity apart from his surroundings. Nor is case work primarily concerned with the social environment and its improvement. Casework, however, has a general interest in both the offender and the environment, since its goal is to find a means of adjustment and an equilibrium between the two. For the successful accomplishment of this task, the caseworker must understand the offender, his capacities and abnormalities and he must know the social situation, its resources and dangers. Furthermore his knowledge must be broad enough to go beyond the offender involved and embrace the scientific principles which lie back of

personality development, behaviour, and the social forces which govern family and community.

Robinson gives five basic assumptions underlying casework which are applicable in helping the offender: "1. Every individual must be seen as a person of dignity and worth; 2. behaviour whether acceptable or unacceptable to the community, expresses a need of the individual; (3) an individual can and will change his behaviour if the right help is given at the right time and in the right amount; (4) if the offer of help is given before the problem becomes seriously aggravated the response is likely to be better; and (5) the family is the most influential force in the development of personality in the crucial early years." The emphasis in casework varies from case to case, since the cause of maladjustment may lie primarily with the individual, or with the environment, or in some combination of these personal and social factors. The casework may be directed at strengthening the personality, in order to increase the capacity and understanding the offender. This is true, for instance, in the case of those who suffer from nervous and emotional disorders, from frustrations and conflicts, which prevent successful adjustment in any situation. In other cases, the emphasis may be directed at a change or enrichment of the environment, to eliminate harmful conditions and make use of helpful resources. This is true, for example, in the case of children who live under conditions in delinquency area where adjustment is difficult for even the most normal type of personality.

In attaining both immediate and ultimate goals three fundamental process are seen interplay at every point: the use of the resources; assisting the offender to understand his needs and possibilities; and helping him to develop the ability to work out his own social programme through the use of available resources. Therefore casework is a joint action in which both the caseworker and the offender take part and in which they develop a definite relationship.

In correctional settings case work has been in use over a considerable period of time, especially in relation to probation. In other correctional settings, especially in institutions not only is casework a later development, but it is very difficult to apply.
The prison or Borstal school programme is one of mass treatment and often casework is neglected.

**Social Group Work in Correctional Settings**

Group work with delinquents and criminals is often seen both as a powerful technique for modifying behaviour and attitudes. Although demanding and sometimes complex, group work is based on some rather simple and well supported observations about how people grow and interact. According to the Curriculum Study "Social group work is a method of rendering service to persons, through providing experience in groups. Development of the person towards his individual potential, improvement of relationship and social functioning competencies, and social action are recognized as purposes of social group work. The worker functions within a framework of ethical and social values." In social group work, the worker helps members and group to use their abilities and strengths. The worker uses himself in different ways in relation with specific objectives. The group member and the group are inextricably interrelated and the condition of each is bound to affect the other.

There can be three main reasons for the use of the group in treatment of the delinquent and the criminal. First, the dynamics of the offender himself. Second, the specific correctional setting in which he finds himself. Thirdly, the specific purpose for which society has put him into correctional setting.

There is a phenomenon appearing in the delinquent which shows that one of his outstanding identification as well as support is the group. This phenomenon is certainly closely related to the age of most of the delinquents, since all adolescents seek their status far more in the group of contemporaries than through closeness with adults. The use of the group work method becomes, therefore, essential because the delinquent can often not

be reached otherwise. He must be approached on his own ground with the security of the surrounding other delinquents. The purpose and goals of the group related to this understanding are many. (1) The strengthening of the security of the individual in the framework of the group so that he does not feel alone and helpless, but also moves towards not being wholly dependent on it.

2. The strengthening of the individual’s independence by helping him to actually participate in group discussions, not to submit to a gang leader or a powerful sub group.

3. The introduction of an adult who represents the values of a society they often reject, but who, because of his accepting attitude represents adult security and love. The delinquent can meet this adult in a group while still feeling the support of his contemporaries and relating in different degree of intensity. The opportunity of gaining satisfaction in the need for adventure and experimentation in ways that are accepted by society.

5. An opportunity to gain inner resilience and status with the group through accomplishment in activities accepted by society.

In group work in correctional settings, the programme media should be varied. The group members must allow for outlet of hostility, and yet not reduce the group unacceptable behaviour. Programme should allow, at times for the individual need of withdrawal by letting a group member do something for himself without feeling guilty that he does not participate, but help him feel accepted by presence in the group.

Besides the help with outlet of feelings, a programme should include the opportunity for real achievement. It should strike a balance between more individual and more co-operative projects, according to the readiness of the group members. It must also allow for pure enjoyment and aesthetic satisfaction. In these days the use of the group as a tool in correctional work has been recognized more and more. For Stefen “The guided group interaction technique can serve as a sort of spear-head around which many activities in an effort to get at the inner life of the person.”
SOCIAL WORKERS IN POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND COURTS

In certain European countries, United States of America and in Japan professional social workers work with the Police especially in their youth bureau. Social workers help police to understand properly the delinquents whom they apprehend. They also help the police to develop a rehabilitative attitude rather than a punitive one.

Social workers play a major role with the police in trying to prevent delinquency and crime. Professional social workers generally believe in preventive aspect of delinquency and crime. The rationale behind this is that if more time and talent can be put into anti-social behaviour in the first place, society, as well as individuals and families will be much better off. With the help of the social worker, police work with delinquents in recreational activities and clubs to prevent delinquency and crime.

Professional social workers are attached to juvenile courts, performing the role of probation officers. They have various functions in the juvenile court. Conducting investigations to find out the facts in a violation of law is an important function. A social worker can generally be objective and can secure a picture of the total situation that is helpful to the court.

In Juvenile courts, the magistrate makes decisions based on the report submitted by the probation officer. Investigations are usually related to the delinquents but most often involve the family close relatives and other key persons in the lives of the accused.

Another important function of the social worker is to represent the court after the magistrate has made the decision. Probation involves regular interviews and contacts between the probation officer, who is the social worker and the offender. The social worker tries to use his knowledge and skills to help bring about desired changes and modifications in the behaviour of the offender who is in probation.

Conclusion

Juvenile delinquency and crime are major problems of modern society. Social work has an important role to play in the control, correction and prevention of delinquency and crime. Social work attempts to help the individual, his family and the community to face and solve delinquency and crime through utilization of individual, family and community resources.

Case work, group work, and Community organization are the basic process utilized by the social worker in correctional settings. The correctional social worker is given authority in order to change the ways offenders (clients) express values in action. All social workers work with offenders in terms of values. More than any other function, the correctional social worker’s task is defined in terms of changing values of the delinquent or criminal so that they become suitable in action with the values of the society.

The social worker helps police departments, courts, probation institutions, parole and prevention. Therefore, professional social work in correctional settings is a comprehensive constructive social attitude — therapeutic in some instances, restraining in some other instances, but preventive in its total social impact.