



4th International Conference on Theory and Practice (ICTP -2018), Adelaide, South Australia

ISBN:978-0-6481172-5-4

Asia Pacific Institute of Advanced Research (APIAR)

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## **SOCIAL WORK IN A CORRECTIONAL SETTING IN INDIA**

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### **Abstract**

Social work emerged as a 'profession' in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and to day is the profession motivated with fulfilling the social welfare mandate of promoting well being and quality of life especially for the disadvantaged which is also highlighted in the recent definition of social work (2014) i.e. "Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing". Operationally in India, the Correctional setting under Criminal Justice System is a combination of four major sub-systems i.e. police, prosecution, judiciary and the correctional services. Each sub-system is expected not only to play its own statutory role to contribute towards the achievement of the main objectives of the Criminal Justice system as a whole, but also to strengthen each other's role in a strenuous manner. But the ground reality shows that each of these sub-systems usually tend to function as a system of its own and, many a time, works at cross purposes with the other segments of the Criminal Justice System. India's criminal justice system has not been able to deliver on what is anticipated of it and is, in fact, under mammoth A because of the problems in all the components law enforcement, adjudication and correction and, therefore, the need for reforms is the question of the hour.

Therefore, social workers play prominent roles in administrative and practice positions in correctional setting with all the law enforcing agencies to prevent this kind of social problem so that it does not have future implication in the society and also to provide and secure social justice. The article will focus on the correctional setting under criminal justice system in India, its objectives, components, loopholes and probable social work's roles to perform today.

**Keywords:** Correctional Setting, Social Work, Criminal Justice System, Social Work and Law Enforcement, Social Worker's Intervention Cycle

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