TILAK MAHARASHTRA VIDYAPEETH, PUNE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

A brief report
on
Field Work efforts in correctional setting at Yerawada Central Prison, Pune
Academic year 2013-14
Duration: August 2013-October 2013

Male Cell
Name of the Trainee Social Workers
Mr. Lomate Abhijeet
Mr. Pagi Janu

Female Cell
Name of the Trainee Social Worker
Ms. Paygude Bhagyashri
Ms. Waringe Varsha

Faculty Supervisors
Asst. Prof. Kartiki Subakade
Asst. Prof. Ketaki Gokhale

Head of the Department
Asst. Prof. Prakash Yadav
FIELD WORK REPORT

Introduction about Vidyapeeth:

The Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth is been in the field of education since 1921. The Vidyapeeth was awarded ‘Deemed to be University’ status in 1987. Presently there are faculties namely Sanskrit, Ayurveda, Social Sciences, Distance Education, Engineering, Management, Computer Application, etc. The Department of Social Work was established in 2005-06 and conducts BSW and MSW courses in both regular and Distance mode.

Introduction about Department:

We at the Department of Social Work are constantly striving to provide our students with as much field exposure as theoretical inputs through orientation visits, field-work placements, rural camps, study tours; in qualitative terms, given the nature of the field. As part of the curriculum, for the first year students, the Summer Field Placement Training in various orientation visits to various govt./semi-govt./non-govt. organisations is hereby being carried out. Such a learning exposure will go a long way in not just building the perspective of the students, but also in giving them a fair idea of the nature and extent of developmental work being carried out, in various sectors within the field.

Department of Social Work has been placed 4 trainee social workers in the academic year 2013-14 for their field work placement both in male and female cell at Yerawada Central Jail. In the morning session trainee social workers are working in close jail and in afternoon they are handling the cases of prisoners of open jail.

Objectives of Field Work:

1. To study prison administration.
2. To understand the background of the prisoners.
3. To gather the primary information about the problems of prisoners.
4. To carry out counseling sessions for prisoners (as per requirement).
5. To implement various awareness activities for prisoners as well as jail staff.
6. To do rehabilitative work for family members of the prisoners’.

Work done:

Male Cell:

1. Trainee social worker has taken information about the various sections like *Buddha Barak*, adolescent department etc. and various facilities provided by like library, hospital, parole to mention a few.
2. Trainee social worker prepared a questionnaire (tool of data collection) for ‘Economical Status of Prisoners’ and their Families of Yerawada Central Jail, Pune’ and also collected data from prisoners.

3. Trainee social worker has conducted the group activity on ‘value education’ for the adolescent prisoners of under trial department. The main aim behind the activity was to re-introduce some moral values in a new way and encourage them towards positive honest life. Nearby 20 adolescent prisoners were present for this group activity. In this session, the activity based discussion was carried out on the subjects like gender equality, national integrity and personality development.

4. With the rehabilitation purpose, three cases from open jail were undertaken by trainee social worker for case work. Home visits (a tool of case work method) were conducted to provide assistance such as providing educational material, accessing medical facility for the family members of the same cases and trainee social worker has also supported one of the prisoners by rendering library books facility for his Ph.D. work. The cases are still in continuation.

Female Cell
1. Trainee social worker has taken information about the various sections of female cell.
2. The trainee social worker has conducted group sessions on ‘Manache Shloka and its importance in life’ by the purpose to get peace of mind for the female prisoners. Around 30 female prisoners were present for sessions. Total ten sessions were conducted.
3. The efforts were taken to conduct the literacy classes for female prisoners through the use of effective teaching aids.

Students’ learning:
1. Prison set up, being a sensitive correctional setting, trainee social worker under the guidance of faculty supervisor as well as agency supervisor tried to interact with different administrative staff in order to get clear understanding of setting since student social worker considered to practice theories of social work within a set up.
2. In order to bring behavioural changes in prisoner, acceptance of crime and feeling of guiltiness should be necessary to create in his/her mind. And for making rehabilitation of prisoners the focus should be given on: a) employment opportunities, b) education, c) referral services.
3. Yerawada Central Jail noted as high security jail. This is the largest jail in Maharashtra and one of the largest prisons in South Asia.
4. In order to deal with prisoners of various categories with the help of any administrative staff accompanying student social worker and observed that prisoners when newly admitted to prison it finds difficult to adjust with prison atmosphere.
5. During the first term field work placement, most of the time it was festive season where student social worker that is why able to observe responses to festive occasions in jail set up by prisoners since festival brings people together and develop sound relations between each other.

6. Trainee social worker observed there is large scope to work with under trail prisoners than convicted one.

7. Trainee social worker also recognized the need of sound counseling service imparted to prisoners in jail to stabilize their mindset and making positive temperament for living good life. Even counseling to family relatives of inmates it also important for prison inmate in adopting good civil life.