

Discussion on vocational and professional education Countermeasures of community correction in Shanghai

Guangyong Li

(School of Police, Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai 201701)

Abstract: This paper analyzes the current situation of community correction professionalization in Shanghai, investigates the existing problems of community correction professionalization in four aspects: the main body of community correction professional team, professional ability, income level and community correction professional education in colleges and universities, and puts forward corresponding countermeasures to these problems, such as the establishment of community correction officer professional team; To develop vocational training in community correction and improve the income level and social status of social workers in community correction; improving the education model of community correction in colleges and universities.

Key words: Shanghai; Community correction; Professionalization; Professional education; countermeasure

Community correction is the dominant mode of criminal execution in European and American countries. Community correction not only weakens severe punishment measures, but also pays attention to the social rehabilitation of community correction objects.^[1] European and American countries have gradually realized the professionalization of community correction in 170 years.^[2] China also needs a professional community correction team to do this work. As Calvin pointed out, the professionalization of various industries can strengthen the interdependence between people, thereby consolidating and enhancing the development of various industries and even the whole society.^[3] Therefore, the judicial authorities and colleges and universities in various provinces and cities in China have begun to work together to promote the professionalization of community correction. However, there are few research results in this area at present.

Shanghai took the lead in carrying out the pilot work of community correction in China, and the working mode of community correction in Shanghai has become the well-known “Shanghai model”, which emphasizes the full cooperation between the government and the private sector. Because the community correction work in Shanghai is very pioneering and exemplary in China, the author expects to analyze the professionalization of community correction in Shanghai, and provide reference for the professionalization of community correction in Shanghai and other provinces and cities in China.

1. The current situation of professionalization of community correction in shanghai

Professionalization is the realization of the value of obtaining a career and achieving a professional person.^[4] Because the academia generally believes that the five stages theory of professionalism proposed by sociologist Willensky has a strong explanatory power for professionalism,^[5] this paper uses this theory to analyze the development process of community correction professionalism in Shanghai.

1.1. The start of professionalization of community correction in Shanghai

Willensky pointed out that the first stage of professionalization is the formation of a certain professional work, that is, the emergence of paid full-time staff. In August 2002, Shanghai Municipal Prison Bureau transferred the first batch of prison police from the prison system as full-time workers for community correction, and provided 15 community correction objects with one full-time worker for community correction. This marks the formation of community correction professional work in Shanghai, that is, the emergence of paid full-time community correction staff.

1.2. Development of community correction professional education in Shanghai

Willensky pointed out that the second stage of professionalization is the development of professional education, that is, colleges and universities set up corresponding majors and training courses. In March 2011, Shanghai University of Political Science and Law set up the first community correction undergraduate major in Shanghai, trying to break through the professional barriers between law, social work, psychology, sociology and criminology, and cultivate high-quality, compound and cross disciplinary professionals for community correction.

1.3. Establishment of Shanghai Community Correction Professional Organization

Willensky pointed out that the third stage of professionalization is the establishment of professional organizations, that is, people engaged in the profession are organized to jointly establish the goals of vocational services and the identification of professional skills with the strength of the organization, while pursuing and maintaining the interests of the profession. In February 2004, Shanghai Xing Hang Community Service Station was established. This association is a non-governmental, non-enterprise social worker organization for community correction. The association gives full play to professional social workers to engage in community correction, which is the most important embodiment of the “Shanghai model” of community correction.

2. The problem of professionalization of community correction in shanghai

Although the professionalization of community correction in Shanghai has made obvious achievements, the following problems still exist.

2.1. The main force in the community correction professional team has not been determined

Many researchers believe that social workers of community correction in Shanghai are the main body, which is also the biggest feature of the “Shanghai model” of community correction that is different from other provinces and cities in China, which is similar to the United States. For

example, the community correction department in Texas in the United States hands over 45% of the education correction projects to professional correction social work service agencies every year.^[6] However, other researchers pointed out that the excessive participation of community correction social workers in community correction has overemphasized the support work, and weakened the nature of community correction penalty execution.^[7] This dispute over the main body of work has had a negative impact on the professionalism of community correction in Shanghai.

2.2. The professional ability of community correction cadres of the judicial office needs to be improved

The community correction cadres of Shanghai judicial offices have not yet had the professional ability to comprehensively guide social workers in community correction. Although Shanghai community correction institutions have clear requirements for community correction social workers in terms of professional background and professional qualifications, they have no relevant requirements for community correction cadres of judicial offices. Although the community correction cadres of the judicial office need to have very strong professional abilities, they should have comprehensive knowledge and basic skills of law, social work, psychology and other disciplines, but this team does not have these qualities.

2.3. The income level of community correction social workers is obviously low

Shanghai's community correction work mainly depends on the strength of community correction social workers. However, these community correction social workers usually work very hard, and they undertake the correction of community correction objects at a ratio of 1:50. Their workload is large and there is greater risk, so they should get higher income. However, according to the survey conducted by the author in various districts and counties of Shanghai, the treatment of community correction social workers is obviously low, even equal to the minimum wage in Shanghai. This income level also leads to the lack of attractiveness of the profession of community correction social workers. This has led to brain drain, unstable work team and other consequences.

2.4. The professional education model of community correction in colleges and universities needs to be improved

The professional education model of community correction in Shanghai University of Political Science and Law does not fully reflect the concept and characteristics of community correction. Although community correction has the dual nature of punishment and assistance, at present, the education concept, content and curriculum of community correction professional leaders in the first two years of college all emphasize the nature of penalty execution, and obviously ignore the nature of humanistic care. When making statistics on the courses of the freshmen and sophomores of the community correction major, the author found that the major courses mainly included constitutional law, jurisprudence, general theory of criminal law, criminal law practice, penology, criminology and principles of community correction. There was no professional course of social work. Such education concept, education content and curriculum will make students of community correction majors think that assistance is only a kind of auxiliary, secondary or even insignificant work.

3. Countermeasures for Promoting the Professionalization of Community Correction in Shanghai

Ji Jinfeng and other scholars believe that it is of great significance to carry out the professional construction of community correction in China to promote the further development of community correction in China.^[8] It can be seen that the professionalization of community correction is of great value both from the top-level design of China's political and legal work and from the specific construction of the criminal enforcement system. Therefore, the author puts forward the following countermeasures and suggestions.

3.1. Establish a team of community correction officers and define the main body of the community correction professional team

Because of the strong legal and professional nature of community correction, the community correction implementing agency must be equipped with a full-time team with high comprehensive quality and complex cross type. Specifically, we can refer to the team of American community correction workers to establish a team of community correction officers with comprehensive knowledge of law, social work, criminology and psychology.^[9] The author believes that, at present, the first batch of community correction officers can be established in the form of open recruitment from community correction cadres of judicial offices and social workers of community correction. In the future, with the development of undergraduate training of community correction major in Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, community correction officers, a new and interdisciplinary professional force, will gradually become the main body of the community correction professional team in Shanghai.

3.2. Carry out community correction vocational training to improve the professional level of on-the-job workers

In view of the fact that there are few graduates of the community correction major in Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, the community correction professionals will still not be from the community correction major for a long time to come. Therefore, it is still necessary to continue to carry out vocational training for community correction workers so that they can gradually become interdisciplinary talents. Specifically, the first is to strengthen vocational training on social work and psychology for community correction cadres of judicial offices, because they mainly come from law majors. The second is to strengthen the training of legal and psychological knowledge and skills for community correction workers. As Saleebey, a famous social work scientist, pointed out, social workers should have a high level of psychological theory and technology in order to effectively solve various problems of service objects.^[10]

3.3. Improve the economic income level and social status of community correction social workers

The major of social work emphasizes the professional work concept of "people in situations", which is of great value to community affairs.^[11] This concept emphasizes that social workers should start their work based on the relationship between the object of work and the situation.^[12] As the professional concept of social workers in Shanghai is particularly suitable for community correction, social workers have made great contributions to community correction. In the United States, Canada and other countries, probation officers, parole officers and many social workers have higher salaries and civil service status.^[13] The author believes that Shanghai should learn from the practices of

these countries, raise the income of community correction social workers to the middle-income level of Shanghai as soon as possible, and gradually incorporate them into the civil service.

3.4. Improve the professional education model of community correction in colleges and universities to promote professional development

Shanghai University of Political Science and Law should adjust the development direction of community correction specialty, which should be mainly reflected in the education concept, education content and curriculum of community correction specialty. For example, the introduction courses of law, social work, psychology, criminology and sociology are set up at the same time for undergraduates majoring in community correction in their freshman year, so that the characteristics of composite cross majors can be clearly reflected in the freshman year. In the second year of college, we should focus on the main professional courses of law and social work, as well as the professional courses of criminology and psychology. Relevant courses should be designed in a way that emphasizes both academic and practical aspects.^[14] At this stage, students begin to learn professional theories, methods and specific skills related to community correction. During the third and fourth year of college, professional teachers should lead students to practice in community correction institutions such as judicial offices of streets or towns, social work service stations, halfway houses in Shanghai for at least one semester accumulatively, so that students can experience and practice the theory of community correction and master the methods and skills of community correction.^[15]

References :

- [1] Piquero A, Steinberg L. Public preferences for rehabilitation versus incarceration of juvenile offenders[J]. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 2010,38(1):1-6.
- [2] Wu Yanhua, Li Mingbao. Research on the professionalization construction of community correction team [J]. *Journal of Henan Judicial Police Vocational College*. 2016, (2):26-30.
- [3] William J. Bouwsma, John Calvin, A Sixteenth-Century Portrait[M]. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988: 201-201.
- [4] Ji Hong Research on the Professional Development and Effectiveness of Vocational College Students [J]. *Education and occupation* 2012, (27):98-99.
- [5] Shang Nahong Media Ethics in the Perspective of System: Professionalism and British and American News Self-discipline [M]. Shandong People's Publishing House 2006: 25.
- [6] Arrigona N, Gonzales J. Community-based program evaluation series: Overview of community-based juvenile probation programs(part1)[R]. Texas Juvenile Justice Department, 2013:2-3
- [7] Wu Yuhong Review on the management mode of community correction in China [J]. *Shandong Social Sciences* 2010, (6):46-50.
- [8] Ji Jinfeng, Wei Panpan, Ao Xiang, Sang Xiaodong Exploration on professionalization construction of community correction team [J]. *Journal of Henan Judicial Police Vocational College* 2021,(1):33-37.
- [9] Camp, C. and Camp, G. (1997). *The Corrections yearsbook*[M]. South salem, N. Y.: The Criminal Justice Institute, Inc. 1997: 180.
- [10] Saleebey, D. The Strength Perspectives in Social Work Practice: Extensions and Cautions[J]. *Social Work*, 1996, 41(3):296-305.
- [11]Kondrat, M. E. Actor-Centered Social Work: Re-Visioning "Person-In-Env-ironment" Through a Critical Theory Lens[J]. *Social Work*, 2002,47(4): 435-448.
- [12]Weiss-Gal, I. The Person-In-Environment Approach: Profession Ideology and Practice of Social Workers in Israel[J]. *Social Work*, 2008, 53(1): 65-75.
- [13] Miles, A. P. Wisconsin Studies the Function of Function of Probation and Parole.[J] *American Journal of Corrections*. 1965,(25): 21-32.
- [14] Bao Shumei, Yang Hui On the construction of the training mode of professional practical education of aviation law under the strategy of strengthening civil aviation [J]. *Education and occupation* 2013,(3): 96-97.
- [15] Zheng Peng, Yan Xu. Yan Xinzhe's Thoughts on the Curriculum Setting of Social Work [J]. *Chinese Social Work*. 2020(31).

[About the author] Li Guangyong (1982 -), male, associate professor and doctor of the Police College of Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, whose research direction is community correction

[Fund Project] The 2020 Youth Research Fund Project of Shanghai University of Political Science and Law "Research on Innovation of Classified Correction Model of Community Correction"(2020XQN02)