

## A Review of Social Work on Drug Rehabilitation in China

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**Abstract:** Social work, as a helping profession, has the function of helping individuals, families, groups and even communities to enhance or restore their social functions. This role has been concerned by people from all walks of life engaged in drug rehabilitation work and research. Drug addicts are special vulnerable groups and high-risk vulnerable groups in the community. Social workers, with advanced working concepts and professional working methods, can better provide comprehensive services to drug addicts. From the aspects of social work of drug rehabilitation, coercive isolation and drug rehabilitation and community drug rehabilitation, the research on social work of drug rehabilitation in China is reviewed. It is hoped that more discussions will be conducted on the process of compulsory isolation and community detoxification with social work as a link, forming specific working models, summarizing experience and exploring theory.

### 1. Introduction

The current mode of drug rehabilitation in China is “compulsory drug detoxification, supplemented by voluntary drug detoxification” [1]. Forced isolation and detoxification are carried out everywhere. Community detoxification, as a relatively new mode of detoxification, has also received more and more attention and development. Forced isolation and detoxification has the advantages of short-term effects and easy management during isolation. However, there are also problems of short detoxification time and difficulty in ensuring follow-up effects. In the community drug rehabilitation, the community detoxification in China is mainly responsible for the urban street offices, township governments [2], public security organs and the judicial, health, civil affairs and other departments to provide guidance and assistance. The Law of the People's Republic of China on Drug Control, which was implemented in June 2008, has given legal effect to community drug rehabilitation. The Drug Rehabilitation Ordinance, which was implemented in June 2011, further raised professional requirements for staff engaged in community rehabilitation. “Social Work” was written into the Report on Government Work in 2016 after it was first written into the Report on Government Work in 2015: On March 5 this year [3], Premier Li Keqiang proposed “to support professional social work”, “do legal aid and community corrections”, and “promote social peace and harmony.” It can be said that the development of social work in China is in the “take-off stage”. It is in line with the requirements of the times to actively promote the intervention of social work in community correction and to explore the development of social work in drug treatment [4].

### 2. Research on Social Work of Drug Abuse

Some scholars have discussed from the perspective of social work itself. A scholar has introduced the local practice and innovation of social work in drug rehabilitation work [5]. A scholar has discussed issues such as the construction of a professional team for drug rehabilitation social work [6]. Some scholars have combed the history of social work on drug treatment [7]. More scholars have discussed in detail the application of social work in compulsory isolation or community detoxification:

First, social work is involved in relevant research in the field of compulsory isolation of drug rehabilitation [8]. Some scholars have discussed the feasibility and specific methods of social work intervention in the field of compulsory isolation and detoxification. Xu Shuping (2014) based on the analysis of the concept of compulsory isolation for drug treatment, put forward that attention should

be paid to the situation that drug addicts' social function should not be restored in drug treatment in China. "Rectification and innovation" has been carried out, giving full play to the role of social work methods in drug rehabilitation work, and providing ideas for drug control work in China<sup>1</sup>. Gaowei (2014) expounded the important significance of social work intervention in the field of compulsory isolation and detoxification<sup>1</sup>. The feasibility of social work intervention in compulsory isolation and detoxification was discussed from the aspects of social work theory, social work service concept and strategy and method. Then (2016) the specific services provided by social work in the compulsory isolation and detoxification process were analyzed and discussed [9].

Second, social work is involved in relevant research in the field of community drug rehabilitation. Compared with the social work in compulsory isolation and detoxification, the academic circles have discussed the social work in community detoxification earlier and more, which can be divided into the following two aspects: First of all, social work involved the intervention and use of community drug rehabilitation [10]. Wang Ruihong (2006) pointed out that in the current various methods of drug rehabilitation, social work has a unique professional concept and operation method, and it has become a universal choice with excellent professional effects and social effects. Huang Yongqing and Chen Shamai (2008) believed that drug rehabilitation should not be regarded as a medical problem only, but also a social problem. Drug rehabilitation needs the participation of professional social workers. Hu Peng and Wang Jingke (2010) discussed the significance of introducing social work methods into community drug rehabilitation. They believe that social work involvement is more acceptable to individual drug users. Specialized and personalized services were highlighted to ensure that the goal of drug treatment is more effectively achieved. Zhong Ying and Liu Chuanlong (2011) pointed out that after the enactment of the Anti-Drug Law, the focus of drug rehabilitation in China began to shift to the community. Community work needed the guidance of advanced scientific concepts [11]. These concepts included the re-recognition of drug addicts and their behavior, and the re-establishment of the target system of community rehabilitation. Pang Yan (2014) pointed out that correcting the rational use of social work law in community drug rehabilitation work can have a good practical effect. This was mainly reflected in promoting the re-socialization of drug addicts, the effective removal of labels [12], and the rational return of drug addicts. Zhang Lifan (2015) discussed the issue of returning to society from drug addicts from the perspective of improving resilience. She believed that social work must be effectively involved in the whole process of drug addicts returning to society in order to enhance the resilience of drug addicts. Secondly, social work participation has done the concrete measure of community drug treatment [13].

### **3. Research on the Connection between Forced Isolation and Community Drug Rehabilitation**

The above scholars have discussed the application of social work in two different parts of compulsory isolation and community drug rehabilitation respectively. Some scholars have seen the need to link compulsory isolation and drug rehabilitation to community drug rehabilitation. Sun Benliang and Chen Xiaoke (2010) pointed out that there are some urgent problems to be solved in the docking of compulsory isolation and drug rehabilitation. For example, there are blind spots in the legal basis, the social awareness of drug rehabilitation needs to be further improved, and it is difficult to find internships and employment positions for rehabilitation workers. Wang Enchang (2012) also discussed the main obstacles to the connection between compulsory isolation and community drug rehabilitation in Xinjiang from the institutional level. Xu Wanfu, Zhuang Xuhong, etc. (2015) pointed out that the "four integration mechanisms" of community drug rehabilitation, community rehabilitation, rehabilitation and drug rehabilitation, and drug maintenance treatment can be constructed with the compulsory isolation and detoxification work as the starting point. They also believe that the rehabilitation of drug rehabilitation work can be used as a starting point to establish a "five integration mechanism" with voluntary medical detoxification, compulsory isolation and detoxification, community drug rehabilitation, community rehabilitation, and drug maintenance treatment.

A few scholars have seen the possibility of promoting the effective integration of compulsory

isolation and community detoxification through social work, and expounded this concept. For example, Zheng Ye (2011) believe that in order to achieve the “seamless link” between compulsory isolation and community detoxification, social workers should be involved in detoxification centers in advance and establish relationships with the clients and their families. Social workers have given full respect to those who are about to change from compulsory isolation to community rehabilitation, which provided a good beginning for the establishment of good professional relations after the service object comes out. Zhao Fang (2015) also proposed that the government could purchase community drug rehabilitation services from professional associations, and integrate the physiological-psychological-social and individual-family-community systems. The working mode of cohesion, classification assessment and comprehensive intervention of compulsory isolation detoxification and community detoxification was formed. Some scholars (Chen Yu, Liu Fenfen, 2014) conducted detailed investigations and studies on examples of government procurement of drug rehabilitation social work services. A service plan started in early 2011 by an institution in Guangzhou was introduced. By comparing the case with the traditional model, it was concluded that the government purchasing service model was an effective way to carry out community drug rehabilitation in China.

#### **4. Conclusion and Outlook**

At present, China's drug rehabilitation management is not very close in all aspects. There is no good connection between compulsory isolation of detoxification and community detoxification. Moreover, whether it is compulsory isolation of detoxification or community drug rehabilitation, it has the characteristics of “management” and light “service”. Although some local judicial and public security organs try to introduce the theory and method of social work in drug treatment, and social workers are also trying to get more involved in community drug treatment, generally speaking, the use of social work in drug treatment management is insufficient.

Throughout the study of drug rehabilitation, although the advantages of social work intervention in drug rehabilitation have been widely concerned, the existing research mostly separates social work in compulsory isolation from social work in community drug rehabilitation. The connection between the two is not too much involved. Most of the studies on compulsory isolation and community detoxification are concerned with the policy and institutional factors and the role and functions of the government. However, it has not discussed how to integrate compulsory isolation and community drug control from a social perspective. Some provinces and cities along the eastern and southern coasts, such as Shanghai, have actively tried to purchase social work services by the government. However, they only focus on the community, and seldom discuss the whole level of government-community. Therefore, how to effectively link all kinds of compulsory isolation and community detoxification through professional concepts and methods of social work may be a new direction to improve the level of social work services for drug addicts and ensure the effectiveness of withdrawal.

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