

Correctional Social Work: Existence and Legal Intervention in the Juvenile Justice System in Indonesia

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Abstract

Correctional social work is the process of helping and rehabilitating people who have problems violating the law. This research investigates the important role of correctional social work in the context of the juvenile justice system in Indonesia. The main focus is on the existence and effectiveness of legal interventions carried out in efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate children involved in legal violations. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The research results confirm that the existence and intervention of correctional social work in the juvenile justice system in Indonesia has a significant impact in supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile criminals. The holistic and therapeutic corrective approach applied by social workers helps children understand their mistakes, develops adaptive skills, and motivates them for positive change. Serving as counselors, motivators, experts, therapists, brokers, educators, advocates, and mediators, correctional social workers facilitate children's access to rehabilitation, education, and training programs that meet their needs. By focusing on the interests and welfare of children as the main priority, the existence and intervention of this effectively ensures the protection and provides the necessary support for children involved in the juvenile justice system in Indonesia, guiding them towards positive behavioral changes and achieving a better future. Good.

A. INTRODUCTION

Children are the main milestone in maintaining and inheriting the nation's struggle towards achieving development goals. The quality of development in the future really depends on the preparation of human resources currently being carried out (Susilowati, 2022). Investment in education, skills development and character formation are important foundations that must be instilled from an early age. By paying sufficient attention to the younger generation, we not only ensure sustainable development, but also prepare them to face complex global challenges in the future

(Astuti, 2014). So, strengthening the role of children as agents of change and giving them a fair opportunity to develop into quality individuals is the best investment for the nation's future (Noviana, 2015).

A child, according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), is someone who has not reached adulthood or is a descendant of their parents. The term "child" also refers to individuals who are still in their physical, mental, and emotional development. In contrast, the term "child" can also refer to the solution or outcome of a problem (Susanto, 2021). In the family context, children are dependents who must be cared for and raised well by parents. According to Lesmana (2012), in general, children are the offspring of marriage, although in some cases births outside marriage are still considered children. According to Kosnan (2005), children are young individuals who are vulnerable to being influenced by the surrounding environment both in age and throughout their life journey. Sugiri in Gultom (2010) states that a person is still considered a child during the process of growth and development, and is only considered an adult after the process is complete. The age limit for children is 5-13 years.

In 2022, the number of children in Indonesia is estimated to reach 88.3 million. Despite hopes for a demographic dividend, the welfare crisis is still a reality that haunts 1 in 10 children in this country. Currently, around 10.42 million children live below the national poverty line (Kompas, 2023). Not only is it caused by low family income, poverty at an early age is also triggered by the loss of parents, which is a big risk in creating socioeconomic uncertainty for many children. Education gives every child the opportunity to shape a prosperous future, an aspect that also has a positive impact on achieving the Golden Indonesia Vision 2045. However, 2022 Susenas data records that 22.52 percent of children dropped out of school before completing the 12-year phase of compulsory education and 28 percent of children with disabilities never received an education (Kompas, 2022).

Child welfare issues often lead to legal problems involving children, as highlighted by Ilham (2019). Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Criminal Justice System categorizes children involved in legal matters into three groups: those in conflict with the law, victims of criminal acts, and witnesses to such acts. Children in conflict with the law are aged between 12 and 18 and are suspected of committing a crime. Victims of criminal acts are under 18 and suffer physical, mental, or economic harm due to crimes, as outlined by Widodo (2016). Children who serve as witnesses to criminal acts are under 18 and provide firsthand information for investigations or trials. If a child under 18 commits a crime and the legal proceedings are ongoing when they turn 21, they will still be tried in juvenile court, according to Asmadi (2020).

Data from the Directorate General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights reveals an alarming trend regarding the number of children involved in conflict with the law from 2020 to 2023. As of 26 August 2023, almost 2,000 children were recorded in this category, highlighting a necessary escalation of the problem handled immediately. Of this number, 1,467 children are still in custody and undergoing the judicial process, while 526 other children have been declared prisoners (Kompas 2023). This dramatic increase indicates the need for a holistic approach in prevention, intervention and rehabilitation efforts to protect children from being trapped in the criminal system and give them the opportunity to improve their lives in the future, including in the juvenile justice system (Ramhat, 2020).

The juvenile criminal justice system encompasses the entire process of handling cases involving children in conflict with the law, from investigation to post-trial guidance. This process is guided by principles such as protection, justice, non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, respect for the child, and the child's survival, growth, and development, as outlined in Article 1 and Article 2 of Republic of Indonesia Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (Wiyono, 2022). If a child commits a crime before turning 18 but the case goes to court after they reach 18 but before they turn 21, they will still be tried in a juvenile court, according to Article 20 of the same law (Damanik, 2020).

Article 21 of Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, supported by Article 67 of Republic of Indonesia Government Regulation Number 65 of 2015 regarding the Implementation of Diversion and Handling of Children Under 12 Years Old, offers specific guidelines for addressing cases involving children under the age of 12 who are implicated or suspected of involvement in criminal activities (Dahlia, 2019). According to this provision, investigators or community counselors may opt to entrust the case to the child's parents or guardians or enroll them in educational or counseling programs conducted by governmental bodies or social welfare institutions (Abidin, 2019).

In the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, the application of restorative justice is the main principle in dealing with children involved in legal problems. Detention of children in correctional institutions can also give rise to social stigma, as highlighted by Abrams et al. (2021). One approach used to overcome children's criminal behavior problems is through restorative justice, which is implemented through a diversion process, as explained by Mueller-Smith & T. Schnepel (2021). Diversion refers to the diversion of problem solving for children involved in criminal behavior to channels outside of criminal justice, in accordance with the concept outlined by Sawh et al. (2022). The goal of diversion is to bring child victims and perpetrators into the deliberation process, as emphasized by Johnson et al. (2019), with the hope of reaching

a resolution that restores and improves relations between the two parties. This approach not only pays attention to legal aspects, but also takes into account the social and emotional needs of children and attempts to avoid repeated cycles of crime in the future.

Every child in conflict with the law really needs assistance to help with the rehabilitation process. This is a form of corrective social work. Correctional social work is a process of helping and rehabilitating people who have problems violating the law (Rahmawati & Mayangsari, 2022). Correctional social work services are not based on efforts for revenge or punishment but are more focused on professional efforts in order to improve and enhance clients' social functioning abilities, so that they can interact socially in society and carry out life tasks (Firdaus, 2021). The aim of social work in the correctional field is to help prisoners improve their ability to overcome problems experienced by prisoners while undergoing the punishment process (Herdiani, 2023).

According to Dorang Luhpuri & Satriawan (2010), the role of correctional social work includes several aspects. First, social work aims to assist individuals, including prisoners, in the process of change by building a deep understanding of themselves, identifying internal strengths, and accessing the resources that exist within them. Second, social work aims to change the environment around prisoners into a supportive and healthy social climate, which can help them in the process of rehabilitation and reintegration back into society. In addition, social workers also work closely with prisoners' families and related external sources to provide necessary support. The role of social workers starts from the time the prisoner is caught until the termination period, through various forms of intervention. These interventions can be indirect, such as providing support to prisoners and society as a whole, or direct, such as interacting with the leadership of correctional institutions and the prisoner's immediate environment to ensure an effective rehabilitative environment (Ayal & Listiyawati, 2019).

The research objective of the title above is to understand the role and impact of correctional social work interventions on prisoners, as well as to evaluate their effectiveness in helping prisoners experience positive change and reintegrate into society. The benefit of this research is that it can provide a deeper understanding of the contribution of correctional social work in the prisoner rehabilitation process, so that it can provide a stronger basis for the development of policies and intervention programs that are more effective in improving the welfare of prisoners and reducing re-criminal rates in society.

B. METHODS

This study adopts a qualitative approach using descriptive methods and literature reviews to gather technical insights into the role and impact of correctional social work interventions on prisoners. Following the descriptive-qualitative approach, collected data is meticulously explained before analysis, aligning with the methodology outlined by Moleong (2014). The research aims to depict the current state of affairs rather than manipulate variables. Information is gathered through observation, conversation, and note-taking. Subsequently, data analysis involves extracting information from various primary and secondary sources, organizing it into problem units, analyzing the components of arguments related to the issues, and drawing conclusions based on the analyzed problems (Yulianah, 2022). Through this approach and methodology, the study seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of the role of correctional social work in prisoner rehabilitation and assess its efficacy in facilitating positive transformation and societal reintegration for inmates.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Existence of Correctional Social Work in the Juvenile Justice System in Indonesia

Legal protection for children is very important and must be differentiated from the protection given to adult perpetrators. Children have different physical and psychological characteristics from adults. According to Law no. 11 of 2012, children are individuals aged between 12 years but have not yet reached the age of 18 years. They require special protection that differentiates their treatment from adults. The law categorizes children into three groups. First, children who are in conflict with the law, namely children who are suspected of being perpetrators of criminal acts. Second, child victims, who are children who experience physical, mental suffering or economic loss as a result of criminal behavior (Wati, 2017).

Legal protection for children involves recognition of their different characteristics and needs compared to adults. Children require special protection that takes into account their physical and psychological maturity which is not yet fully developed. Law no. 11 of 2012 divides children into three categories, focusing on the protection required by each group. This includes protection for children who are in conflict with the law, namely children who are suspected of being perpetrators of criminal acts, as well as protection for child victims who may experience physical, mental or economic impacts as a result of this criminal behavior (Wardianti & Santoso, 2023). Within the legal framework, legal protection for children emphasizes the importance of providing treatment that is appropriate to their developmental stage and unique needs. Children are not simply seen as perpetrators or victims, but

as individuals who need appropriate protection, support and guidance to help them grow and develop healthily.

It's crucial to bear in mind that the incarceration of minors represents the ultimate step in the juvenile criminal justice system. This principle underscores the idea of reserving deprivation of liberty and punishment solely as a last resort. Within this framework, every child involved in the criminal justice proceedings holds the right to avoid arrest, detention, or imprisonment unless absolutely necessary and executed swiftly. The emphasis on using incarceration sparingly and as a final recourse reflects an acknowledgment of the vulnerability and unique requirements of children within the legal system. Consequently, the approach adopted within the juvenile criminal justice system aims to prioritize the rights and best interests of children, all while considering the overarching objectives of rehabilitation and societal reintegration. This approach aligns with the principles of child safeguarding and equitable law enforcement, which prioritize the well-being and interests of children as the primary focus in every judicial process (Susilowati, 2017).

The age threshold for children eligible for juvenile court proceedings is set at 12 years, a decision informed by sociological, psychological, and pedagogical considerations. This acknowledgment recognizes that children below this age lack the cognitive and moral capacity to fully comprehend and be held accountable for their actions. When a child under 12 is involved in or suspected of committing a crime, investigators, community counselors, and social workers have two primary courses of action. Firstly, the child may be returned to the care of their parent or guardian. Alternatively, they may participate in educational, mentoring, and coaching programs administered by government agencies or affiliated Social Welfare Implementation Institutions (LPKS), with a maximum duration of 6 months. This age limit reflects an understanding of children's developmental maturity and their ability to comprehend and confront the consequences of their behavior. By placing children under this age limit within a framework of protection and rehabilitation, the legal system seeks to protect children from the risk of exploitation and provide them with the opportunity to receive education and guidance appropriate to their stage of development. In this case, the steps taken by the authorities aim to maintain the welfare and safety of children while providing opportunities for them to improve their behavior and grow into responsible individuals (Novira & Marina, 2013).

It needs to be clarified that in the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Law (SPPA), the term used to refer to the place where children serve their criminal term is the Special Children's Development Institution (LPKA), not "children's prison" as previously mentioned. LPKA is an institution specifically designed to meet the needs and provide treatment in accordance with the special characteristics and rights of

children serving a criminal term. In the SPPA Law, it is regulated that every juvenile correctional institution must undergo transformation into an LPKA within a maximum of 3 years after the enactment of the SPPA Law. In addition, the Ministry responsible for government affairs in the legal sector has an obligation to build LPKA in each province within a maximum of 5 years after the enactment of the SPPA Law. This confirms the government's commitment to providing adequate facilities and in accordance with international standards for children involved in the criminal justice system (Fardian & Santoso, 2020). With the existence of LPKA which is in accordance with the principles of rehabilitation and child protection, it is hoped that children serving a criminal period can receive a supportive environment for their rehabilitation and reintegration process into society. As such, these measures are an important part of the government's efforts to improve the juvenile criminal justice system and provide better protection for the children involved in it.

In the context of handling children in conflict with the law, there are various theories, approaches and practices aimed at preventing and responding to these cases effectively. Some of the approaches emphasized prioritizing children's welfare, which focuses on efforts to ensure that children's needs and welfare are a top priority. This approach emphasizes the importance of providing a safe, supportive environment and meeting children's physical, emotional and psychological needs. Apart from that, there are also approaches that emphasize justice and children's rights. This approach ensures that every step taken in handling cases of children in conflict with the law takes into account the principles of justice and children's human rights, including the right to be treated fairly and receive appropriate legal protection.

The correctional approach in handling children who commit behavioral deviations states that children are considered to have violated the values and norms of society, so they need to be handled by correcting the mistakes they have made. According to Golder et al. (2005), there are four main strategies in the correctional system that have been consistently proven to reduce crime rates. The first is incapacitation, which aims to limit an individual's ability to commit criminal acts by separating them from society through incarceration or other punishment. Second, there are prison-based therapeutic community programs that aim to provide rehabilitation services to inmates in a supportive environment. Third, a special education and training approach designed to improve children's skills and knowledge in an effort to prevent crime in the future. And fourth, there are sexual offender treatment programs outside prison which aim to reduce the risk of relapse to sexual criminal behavior through therapeutic interventions and appropriate support. By integrating these various strategies in the correctional system, it is hoped that a reduction in crime rates can be achieved and promote successful reintegration

for the individuals involved.

The existence of social work in the juvenile justice system plays an important role in implementing a correctional approach. Social workers have the knowledge and skills necessary to work with children in conflict with the law with a holistic and therapeutic approach. They can work with these children to identify the causes of their deviant behavior, help them understand the consequences of their actions, and develop strategies to avoid unlawful behavior in the future. Apart from that, social workers can also help in directing these children towards rehabilitation, education and training programs that suit their needs

Correctional social workers, or also known as community counselors, have a very important role in the entire process of handling children's cases from beginning to end. They serve as a key component that accompanies and guides children involved in the juvenile justice system. Apart from that, correctional social workers are also responsible for ensuring that the child's interests are maintained throughout the legal process. In this case, related parties such as investigators, public prosecutors, judges and prosecutors have the same responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of children during the legal process. (Aji, 2016).

The primary role of correctional social workers includes preparing community research reports that form the basis for diversion decisions. They also accompany, guide and supervise children during the diversion process, as well as carry out agreed agreements. If diversion cannot be implemented, correctional social workers are also tasked with reporting this to the court. Apart from that, they also play a role in determining child care programs at Temporary Child Placement Institutions (LPAS) and child development at Special Child Development Institutions (LPKA). In general, the role of correctional social workers in the juvenile justice system in Indonesia can include the following:

- a. Counselor. In their role, correctional social workers are tasked with helping children in conflict with the law to realize the mistakes they have made, overcome negative feelings that may arise, and instill good adjustment skills. They work with these children to explore alternative solutions that can help them overcome the challenges and difficulties they face. Through a therapeutic and supportive approach, correctional social workers seek to guide these children toward positive changes in their behavior and thinking patterns, as well as help them take steps to improve their relationships with society and avoid future unlawful behavior;
- b. Motivator. This role provides motivation and raises enthusiasm for children who are in conflict with the law, with the aim of helping them overcome the problems and obstacles they face. When they become participants in coaching

activities organized by correctional institutions, correctional social workers provide the necessary support to increase their self-confidence and ability to solve problems. With a purposeful and caring approach, they strive to help these children see a brighter future and inspire them to transform into better individuals;

- c. Expert. In their role, social workers act as experts who provide direction to children in conflict with the law about the stages they need to go through in overcoming the problems they face. With their knowledge and experience in this area, social workers guide these children through the problem-solving process by providing clear and directed guidance. Through open communication and deep understanding of individual situations, social workers help these children plan appropriate steps to overcome their difficulties and build a better future;\
- d. Therapist. In their role, social workers have the responsibility to carry out gradual therapy to change the behavior of children who are in conflict with the law while they live in a correctional institution. They take a structured and planned therapeutic approach, guiding these children through a series of activities and therapy sessions designed to help them understand and change unwanted behavior patterns;
- e. Brokers. In his role, a social worker has the responsibility to connect children in conflict with the law to other necessary systems. This includes connecting them with services and resources outside the correctional environment that can support their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Social workers serve as liaisons between these children and various agencies or organizations that provide assistance, such as mental health services, education, job training, and social support programs;
- f. Educator. As educators, social workers have the main responsibility for improving clients' abilities to make changes in difficult situations. They act as learning facilitators who help clients understand and overcome the challenges they face. Using a variety of educational methods and techniques, social workers guide clients in developing new skills, increase their knowledge of the problems they face, and motivate them to take concrete steps toward positive change;
- g. Advocate. In their role as advocates for clients who have problems with law and justice, social workers are tasked with defending the interests and rights of clients. They serve as a voice for clients in the justice system, presenting supporting arguments and information, and helping clients understand their rights in the legal process. Through strong and thoughtful advocacy, social

workers strive to ensure that clients receive fair treatment and have access to the resources and services they need; And

- h. Mediator. In their role as internal liaison, social workers are responsible for carrying out the role of liaison between various units within the correctional institution. They facilitate communication and coordination between different units, such as security units, education units, health units, etc., to ensure that the programs and services provided to clients run smoothly and efficiently. As an internal liaison, social workers strive to build good teamwork and ensure that the required information can be conveyed correctly and on time between all relevant parties within the correctional institution.

Correctional Social Work Intervention in the Juvenile Justice System in Indonesia

The aim of the program for treating criminal children is to assist them in the decision-making process so that they can become agents of change themselves. Correctional Social Workers have a critical role in achieving this goal with their ability to assess and determine the most crucial needs of children in the criminal justice system. Through a focused and caring approach, social workers help these children recognize their potential and weaknesses, and guide them in finding solutions to overcome the challenges they face.

In carrying out their duties, correctional social workers need to intervene to maintain a balance in providing services consistently, ensuring that every step taken is based on careful evaluation and pays attention to the individual needs of each child. Continuity and consistency in this approach is essential to achieve success in providing effective services for children who are criminals, as well as in supporting their rehabilitation and reintegration process into society. There are several interventions that correctional social workers can carry out with children who are in conflict with the law in the juvenile justice system in Indonesia. These interventions can take the form of:

1. Diversion

Diversion is an important form of intervention in the juvenile justice system in Indonesia. Through diversion, children involved in criminal acts are given the opportunity to avoid the formal criminal justice process. Correctional social workers play a key role in this process by facilitating dialogue between various stakeholders, including children, families, victims, and social institutions. The main goal of diversion is to find a more therapeutic and educational solution than formal punishment, with a focus on the child's rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Correctional social workers work closely with relevant agencies to evaluate each case and determine whether diversion is the right choice. They carry out an assessment of

the child's needs and risks, and consider factors such as the severity of the act, family background and environmental factors. Apart from that, social workers are also responsible for developing diversion programs that suit the needs and conditions of each child, taking into account aspects such as education, skills training, counseling and coaching. During the diversion process, social workers are involved in monitoring and supporting children and their families while they follow established programs. They provide guidance, support, and motivation to children to actively participate in rehabilitation programs and take advantage of opportunities to change their behavior.

2. Coaching

Correctional social workers have a very important role in providing guidance and guidance to children in conflict with the law. In correctional institutions, they interact directly with the children, providing emotional support, assisting in resolving conflicts, and facilitating rehabilitation programs. Through this coaching, social workers strive to build positive relationships with these children, creating an environment that supports growth and positive change. In addition to providing guidance in correctional institutions, correctional social workers also play a role in guiding children after they return to society. They help children to overcome the obstacles and challenges they face in adapting back to their social environment. By providing targeted guidance, social workers help children develop social skills, build support networks, and find resources in the community that can assist them in the reintegration process. During the coaching and guidance process, correctional social workers also act as mediators between children and various institutions or individuals in society. They help in bridging relationships between children, their families, schools, workplaces, and other social institutions.

3. Counseling

Correctional social workers play an important role in providing counseling to children in conflict with the law. This counseling aims to help children overcome personal, emotional or behavioral problems that may be a contributing factor to deviant behavior. Through counseling sessions, social workers help children understand the root problems underlying their behavior and develop strategies to overcome these challenges. In counseling sessions, correctional social workers build empathetic and trusted relationships with children, creating a safe environment for them to share their experiences and feelings. They listen attentively, provide support, and guide children in exploring possible solutions. Counseling can also help children develop problem-solving skills, increase self-confidence, and build healthy relationships with others. Apart from that, correctional social workers also use a holistic approach in providing counseling to children. They consider children's social,

cultural, and environmental contexts in designing effective counseling programs. By understanding each child's unique background and situation, social workers can provide appropriate support and help them reach their full potential.

4. Education

Correctional social workers have a significant role in facilitating access for children in conflict with the law to education. They act as a liaison between children and educational institutions, whether formal education in schools or non-formal education in correctional institutions. Through collaboration with schools and other educational institutions, social workers ensure that children in conflict with the law have an equal opportunity to receive a quality education. In addition to facilitating access, social workers also assist in identifying the specific educational needs of each child. They evaluate each child's educational level, interests and potential, and design educational programs that suit their needs and goals. This may include learning new skills, academic recovery programs, or vocational training courses that help children to improve their skills and knowledge. While children are in correctional institutions, correctional social workers continue to support them in their educational pursuits. They provide moral support, assist in completing school assignments, and facilitate access to educational resources such as books, learning materials, and tutors. Through these efforts, social workers help children stay engaged in the educational process, reducing the risk of dropping out of school, and giving them the opportunity to achieve a better future through education.

5. Mediator

The mediator role played by correctional social workers is an important aspect of the juvenile justice system. They act as a liaison between child offenders and victims, facilitating constructive dialogue and agreements that can achieve reconciliation and healing for both parties. In this process, social workers use a sensitive and empathetic approach, ensuring that the needs and interests of all parties are considered. Through dialogue guided by social workers, children who commit crimes are given the opportunity to understand the impact of their actions on victims and society. They are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, understand the consequences, and express their regret openly. On the other hand, victims can also convey their experiences and feelings, as well as express their needs in the reconciliation process. During the mediation process, the social worker acts as a neutral and impartial facilitator, ensuring that the dialogue is fair and balanced. They help both parties to find a point of understanding and reach an agreement that is adequate for all parties involved. In addition, social workers also provide moral and practical support to children and victims during the mediation process, guiding them through the stages of recovery and ensuring that the agreements reached can be

carried out well.

6. Environmental Development

The role of correctional social workers in facilitating the development of children's social environment is crucial in their rehabilitation and reintegration efforts into society. This social worker acts as a liaison between children in conflict with the law, family and society at large. They work closely with families to provide support and understanding of the child's condition and needs, as well as assist families in overcoming challenges that may arise during the rehabilitation process. Apart from working with families, correctional social workers also play a role in building cooperation with the community. They strive to create a supportive environment for children who are undergoing the rehabilitation and reintegration process. This may involve collaborating with social agencies, community organizations, or educational institutions to provide programs that strengthen the social, educational, and employment skills of these children. Correctional social workers also play a role in facilitating coordination between various related parties, such as correctional institutions, educational institutions and social institutions. They act as coordinators in developing and implementing a comprehensive rehabilitation plan for each child, covering various aspects of life such as education, skills, mental health and social reintegration.

D. CONCLUSION

The existence of Correctional Social Work in the Juvenile Justice System in Indonesia has a very important role in implementing a holistic and therapeutic correctional approach. In dealing with children in conflict with the law, social workers play multiple roles as counselors, motivators, experts, therapists, brokers, educators, advocates and mediators. They help children understand their mistakes, develop adaptive skills, and motivate them for positive change. Through a targeted approach, social workers also facilitate children's access to rehabilitation, education and training programs that suit their needs. Thus, the existence of correctional social work is a key aspect in ensuring the protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children involved in the juvenile justice system, with a focus on the interests and welfare of children as the main priority. Correctional social work interventions in the juvenile justice system in Indonesia aim to help juvenile criminals become agents of change themselves. Correctional social workers play an important role in assessing and determining children's crucial needs, as well as guiding them in overcoming the challenges they face through a targeted and caring approach. They carry out interventions such as diversion, coaching, counseling, education, mediation, and environmental development to facilitate rehabilitation, reintegration, and positive

growth of children who are criminals. By paying attention to the individual needs of each child and collaborating with various stakeholders, correctional social workers play an important role in ensuring that children receive the protection, guidance and support they need to achieve a better future.

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