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Arguments on the Privatization of Prisons

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Abstract

Privatization of prisons happens when the counties and states turn public prisons constructions into private institutions. Private prisons had made their way back since the 1980s when they were banned in the United States. These private prisons have the responsibility of feeding, housing, and protecting the prisoners but at a fee per day and bed. It is said that private prisons save government money since the owners of those prisons cater to everything for the inmates. Hence, the government is spared a lot of money since they do not cater to anything in those prisons. However, there have been several arguments about the benefits and implications of private prisons for years, but the implications seem to override the benefits. That explains why they were banned in the 1980s. However, the benefits also provide the reasons for their return in the early twentieth century to the current date.

Arguments on the Privatization of Prisons

Privatization of prison had come back since the 1980s when they were banned in the United States. These private prisons have the responsibility of feeding, housing, and protecting the prisoners but at a fee per day and bed. Privatization of prisons happens when the counties and states turn public prisons constructions into private institutions. It is said that private prisons save government money since the owners of those prisons cater to everything for the inmates. Hence, the government is spared a lot of money since they do not provide for anything in those prisons. However, there have been several arguments about the benefits and implications of private prisons for years, but the effects seem to override the benefits. That explains why they were banned in the 1980s, but the benefits also bring about their return in the early 20 century.

There are several benefits to privatizing prisons as compared to public prisons. First, the private corporations that run private prisons claim that the private sectors run prisons more effectively and efficiently than public systems (Simonds & Wright, 2017). The reason is that the profits which are gotten in private jails help in cutting unnecessary expenses, and also, their budget is tighter as compared to that of public prisons. However, the individuals who oppose the existence of private prison argue that the public prisons save general costs which can be used providing rehabilitation programs, medical services and treatment, public safety and jail security and general expenses which can be used to help the welfares of inmates be met (O'Carroll, 2017).

Also, opponents of private prisons state that these facilities only tend to serve the function of providing food, security, and accommodation for prison inmates until they are released on parole of serving the time of their sentence. The fees paid for these three functions in private prisons are more expensive than returning the inmate in the community with no

rehabilitation or job training services (Montes & Mears, 2019). Hence, in private prisons, there are less rehabilitation and job training programs than in public prisons. Private prisons also incur fewer costs in building prisons because they lease already existing federal prisons and turns them in private institutions. Hence, the contract that is signed between the government and the corporations that want to lease the prison is that the prison should not be less 90 percent full when it starts with its operations. This will attract considerable compensation by the government if the prison does not have inmates who have filled 90 percent of the prison. Thus, ¹the criminal justice system and the corporations that own private prisons liaise together to fill the prisons, and that is why people are being put behind bars regularly to avoid compensation for the government.

I am against the privatization of prisons because it offers fewer programs to the inmates. When an individual is behind bars for several months or years, when they finish their period of imprisonment, they are supposed to feel the impact of being in prison and come out as a better person. Most convicts aspire to change when they are in a public prison because of the rehabilitation programs which are provided for them while in prison. They are offered counseling services, substance abuse rehabilitation, and anger management programs that help them deal with their reasons for committing the supposed crimes. Therefore, these programs make them want to change when they return to the community. Also, job training helps the inmates acquire skills that will help them start a business or get a job after returning to society. Most of these programs are not offered in private prisons; hence, the inmates return to the community with fewer changes and can even return to committing the same crimes when they are back in the community.

References

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