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Community Justice

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Community Justice

The idea of community justice has gotten much attention among people in crime prevention over the last decade. According to Karp (2018), it is a collaborative effort in which interested parties work together to increase public safety, punish offenders, build community capacity for individual responsibility, and abolish the harms caused by crime. As fresh and novel models for community safety are established, community justice continues to be embraced. This paper aims to discuss community justice, its origin, and its successes.

The concept of community justice appeared in the 1970s as a substitute to the conventional court process. It progressed in parallel to the victim's rights crusades that championed the greater participation of victims of crime in the criminal justice system and the adoption of restitution as reparation for victims. Although one can trace many of the ideals, fundamentals, and procedures of community justice back to indigenous communities, a 1974 case in Kitchener, Ontario, is widely regarded as the starting point for contemporary community justice progression. According to Noakes-Duncan (2016), this "Kitchener experiment" required two adolescents to contact and compensate all twenty-two individuals whose assets they had burglarized, marking the start of community justice programs.

Using the approach, judicial agencies implement initiatives adapted to individuals and characteristics of individuals and suburban areas in need of rehabilitation. It is best characterized into two sections: Community justice as a principle and community justice in operation. Community justice, as an idea, is a scientific template for considering how the judicial system can reshape communities. That is, it explains why retribution does more than address the effects of criminal activity by penalizing misconduct; it can also play a significant part in preventing

crime from occurring in the future. In practice, it offers a framework of procedures to help with crime prevention.

Successes of community justice are promising. For instance, the program has been successfully adopted, as highlighted by Karp (2018) in Tocqueville heights. The city has a community justice center close to the police precinct. The justice center works with the police to stop crime, while victims of crime come together to discuss their experiences. In addition to that, offenders are paired with elderly members who can offer guidance. Finally, the offenders are sentenced in the presence of victims with three goals; to reaffirm community behavioral standards, reintegrate criminal elements back into the society, and negotiate sentencing agreements that align with community service and supervision (Karp, 2018). All these practices have made Tocqueville a safe environment and reduce crime rates by 22%. In addition to that, in a program dubbed Partnerships for Safe Communities in Belgium and Netherlands, law enforcement agencies, the criminal justice system, and the local administrations collaborate with the public to implement community justice programs that punish criminal conduct while keeping the community safe, livable, and rehabilitating the criminal elements within the society (Van Eijk et al., 2020). The movement toward greater productive involvement of citizens and civil society groups is motivated by a sense of purpose. The local authorities, the criminal justice system, and police departments cannot address the major problems in the criminal justice system, hence adopting the community justice programs that effectively shape societal conduct.

Contemporary justice retains crime prevention by detaching lawbreakers from society and, to differing extents, attending to victims' injuries and rehabilitating perpetrators. This is a primitive description of a complicated system performing challenging operations. The future of

criminal justice lies in the community justice system that punishes offenders, the victims get retribution, while society plays a crucial role in ensuring justice prevails.

To sum it up, community safety in the community justice approach entails consciously addressing the circumstances that, if left uncontrolled, will cause crime, assisting societies in developing the strength to bounce back from a criminal act, and assisting ex-offenders in returning home. Thus, in this comprehensive model, justice shares responsibility for societal improvement.

References

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