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Issues in Correctional Accreditation

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Issues in Correctional Accreditation

Prisons and correctional facilities have several issues that hinder well management of activities that should be done by the staff to the prisoners. Mismanagement of some policies in the correctional facilities has become a significant issue in the criminal justice sector. These challenges or problems have made the correction facilities not provide the safety and the corrective measures that prisoners need before they get out to join the community (American Correctional Association, 2017). Every activity undertaken in the correctional facilities mostly benefits the individuals who are leaders because even the employees have a low-performance level due to being unmotivated. The paper will discuss issues such as overcrowding in prisons, advancements in technology, the safety of employees, an increase in inmate violence, funding gaps and staff retention involved in standards as well as accreditation.

The first issue is overcrowding in the prisons where prisoners are staffed in a small space even if they are many and space cannot fit them all. Overcrowding in prisons can cause certain diseases because many people are crowded in one area. If an employee contracts a contagious disease from the community, comes with it in the prisons and infects an inmate, then it is easy for almost all inmates to suffer from that disease due to overcrowding (Faiver, 2019). Congestion also makes it hard for people to breathe normally due to the hot air that passes around. Therefore, having many inmates staffed in a small space is not sufficient since it can bring about adverse effects. Also, individuals who keep reoffending are brought to the same prisons; thus, they add to the number of people who are supposed to be held with the facility. However, since there are no available spaces in public prisons, they are just put in the overcrowded prisons.

Advancement in technology is another issue which is supposed to be a positive change for the staff and employees in the correctional facilities. However, due to the mismanagement of

funds by senior leaders, technological advancements do not reach the correctional facilities. If they are implemented, the projects are less as compared to what the funds released were anticipated. The senior management for most public prisons finds it hard to spend the funds allocated to them for technological advancements in correctional facilities (Ross, 2016). They ignore the benefits that would arise if the correctional facilities were added some technological advancements to help employees perform their roles and duties and ensuring their safety and that of the inmates. However, the inmates benefit from technological advancements because they easily smuggle small devices into the prisons. These devices are used as communication devices with people outside the correctional facilities like family members and friends, among others. Hence, the inmates can communicate with people who can be sent to harm staff members due to a quarrel that happened between them. Thus, as technology continues to advance, the employees or staff members are more vulnerable to its consequences.

Thirdly, an increase in inmate violence has increased, making it hard for some inmates to live peacefully in the correctional facilities. Sometimes inmates and staff members liaise in making another person's life miserable in prison. The most dangerous inmates are kept with individuals who are minor offenders. Hence, during their stay in prison, they get picked on, and their lives are made miserable which might lead them to commit suicide or commit other crimes while still in prison (Faiver, 2019). The most dangerous inmates always seek to cause trouble to other individuals in the prison because they want to be feared and respected as a leader. Also, other violence occurs when different groups in prisons gang against each other due to a misunderstanding. This leads to bloodshed, and many inmates sustain significant injuries due to such violence. The inmates might also gang up against the staff members to gain revenge or to terrorize them to send the staff for errands for the inmates. Inside correctional facilities, there are

many reasons why inmates might engage in violence, and it is getting out hand. This threatens the safety of some of the inmates being picked on and staff members stationed in the facilities.

Funding gaps are another issue that is present in correctional facilities. It is argued that correctional facilities do not get enough funds for any development or project to be done. It is stated that correctional facilities are expensive to build, which explains the overcrowding of inmates in a small space because the funds of developing another correctional facility would not be readily available (Ross, 2016). With this said, it is thus expensive to manage and maintain a correctional facility because it needs a lot of funds and resources to ensure that it runs smoothly and the inmates and staff members are looked after. However, the fewer funds released, the fewer resources and programs are provided to the inmates and staff members. Their safety and employee needs are not looked after because the funding of correctional facilities are less and can only cater for the basic things that the inmates need.

Lastly, staff retention is another issue that affects correctional facilities since most staff members who work in correctional facilities risk their lives every day to go to work in a place where it is filled with the worst kind of people who have done terrible things and are not afraid of anything, not even death itself. Hence, most of the staff members suffer the most because they are not treated or provided for with the essential things that would make them risk their lives every day. They are the lowest-paid employees since their salaries are low and they have fewer benefits provided by the senior leaders in the facilities (American Correctional Association, 2017). This leads to many good employees who work for correctional facilities to quit and look for other job opportunities where their needs can be met. They can be motivated to work to their satisfaction. This is so because in the criminal justice sector, the correctional employees are the

most underrated people by other individuals in the same industry, and they are the lowest paid in the industry.

In summation, having discussed issues such as overcrowding in prisons, advancements in technology, the safety of employees, increase in inmate violence, funding gaps and staff retention involved in standards as well as accreditation, it is evident that these issues should be looked upon because as the future approaches, there should be the capability of doing things and live in places that make everyone better every day. The correctional employees should be treated with the same regard as individuals who work in the front line to protect the community from dangerous people. They should be protected and provided for their needs to motivate them into doing their work. These challenges should act as a roadmap in identifying more possibilities that may lead to the improvement of the activities and services provided in the correctional facilities.

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