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Crime and Punishment

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The significant variation in incarceration rates and the levels of correctional supervision across different states in the US can be ascribed to a more retributive political atmosphere around criminal justice policy, which emerged during a period of escalating crime and fast societal upheaval within different states. These occurrences set the stage for a succession of policy pronouncements across all divisions and levels of administration that dramatically lengthened verdicts, instructed jail time for minor contraventions, and heightened penalty for drug offences (Travis et al., 2014).

In my own opinion, in addition to the three-strikes laws, retribution, rehabilitation, and deterrence, together with every federal criminal and state statute, there should be more uniformity in sentencing across the states in the US of similar crimes that include mandatory sentences. Therefore, identical verdicts should be imposed on individuals who have committed similar offences since the taxpayers' money is used to serve their sentences. It would be unfair for taxpayers to incur different costs for similar crimes. On the contrary, I believe that the United States is too punitive because mass imprisonment results in extreme overcrowding on one side and solitary confinement on the other. Similarly, Gottschalk (2011) argues that this fact is evident for individuals who have a mental illness, the cruel circumstances of the high alert cell, the severe suicide watch cell, the human cage to be transferred to psychotherapy, the therapy session, the group therapy.

Supposing I was the sheriff in charge of the local jail in my city, the novel innovation that I would devise to make my facility well-fortified to serve individuals with severe mental illnesses is the institution of trauma-informed care. I believe that interactions among correctional personnel and inmates have a significant impact on prisoners' mental health. He is working to

improve circumstances for inmates by training correctional personnel about the brain's reaction to distress.

In my opinion, William Kelly's discussion on how the 1990s crime decline coincided with the historical increase of imprisonment rates is not a coincidence. However, there was a causal relationship between low crime rates and incarceration rates since it would be expected that low crime rates would result in fewer incarceration rates (Kelly, 2019). Similarly, I do not think that mass imprisonment makes society safer because a study shows that sentences to prison did not influence a person's odds of being convicted of a violent crime within five years of their release. These findings indicated that, in the long run, the jail had no preventive impact on violence among those sentenced to probation.

Although we now have an effective criminal behavioral modification, this cannot justify the illegal activity. Therefore, one aspect of this reading is that William Kelly highlights the need to raise public awareness on utilising these technologies most efficiently and effectively to minimize crime, readmission, victimization, and expense.

Questions to my peers: Does the imposition of mandatory minimum penalties discourage crime or increase recidivism? What types of biases may be found in these laws? What changes may be made?

References

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