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Correctional Concepts

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Abstract

Crimes have come a long way, and with time, methods of punishing crimes have evolved from corporal punishment to a more subtle way of punishing crime. With the different forms of punishment today, it is clear that most of the law enforcement prefer using a stricter method of punishment to ensure that people are staying away from crime. All lawbreakers need to be punished, but depending on the type of crime, one has committed to avoid overcrowding prisons and jails from overcrowding. The crime and justice systems need to embrace more programs that are effective when it comes to combating crime like community correction facilities, which are supervised by probation agencies.

Correctional Concepts

The punishment that works well for both low offenders and high-risk offenders is rehabilitation. Most of the individuals who commit crimes do so for many reasons, and one of those reasons is caused by personal issues such as rejection or revenge. Rehabilitation helps the law offender to change their criminal behavior so that they do not have the interest of engaging in crimes once they have served their sentences (McNeill, 2018). Rehabilitation punishment is beneficial for both offenders because it offers a lasting solution to the offenders' issues since they get to undergo treatments such as therapy sessions to face their problems. The rehabilitation facility is also beneficial because the offenders, both big ones and small ones alike, get to leave the facility as better people who can rely on themselves. They are also able to lead other people in the community from a life of crime once they see how they have transformed. In this scenario, they can use their experiences in crime to demonstrate that crime does not pay to steer away from individuals from engaging in crime, especially the youths.

The main con of rehabilitation is that it is a more soft approach that intends to focus on the good of the law offender instead of the wrong side to help them become better people (McNeill, 2018). It is not a strict form of punishment that can keep people away from committing a crime. It is believed that a more stringent form of punishment will be more effective than rehabilitation, such as deterrence or the death penalty because it keeps people away from committing crimes.

Yes, jail or prisons need to be a part of punishment because they are an integral and essential piece of the criminal justice system. Jails or prisons help in justifying the law and ensuring that individuals who have broken the law are brought to justice, reducing crime in the process. Prisons and jails help in rehabilitating criminals into becoming better people in society once they leave prison. If the prison is run well, once the law offenders are done serving their sentences, they become entrepreneurs because of the vocational education they get while serving their sentences (Tonry, 2017). Although this does not happen to every prisoner since each individual is responsible for their choices, those who make the right choices when integrating into society become important people. Additionally, prisons help to reduce future crimes from taking place primarily in a particular area through deterrence, whereby, taking a fellow gang member to prison instills fear among the remaining gang members, therefore, inhibiting them from committing a crime. Prisons or jails help keep the community and society at large safe from violent gangs or violent crimes like robbery with violence in banks.

The cons of prison or jail are that sometimes they are not fully effective because lawbreakers who have completed their sentences come back to society and join gang-related crime. They engage in crime again since they were not trained on how to integrate back, especially in prisons that do not offer vocational training. Primarily, sometimes due to

negligence or lack of funds, most of the prisons and jails are often overcrowded, and this has some adverse effects on both the prisoners and the prison staffs

The prisons and jails have been forecasted to be overcrowded, and this has so far come true because prisons in the United States have become overcrowded for the past years to date, and this circumstance will not change anytime soon due to financial constraints. Prisons are expensive to construct and to maintain hence the budget cuts. Overcrowding is one of the factors that contribute to poor conditions in prisons, such as inadequate healthcare, accommodation, and food. Illnesses like mental health issues are likely to arise in such a setting, and issues like suicide and self-harm also occur in overcrowded prisons (MacDonald, 2018). As a result, violence will arise in such a scenario due to conflicting inmates resulting in unnecessary riots, and this might be risky to prison and jail staff because they end up being injured in the process while trying to stop the riots. Overcrowded prisons highly compromise on the rehabilitation purposes of prisons; therefore, programs like vocational training, recreational activities, and rehabilitation programs are rarely offered.

One of the trends associated with imprisonment is using the pre-trial detention whereby the national state holds an offender because of the offense they have committed against the law until their trial is heard. Other law offenders due to lack of posting bail end up being held at the pre-trial detention (MacDonald, 2018). The other trend is the death penalty abolition, this trend has been abolished globally, and it has led to the rise of life sentences as one of the serious type of imprisonment. The third trend that comes with imprisonment is the use of illegal drugs; individuals caught with these kinds of drugs are immediately incarcerated because they have broken the drug laws.

Yes, there is a danger to the community by not incarcerating all law violators because those who commit petty crimes will advance to committing more significant crimes in the community, albeit slowly. Such individuals are a threat to the community's security because they go unnoticed and might harm close relatives and friends in the process. Law violators who commit petty crimes and crimes without violence are better off when taken to correctional facilities like community corrections instead of prisons or jail (Sawyer & Wagner, 2019). The facility will help monitor and observe the offenders while rehabilitating them in the process since they are managed and ran by probation officers and agencies. These facilities hold offenders for up to one year, depending on their willingness to change their behavior. After their sentence, the community correction can integrate them back to society. Although the disadvantage of this program is the fear, it creates when the convicted individuals are left to roam the streets free from all charges. As a result, the community is scared for their safety because they feel that they might start committing crimes again and create an unsafe environment for their families and children.

2 References

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