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Week 2 discussion

1. Corrections are the process of dealing with individuals who has been involved in criminal activities. The role of corrections is to punish the offenders for committing crimes and assure that do not commit them in future. Some skeptics criticize correctional process because they are against the strict punishments and long sentences. They believe that keeping offenders locked in jails only prevent crimes until they are in prisons. The moment they leave jails their likelihood of offending is high. The opponents of correctional process suggest that sentences or harsh punishments ruin the lives of young people. They claim that such offenders must be given chance for improving and starting a better life. Skeptics also criticize correctional process because they emphasize on the factors and causes that encourage people towards crimes (Kifer, Hemmens, & Stohr, 2003). My personal experience of watching a documentary “Inside Juvenile detention” depicts that lack of survival opportunities, poverty, low literacy and homelessness are common factors that promote crimes. Instead of punishing offenders it is more appropriate to offer them better living opportunities.
2. The function of punishment that exists in United Stated and other western countries is categorized as; deterrence, incapacitation, retribution, rehabilitation and restitution. Different punishments are given to the offenders according to the nature of crimes. Strict punishments deterrence is adopted for strict crimes such as murder. It is believed that a society cannot exist without punishments because people will be free to do wrong or harm others. My interview with the member of jury revealed that punishment is the only thing that strong people from doing wrong or committing crimes such as thefts, murders and rapes. Through the interview I learned that fear of punishment restrict people from committing and offense (Kifer, Hemmens, & Stohr, 2003). If there are no punishments no one would be safe. Wrongdoers can commit wrongful acts such as stealing money or harming someone’s property. Punishments are thus important for maintaining peace and order in any society.

Reference

Kifer, M., Hemmens, C., & Stohr, M. K. (2003). The Goals of Corrections: Perspectives from the Line . *Criminal Justice Review , 28* (1).