Policy Recommendation

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Abstract

The main role of Criminal Justice is to provide justice to the people that have fallen victim to crime. Crime comes in many forms and may result in different issues related to people. The criminal justice department works on the policies and procedures that have been defined in order to handle any situation that may arise and cause concerns for the people. Although the right policies are in place there is still room for improvement due to the ever-changing nature of crimes.

Keywords: Criminal Justice, Crime, Terrorists

Policy Recommendation

The current setup of criminal justice is in full effect and is there for the people to feel safe. Yet there are certain ways through which this can be made even better. Bringing better changes to these would allow for better provision of rights and justice to the affected people. Justice is the basic right of everyone and it should be the duty of the state to provide it to them. Crime is present in different forms. It is committed by different people due to their own reasons. These criminals can be part of a street gang or they might be domestic or foreign terrorists. In any case, the main goal is to eradicate the issues related to criminal activities which disrupt the normal way of life.

# Literature Review

When talking about justice and crime-related policies one of the major things that can be seen is the use of the reactive approach to solving any case (*Advancing Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy - Google Books*, n.d.). Many of the departments are trying to move the reactive approach towards the proactive approach so that the crime can be handled even before it is committed. Normally the reactive approach results in the crime already committed and therefore takes time to resolve the entire issue by searching the culprit and all the legal process. With the implementation of the proactive approach, the possibilities of a crime being committed would be studied and gathered which would result in the elimination of those triggers that cause criminal activities to commence. The proactive approach is also a great way to avoid the expenses that are incurred on the investigations and catching of the criminals due to a reactive approach. It would also help in the identification of more and more clues that would help in furthering removing the causes that lead to the crime.

Criminal justice is a public policy and is to be handled by the government. The crimes can be listed in different ways e.g. visible crimes, violent crimes, property crimes, etc. All these crimes have been categorized by the people ranging from the most severe to lesser severe. The most severe one is bombing and killing multiple people. A less offensive crime would be the one where physical violence to women is apparent. This classification is done based on people’s opinions of how they see these crimes. When the role of criminal justice is being played, often it happens that the victim is neglected in all the investigation. The most important reason for providing justice is to sooth the victim’s wounds, whereas many victims are not even updated regarding the procedure being done to bring them justice and solving the case. Victims are the ones that should be given the utmost importance as they are suffering the actual pain. By giving them regular updates and making them part of the process will ensure that they are satisfied with the work which is being done to resolve the entire case (Davies et al., 2017).

The policies that are formed are there to aid the people in the struggle against crimes. The main reason for the development of policies is that it may help in the reduction of crime rates. These crimes are what keep people awake late at night and in fear. One of the things that should be highlighted is that the age of the individuals is quite related to crime. There are other factors as well which include biological factors, factors relate to the mind etc. But it is seen in this country that juvenile people are more likely to cause crime and it was the case a few decades back. Since the overall number of young people has decreased so it means that the overall crime rate has also decreased (Wilson & Petersilia, 2010). Another, major behavior of criminals that can be seen is that they try to target the areas that are close to their territories. Among such criminals include, street gangs that almost always try to hit the area that is closest to them. No street gang would travel long to visit another place to commit crimes. Many times, people would shift from the region where there is a higher concentration of street crimes to a region where there is a lower concentration of crime thereby saving themselves from it. As many people move from a single territory, this means that there would be fewer opportunities for the members of the street gang to cause criminal activities there. All these relationships to crimes give the policymakers a fair indication regarding the mind of the criminals. These can be utilized to remove the main cause that keeps these criminals and their activities going. These policies would not only aid the victims but also the criminals as well as it may give them a new hope towards life by properly rehabilitating them.

The word crime and youth have a long history. The young people due to their juvenile behavior forget what implications their actions might produce. Pyrooz and Densley (2018) also, highlight the fact that street crimes are mostly due to the intervention of young members. These members result in the activities that cause disruption of the normal way of life and they may be involved in criminal offense. The young members are the ones in their 20s and they are the most vulnerable towards criminal activities. They may form part of a gang and commit crimes through a street group or get into other activities and cause issues for the general public. The young members can be lured in by the other members of the gang and then train them to commit whatever they please.

Every state tries its best to eliminate the crime from its region to help people live their lives in peace. As there are new advents in crime so it is necessary that the policies and programs implemented are updated. New strategies should be devised to better mitigate the risk of crime and even go as far as eliminating it. These would also help in a proactive approach towards fighting crime so that the basic cause of the crime is eliminated. Similar is the case with this country with many anti-crime policies present and working. These programs tend to create such an environment that would aid in the elimination of crimes that these are focused towards. (Department of State, n.d.) highlights the importance of new approaches that would be used to fight against crime. These approaches would be used to make sure that there are new strategies that would try to improve the current state of crime-fighting and take it to a better level. One important thing to keep in mind is that by implementing a program does not mean that things would move towards improvement. There should be clear methods that the authorities are willing to adapt to enforce these rules. Since these programs are there to provide justice, the Government should do everything in its power to make the people follow it.

When working with policies, it is always a plus when relating your policy to the actual cause of the issue. The same is the case with criminals and terrorists. Domestic terrorists are one of the offenders that are a major threat to the country. But these are not the type of criminals that would do something for the sake of causing trouble. They are driven by issues that cause them to be in a state of mind to destroy others. Some such major issues are highlighted by Ghatak and Gold (2017). These include poverty. Not everyone in a society is the same and is treated the same. This leads to an increase in the mindset that is inclined towards violence. Such people come with the mindset that they have nothing, so there is nothing to lose. Such a mental approach allows them to make horrible decisions that ruin the lives of so many. Another major point highlighted is that people who have higher education are more vulnerable to performing criminal activities. One of the main supportive statements in this regard is that these people are more aware of the injustice that is being done in the society. This awareness paired with the ability to understand the consequences gives rise to people who have criminal intentions.

 The authors Ghatak et al. (2019) are of the view that societies are always in competition to get the most of the resources. The groups that consider themselves to be superior have the thinking that they are the rightful owners of certain privileges. These concepts lead to the foundations of discrimination. Such an attitude gives rise to feeling of complex among the other societies which may result in some undesirable actions to be taken by them. Discrimination and lack of justice are one of the main reasons why people resort to the actions that they might never want to commit. Removing discrimination in society is difficult even when a democratic state is in the question. But the least a person can do is try hard to resolve the matters that people might have. The privileged class would also be able to tip the judgment of the courts and other authorities in their favor. This would completely eliminate the concept of justice. Due to this reason, the concept of the popular vote is used. If the Government appoints members of the judiciary, there might be a clear distinction among the classes. This would promote wrong activities not just among the people being deprived but among the ones that are exploiting the system. They would feel that they could get away with anything they do.

**Policy Recommendations**

It is not a hidden fact that the provision of justice is one of the major roles that the Government needs to play towards the rights of its citizens. The current system of justice that is being used is performing its job well but it can be made better by employing a few techniques. These techniques would ensure that the victims are satisfied with the outcome of the case and proper rehabilitation of the criminals is done. Crime is always on the shift and more and more ways are being introduced. There is a major need to have a system that could sniff out these activities early or even before they take place. It would ensure that not only there are fewer victims but also that cost and time are saved. Keeping this in mind, there are certain recommendations that the authorities might employ to make the task of crime-fighting even better and much more efficient. Certain changes in the policies are all that is required to change the whole outlook of the criminal justice scene. The recommended policies that may be implemented are:

One of the major policies that should be implemented is the use of a proactive approach as the main approach to solving crime cases and providing justice to the people. The reactive approach is necessary in many cases when the crime has been committed and the departments are trying to find the culprit. But the proactive approach should be used more often to eliminate the cause of crime. This can be done through the efforts of the justice departments as well as the local communities. Taking the feedback and then acting upon it would help reduce crimes that are started by the street gangs. This would also help in the larger picture and not just common street criminals (Bardach & Patashnik, 2019).

The person that is affected the most through all these crimes is the victim of that particular case. The main aim of judicial departments is to provide the utmost concentration to the affected party. This can be done by providing them a chance to be constantly in contact with the concerned departments. A representative of the Government should be providing the necessary updates to the victims or their families to ensure maximum satisfaction.

Community policing should be evolved and made the center point for justice provision and crime reduction. Community police aids in the participation of the community to catch any unusual activity that might occur in a particular area. Not only does this help in making split-second decisions but it also elevates the participation of the community which results in a better understanding and trust among the community and the police.

The overall severity of some types of punishments for the criminals should be curtailed. Punishments like solitary confinement and violence will have to do more harm than good on the personalities of the criminals. This leads to even more severe bouts of rage and anger that could worsen the situation instead of making it better.

The departments involved in providing justice and criminal investigation should be more lenient towards the criminals. Many times these people are responsible for harsh attitude even towards the others that have no link to crime. Such actions should not go unnoticed and the people involved should be properly punished so that this would set an example and further such actions would be avoided. It has been proved that the use of force can worsen the situation of the culprits. So proper treatment should be given to them so that they may not continue with their activities in the future.

It has been observed that victims have to usually suffer from the strict policies designed by the law agencies therefore, it should be discouraged. The support and ultimate concentration of the law agencies should be towards the victim party to support them fully. It is the responsibility of the law agencies to provide justice to the victim within the provided rules and regulations of law. Certain policies in the law agencies should be designed in a way that completely supports the victim in all circumstances. The law agencies that provide support and justice to the victim’s families should take the responsibility to provide them with security as and when required.

**Consequences of the Policy Recommendations**

The proactive approach to fight crime is a great way to ensure the minimization of any means by which crime may be committed. It would help to remove the cause of the crime before it is even committed. It would also help the crime-fighting departments in keeping an eye out for particular ways in which crime might be committed and be ready for them in case they occur. But it requires a lot of effort of the concerned department to look for every lead that would help them in taking the root of the cause out. Also, by using the proactive approach is not necessary that every single possibility can be accounted for. There might be possibilities that some options might be missed and thus would cause issues.

The inclusion of victims and their families in the overall process of criminal justice is a way forward as it would help them in realizing the stage that the case is in. It would ease their mind by knowing that they are part of the overall investigation and build their confidence in the authorities. They would have a clear insight into what is happening regarding their case. A major unintended consequence of the approach could be the rash behavior of the victim when it comes to the process. The victims might be tempted to include themselves in the investigation more than they are intended to. This could result in delays and problems for the justice departments.

Community involvement is a great step in the reduction of crime. It would help in going to the deep roots of the crime and realize how the mind of the criminal works and where it is focused. This would also aid in the implementation of the proactive approach as the authorities would be warned in advance about the potentially criminal activities that could take place in the future. But, it should be remembered that the people that take part in the community are not experts in the field. They might not be able to account for every possibility and skip out on some which could result in loss of precious time for the concerned departments.

As there are a variety of offenses that could be performed by the criminals, there should be a clear distinction upon the severity of each. This would help in ensuring that the crime is punished based on the severity of the act. This would mean that proper justice is provided to the criminals and it cannot be challenged. Many people due to the implementation of criminal justice policies are under the radar even when they don’t belong there. They actually become the victims of the punishment that they don’t deserve. There should be facilities that are present for such people. It should involve a drug rehabilitation program, education programs, etc. so that these people may be corrected using alternate methods that would be suitable for them.

It is necessary for the justice providers to provide the necessary treatment to the criminals but also they are not supposed to be inhumane by any means. By applying such tactics, the people would be more inclined and supportive of their criminal justice authorities. It would build confidence among the people that the right things are being done by them. Granted that there are some times where being strict is the only way to go and it would be the only way to resolve the matter.

Taking victims through the entire processes of investigation would encourage justice in the communities. People would be aware of the fact that law agencies work honestly to provide them justice. Accountable and dynamic justice providers would take responsibility to support completely throughout the process of investigation. It has also been suggested that several health promotion and education programs should be initiated in the court systems. These programs would enable criminals to learn and adapt to the socially positive and acceptable behaviors. People involved in crimes need rehabilitation services and education to modify their behaviors. These programs will also help them to avoid such habits that are socially not acceptable in the communities. To reduce the crime rate from a community, it is essential that socially acceptable behaviors are prevalent among people; these behaviors can be promoted through education and awareness.

Unnecessary punishments and penalties often discourage young criminals. It has been observed that people involved in crimes have some psychological problems that motivate them to attempt murders and rapes. It has been observed that lack of significance from the families is also a contributing factor for the criminals. Individuals involved in crimes develop a sense of viciousness and they think that power and strength can help them to achieve their target and aims. Therefore, it is important to organize rehabilitation programs to educate these individuals. According to Carl Rogers, socially acceptable behaviors can be modified through cognitive development. Rehabilitation services to criminals can effectively modify their behaviors through cognitive behavioral therapy. For juvenile and young criminals, courts should preferably introduce rehabilitation and cognitive behavioral therapy programs in their systems. These rehabilitation programs are effective in implementing and modifying positive behaviors among individuals.

The criminal justice system should implement such policies in the punishment laws that help criminals to improve their behaviors. To punish criminals through penalties would not reduce the rate of crimes from communities. It is essential to develop and implement such policies in the criminal justice system that aid in the reduction of crime rates from communities. Therefore, the criminal justice system needs to establish some policies such as strict gun laws and surveillance can effectively reduce the purchase of illegal guns. Reducing the means of crime would ultimately help systems to reduce the crime rate. Environmental changes such as improving socio-economic conditions of the societies would encourage individuals to develop positive and socially acceptable behaviors. Improving the lifestyle of communities would also aid in the reduction of crimes from communities. Improving educational systems and resources of employment will consequently result in educated communities. It has been observed that education and awareness can significantly improve the lifestyle of communities.

Collaboration among the educational system, justice system, and governmental entities can help in implementing such policies that can make it possible to develop a healthy community. Justice and law agencies should upgrade their rules to implement effective policies. Governmental entities and law agencies should work in collaboration with private organizations to work for the same cause. The aims and objectives of the criminal justice system should be to reduce the crime rate from communities. Community workers and organizations collectively can work to report suspicious activities and to report crimes. It has been observed that people usually avoid getting involved in the reporting and investigation of crimes or suspicious activities. This is because of the fact that police departments and law agencies have adapted some unnecessary investigation strategies that bother persons. Therefore, police departments should implement flexible policies that help the person who reports about an incident. Various studies have shown that most of the crimes left untreated because they are not reported in the criminal justice systems.

Reducing the means of crimes can help in the reduction of crime rate, for example, removing laptops or expensive jewelry from out of view. Also, leaving expensive things on ladders or gardens would encourage people to commit the offense. Therefore, removing targets and reducing the means of crimes would help to decrease the probability of crimes to occur. Access control is another way to reduce crimes from the communities, for example, looking at actions that will control access to a site, an individual or thing. Improving surveillance around business facilities, homes and public places would also help justice systems to deter criminals. It would be helpful for the criminal justice systems to encourage people to report crimes and suspicious activities. Carl Rogers was a great psychologist of his tie, he has observed that behaviors of people would be significantly changed when you pay attention and give significance to them. Therefore, people involved in crimes should be considered as a client not as criminal while providing them cognitive behavioral therapy or rehabilitation.

**Policy Recommendation Evaluation**

The updated policies should be properly tested in order to make sure that they are functioning as intended. In order to test them a proper system needs to be implemented that would measure the success of these for each new clause. This would give the policymakers the idea regarding which areas need to be focused on more and which areas are functioning properly. Measuring the overall success of the policy is necessary and quite easy. All it takes is regular monitoring of the situation to ensure that no important detail is missed.

The proactive approach clause can be tested by measuring the rate of a particular crime in a particular area. This can be done to the incidents reported of that crime. After implementing the proactive approach, the measurement should again be taken to make sure that there is a reduction in the overall rate of that particular crime. This can be done by asking the community, getting in contact with the local law departments, etc. This can be done through online portals, emails or by selecting the representatives of the community and having a face to face meeting to discuss the general progress.

The clause regarding the inclusion of victims can be tested by proper interviews of the victims with the experts. It would make sure that whether the victims are satisfied with the response they are getting from the justice providing departments or not. This would ensure that the victims are satisfied and are in full participation with the case they are involved in. The feedback of the victims can be gained through meetings.

The involvement of the community in the process of fighting crime is essential so that people would feel like they are contributing to the efforts for reducing crime. Also, it would help to take crime fighting to a core level which would aid in removing the cause of the issues. The communities would be to give feedback to the law enforcement departments regarding the progress of this approach. The members of the community would take part in regular meetings with the local law enforcement agencies so that they would update them about the progress of the approach. It would not only help build confidence in the community but also help fight crime in a better a manner than it is being currently done.

The rehabilitation of criminals is necessary but in a way that would promote improved behavior in them and not aggravate them. The incidents of all the criminals should be properly monitored before applying the new policy as well as after applying the new policy. It would help to measure whether the policy had the desired effect on the particular individual or not. If the criminal is no longer seen in the acts that he had committed earlier, it would prove an overall positive response to the rehabilitation efforts. If there is no improvement in the attitude of the criminal, a new way of rehabilitating him should be used until the desired results are seen. As mentioned above that poverty is another reason for the acts of crime. The criminals that are not rehabilitated and are in need of financial help should be employed with the help of the government so that they may proceed in living a peaceful life.

The behavior of the law enforcement agencies and justice providing departments has a major impact on criminal activities. They neither should be too aggressive so that innocent people or people who have done small offense are punished hard and nor should they be too lenient so that there is no improvement in the overall crime rates. Proper training should be given to the members that are responsible for handling the cases and their overall behavior should be monitored with the help of a senior member of the team. This would make sure that the data is collected regarding the overall progress of the members in light of the new policy that has been implemented.

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