Reflective Journal 2: Ethics of Means and Ends

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Law is the dictate that governs the functioning of the state. The criminal justice system is its one component that revolves around police functions, criminals and the mainstreaming functions. Here the concept of ethics and means comes quite handy as every deed has its own means and ends to achieve. This means and ethics were propounded by Italian thinker “Niccolo Machiavelli” who stated “ends justify the means”. However, modern policing is different than that black-and-white approach of the past. Here ethics comes first when dealing with those deviants in the society. A chief of police has to follow the ethical approach when dealing with criminals or giving moral support to victims.

This harmonious equilibrium of means and ends has several serious concerns. A chief of police has to take care of the sentiments of the aggressor and the aggrieved. He has to be attentive and considerate towards both parties and strike the best possible solution in order to avoid repeating the crime in the society. Another problem is to be really proportionate in dealing with the criminals. The treatment meted out to them must not be too harsh as it would amplify the criminal tendencies in the society.

Moreover, as chief police officer it is mandatory to be really upright and moral in character since it is about the leadership in the organization. If the leader acts unethically, then the whole organization suffers with several social malpractices. The accountability mechanism and the strict code of conduct is an essential feature of the effective policing in the state.

Thus, as a chief police officer in the state, the means could be diversified in apprehending the criminal but the ends must be moral in substance and nature. proper care must be taken to eradicate the crime from the society, and not augment it at all.