Holistic Victim Restitution Plan

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History of Victimology

The history of victimology dates back to the mid-1900s, although crime existed long before this time. Initially, the justice system operated under the principle of 'an eye for an eye.' According to this principle, a criminal received punishment equal to the harm caused to the victim. A crime was a violation of the victim's rights and not against the state. The criminal had to pay back the victim for the harm caused. Ancient civilizations such as Babylon adopted the Code of Hammurabi, which emphasized the restoration of equity between the offender and the victim (Zaykowski & Campagna, 2014). The criminal would compensate the victim in equal measure to prevent the victim from suffering from the offense.

In the early days, the approach to crime focused on the victim rather than the state. After the industrial revolution, society began looking at crimes as violations of the state. Through this approach, the state started collecting fines and money paid by offenders to compensate for the crimes. The state-centered method removed the focus from the victim, and the victim became secondary. Victims suffered directly, but society would consider crimes as harms to the state. Due to this imbalance, focusing on the victim once again resumed in the 1940s. However, studies began with assessing how victims contribute to their victimization.

Victimology Theories

Victim Precipitation Theory

This theory suggests that victims contribute to their victimization either actively or passively (Zaykowski & Campagna, 2014). Active contribution occurs when the individual confronts the offender and, in the process, the offender acts accordingly. People with impulsive personalities have a higher victimization rate. These individuals provoke their offenders since

they are antagonistic. Confrontation creates a dangerous situation where attacks can occur. Direct contribution to the problem means that the victim contributed to their fate. Sometimes, victims contribute passively without their knowledge. Participating in activities that provoke the offender, such as receiving a job promotion, prompts the person. The offender takes note of these provocations and acts, causing harm to the victim.

Lifestyle Theory

There is a strong correlation between the lifestyle of an individual and their victimization. Offenders target people due to their lifestyle. For instance, a woman with the habit of walking alone at night has a high probability of getting attacked. The offender becomes attracted to the victim since their lifestyle creates vulnerability to the victim. According to this theory, both the victim and offender have impulsive tendencies and lack self-control. This situation creates favorable conditions for crime to occur.

Deviant Place Theory

According to this theory, crime occurs in dangerous areas, and therefore when a person visits a hazardous location, they increase the chances of attacks. This theory creates a relationship between place and crime. The victim becomes vulnerable to corruption by being present in a crime-prone area. Minorities are prone to violent attacks since they live in areas that attract crime. Even when an individual is law-abiding, they remain prone to attacks due to their place of residence. Safety measures taken by the government and societal groups do not reduce crime rates in these areas. For as long as the person resides in socially disorganized regions, they remain targets.

Routine Activities Theory

This theory proposes three factors that increase the vulnerability of a person to criminal activity. The factors are the availability of suitable targets, such as the presence of valuables, the absence of guardians, and the company of motivated criminals. When all three factors exist, then there is a high chance that crime will occur. The lack of one aspect lowers the probability of crime.

Approaches Used to Address the Needs of Crime Victims

Deterrence

This approach involves the increment of the cost of crime. When individuals consider the price of breaking the law to be too high, they refrain from engaging in criminal activities. Also, individuals who believe that they could be caught and punished for a crime do not commit crimes. Persons who expect to get away with crimes have a higher probability of engaging in criminal activities. When there is a high price to pay for committing crimes, individuals avoid these illicit dealings.

Retribution

Retribution focuses on punishing the offender while compensating the victim for the harm. The punishment depends on the severity of the crime. Criminals who commit serious crimes such as mass murder receive severe punishment, such as the death penalty. Justice includes the suffering of the lawbreaker to an extent equal to their crimes.

Incarceration

Incarceration is a form of punishment for the lawbreaker that involves the denials of the freedom of movement, among other liberties. Confinement in jail for engaging in criminal activities provides justice to the victims. While in prison, the individual cannot make choices

such as what to wear, eat, do, or go. Denial of freedom for years serves as punishment for the person's crimes.

Rehabilitation

This approach involves applying treatment and training to offenders for them to return to society as functioning individuals. This approach considers the ability of people to change and abandon criminal tendencies. Correction facilities engage in the rehabilitation of offenders to ensure that they can live as law-abiding citizens after their sentence.

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Stakeholders in Crime Victimization

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Crimes affect everyone in one way or the other. The effects of an abduction of a child this crime go beyond the harm caused to the child. It is in everyone's interest to deter crimes and encourage law-abiding conduct. Everyone is vulnerable to victimization, either directly or indirectly. There are internal and external stakeholders who interact with the crime and its effects in various ways.

Internal stakeholders are members of the criminal justice system. These individuals include police officers, judges, probation and parole officers, correctional officers, and lawyers (Walklate, 2012). Criminal justice officials are significant stakeholders since they determine the punishment given to the offender. These officials make judgment calls that determine whether the offender is guilty or innocent. The decisions include the length of sentencing extended to the individual. The justice system makes decisions that form the basis of judgments made for similar offenses in the future.

External stakeholders include elected officials, the media, businesses, schools, and society in general. Elected officials are representatives of the people and have to formulate policies that protect the citizens. Crimes create the need to enhance these policies to improve

safety measures. The media feels the effects of crime since they have to report criminal incidences. Businesses suffer due to crimes when people avoid visiting the area. Schools have to adopt strict measures to protect students from offenders. The entire society feels the effects of crimes that interfere with everyday activities.

Interrelationship of Victimology to Social Justice and The Criminal Justice System

Victimology and social justice have a strong relationship. Social justice refers to fairness in the distribution of wealth, liberties, and opportunities across society. Social injustices observable in various organizations create room for crimes to occur. The poor are more prone to victimization since they live in dangerous neighborhoods, lack access to security, and reside close to motivated offenders. Offenders are most likely to suffer from social breakdowns that include joblessness, illiteracy, and drug abuse problems (Boateng & Abess, 2017). Social injustices are the causes of many crimes that occur in society, and reducing crime rates must involve solving these injustices.

There is a strong relationship between victimology, social justice, and the criminal justice system. Crime scene investigations are thorough when a victim is a prominent person. Crimes occurring in the suburbs attract in-depth study, and the police work tirelessly to find the perpetrators. Offenders of such crimes face maximum sentences, and the system ensures the offenders remain in custody during the investigations. Preservation and presentation of evidence occur in style to ensure that the incriminating evidence is enough to implicate the offender.

On the other hand, crimes occurring in less affluent neighborhoods take years to solve. Investigations become difficult due to a lack of cooperation from the residents. Collecting evidence and its preservation becomes a daunting task. Suspects arrested for the crimes may walk free due to lack of enough evidence. Sometimes, innocent people become incarcerated due

to a lack of quality representation in court. These individuals suffer injustices in the justice

system, causing bitterness that turns them into dangerous criminals. The new Jim Crow laws

illustrate the relationship between victimology, social justice, and the justice system.

Socioeconomic (Cultural) Diversity Concerning Contemporary Criminal and Social Justice

and Victimology

Socioeconomic conditions affect the lifestyles of individuals. The states determine the

amount of wealth, access to education and health services, and area of residence. People from

low socioeconomic backgrounds live in socially disorganized neighborhoods, lack access to

education and healthcare, and suffer from poverty (Sebba & Berenblum, 2014). These

individuals have a high probability of committing crimes. This population suffers from

unemployment since they lack access to quality education. The cycle of poverty affects the

community and forces the individuals into crimes as they seek necessities. Living in dangerous

neighborhoods makes the individuals and their families prone to victimization. Minority groups

suffer from social injustices and live in poor socioeconomic conditions. Therefore, minority

groups are apt to offend and victimize.

Contemporary society is characterized by diversity. Unfortunately, minority groups find

themselves on the losing end due to inequality in resource distribution and opportunities. These

communities form a significant population of the incarcerated people (Lobonţ, Nicolescu,

Moldovan & Kuloğlu, 2017). Most inmates are in prison due to their social conditions. Crime

becomes the only way out for individuals growing up in poverty and dangerous neighborhoods.

Children growing up without parents also become vulnerable to victimization and joining

criminal gangs. The cycle continues since these individuals end up in jail, and their children

follow the same trend.

Strategies and Interventions Designed to Address Criminal Victimization

Social development interventions aim at providing education, health, and various training to vulnerable populations. This intervention seeks to equip the families and children with social and life skills to improve the quality of life (Cares, Haynes & Ruback, 2015). training children at an early age enables the community to raise self-sufficient individuals. With proper skills, these individuals become productive members of society. The persons have a lower likelihood of engaging in crime or victimization. At-risk children are the main targets of the interventions to protect them from victimization. Individuals living in informal settlements benefit from these interventions since they gain the necessary skills to improve their lives.

Community crime prevention strategies require the participation of all community members. Through participation, members learn the importance of a safe neighborhood. Enhanced social capital improves the sense of security in the area (Heinze et al., 2016). The people develop trust and cooperate in eliminating crime. Individuals harboring criminals present them to authorities. Families engage in community development projects such as cleaning activities that bring people together. Building strong social networks within the community creates a support system that facilitates the elimination of criminal activities.

Situational prevention programs are strategies that eliminate the opportunities for crime to occur. Increasing the risks and costs of corruption deter people from engaging in criminal behavior. Increasing the cost of rape and murder prevents motivated offenders from acting. When protecting potential victims, it is vital to ensure that criminals have a high probability of getting apprehended and charges for their crimes.

How Techniques of Addressing Victimization Impact the Needs of Crime Victims

Social development techniques equip victims with skills that they need to live a productive life. These skills enable individuals to obtain employment and take care of their families. Eliminating vulnerability to attacks for victims and their families occurs in the process. When a person can acquire meaningful work, they can relocate their family to a safer neighborhood. Increased income levels remove victims from dangerous situations such as living with their perpetrators (Fox & Shjarback, 2016). Some victims live with their offenders since they cannot relocate and access necessities. Development techniques ensure that vulnerable individuals have the skills needed to live independently from their offenders.

Community prevention techniques invite people to protect the rights of victims within their neighborhood. Enhancing security in the area enhances the safety of crime victims, protecting them from possible attacks. When the community cooperates in protecting victims, the victims can lead an everyday life without constant fear. Victims need to feel secure after an attack. Having neighbors who ensure victims feel safe is crucial. When residents denounce crimes, they facilitate law enforcers to arrest dangerous criminals and remove them from society.

Situational prevention techniques discourage criminals from engaging in their lawbreaking endeavors. When offenders fear the consequences, they become law-abiding citizens. Becoming law-abiding citizens protects victims from possible attacks. A safe environment results from the absence of criminal activity.

Handling of Crime Prevention and Intervention Strategies in The Next Two Decades

Technological innovations will significantly strengthen crime prevention and intervention. The 21st century has seen technological development in various sectors. Law enforcement has also embraced technology in its policing. Technology is the future of crime prevention applicable in apprehending crime perpetrators and determine criminals (Byrne &

Marx, 2011). Gadgets such as CCTV cameras have enabled law enforcers to apprehend criminals. Technology will continue enhancing policing and the apprehension of criminals, especially those engaging in cybercrimes. Cybercrimes continue increasing due to the high amount of internet activity. Sometimes these criminals escape due to the unavailability of resources to apprehend these high-tech criminals. Investing in technology will facilitate law enforcement activities to ensure all offenders face the consequences.

Focus on reintegration will improve in the coming years due to a large number of inmates. The growing prison population creates the need to reintegrate offenders into society. Reducing recidivism rates is critical to ensure that the inmates become law-abiding after joining the community. Equipping the inmates with life skills to survive in the world is necessary. The justice system will focus on rehabilitating criminals to prevent repeated offenses. Instead of focusing on the length of sentences, the system will pay more attention to each inmate's rehabilitation needs. Focusing on rehabilitation needs will reduce crime rates.

A Holistic Plan for Addressing Victim Restitution

The approach for victim restitution will involve counseling sessions for the victims. Counseling is an integral part of healing. The victim can't forget or overlook the ordeal, but they can overcome the trauma. Traumatic experiences have psychological effects that may prevent victims from proceeding with normalcy (Janssen, Oberwittler & Koeber, 2021). Constant fear and anxiety resulting from the incident may prevent victims from living fulfilling lives. Some victims may take extraordinary measures, such as withdrawing from society in an attempt to feel safe. Counseling is therefore necessary for the victims to heal psychologically and emotionally.

Reconciliation of the victims and offenders is vital, especially when these individuals live nearby. Reconciliation occurs when the offender apologizes for their actions and purposes to

improve their behavior. In most cases, the offender will return to the same community at the end of their sentence. Reconciliation ensures that the community accepts these individuals and forgives them for their actions. Without reconciliation, reintegrating offenders into society becomes impossible. Recidivism rates will increase if people remain suspicious of these individuals. Harmonious living is crucial in reducing crime rates within the community.

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