

Investigating the basics of jailing system and recidivism prevention

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ABSTRACT

It is a reality that criminality is a function of the society's evolution. Thus, it is observed in the rural communities that the social supervision and control is stronger and criminality is weaker to the same extent. That is because the religious pillars and adherence to the ethical values is stronger in such communities. But, in the urban communities, various kinds of adherence to ethical values are stronger with the increase in the inequalities. Increase in the inequalities, various kinds of social and economic disorders, unemployment, marginalization of part of the people, absence of financial security and legalization, inflation and lack of access to equal facilities for the use of the educational, sanitary, welfare, recreational opportunities in the urban environment set auspicious grounds for the crime perpetration and expansion of sporadic or organized criminal activities. Criminals can be categorized in proportion to the danger they may cause to the society and based on the evaluation of the inherent criminal tendencies and the social conditions under which crimes are committed. Therefore, the professional criminals associated with more or less organized environments and aiming at obtaining maximum profit and/or imposing damage onto the community and are not hoped to be corrected should be separated from the criminals who can be corrected by punishment. As for the second group, severe penalties can be effective for their rehabilitation. The present study tries investigating and discussing the basics of jailing system and recidivism prevention.

Keywords: prison, crime, prevention

Introduction

There are various perspectives amongst the jurists regarding the application of prison. Some consider prison as a means of society's revenge. Due to the same reason, the jailer should exhibit avenging behaviors on behalf of the society and s/he should engage in torturing the prisoner with such a mindset to the maximum possible extent through harshly and inhumanly treating the prisoners. The main idea is that the society cannot be satisfied in case of the absence of torture.

Another group of jurists and also criminologists consider jails as serving corrective functions for the prisoners. This set's idea is in accordance with Islam's notion. Due to their deviations, the wrongdoers are needed to be brought of their sins' effects and corrected. In general, the advanced jailing systems of the world lay their methods of criminals and prisoners' detention, correction and instruction on the foundation of several essential issues. Categorization of the inmates in terms of security into three categories of detention, namely low, intermediate and ordinary security levels, is another classification. The personalities

and the individual and social personality characteristics of the criminals are another means of categorization in regard of issues like age, gender, crime type and the amount of danger they have for the society. All of the advanced countries' systems, consider humanism, paying of attention to the human beings, personality and self-esteem amongst the essential and fundamental principles of the correction and instruction and rehabilitation.

The criminology is a theory that incorporates two perspectives from the society's viewpoint:

- 1) Formal perspective: including the rules and regulations and the structures existent in the society in relation to criminology
- 2) Informal perspective: including the people's orientations and their feelings and behaviors in respect to the criminals.

On the other hand, the duty of the criminal justice is not judging all the disputes existent in the society. Other institutions like family, school and others should encourage the veneration of the common norms and, like before, fulfill their duties. Thus, institutions like family, school and others should be strengthened so that the extra costs imposed on the government can be reduced and the people's essential freedoms can be simultaneously observed. In between, compensation of the victims' losses and individualization of the punishments by the judge are all preventive measures. Crime prevention encompasses a vast spectrum of the penal and nonpenal interventions.

The present study tries investigating the basics of jailing system and recidivism prevention.

Penal Basics and Jailers' Position

Punishments Depriving Freedom: by punishments depriving freedom, incarceration is generally intended. Essentially, imprisonment or, in other words, punishments depriving freedom are relatively new in contrast to what has been existent before such as physical punishment of the criminals and it has been subjected to a lot of questions even with its short life that goes beyond no more than two centuries [1]. Freedom deprivation punishments have been adopted as one of the globally common punishments; they have also been applied in our country following the evolutions of the penal laws (punishments) by the legislators. These punishments have special properties in comparison to the other punishments. In the regulations governing the quality of the freedom deprivation punishments' enforcement, especially the legal procedures of the organization of prisons and corrective and protective interventions, correction and rehabilitation of the criminals have been mentioned as the goals of such punishments in many articles [2].

Nowadays, based on the Islamic penal code of law, prison is considered as the primary punishment and its amount and term have been predicted by the legislator in terms of the minimum and maximum [3].

In fact, meanwhile having certain advantages, detention and deprivation of freedom and keeping the human beings in jails as a punishment have certain disadvantages, including the followings:

- A) Criminals gather around in prisons and actually a corruption higher education institute is formed. In prisons, destructive plans are exchanged and everyone is provided with others' experiences and any criminal indeed presents specialized lessons to the others and, after being freed, the prisoners continue their crimes better and more versatile than the past.
- B) The wandering and unemployed individuals and/or the persons who have not been able to reserve themselves a position and have failed to acquire prestige and reverence welcome crime perpetration and prefer to go to prison and impose two kinds of losses onto the community by their actions:
 - B-1) Spiritual loss caused by the multiplicity of the crimes that add to the ethical decline of the society;
 - B-2) Material loss imposed on the crime victims, on the one hand, and on the country's budget, on the other hand.
 - B-3) Expectations of the criminals' relatives for their freedom and their repetitive visiting of the jail for meeting the prisoners and the judicial officials' reducing of the punishment for getting rid of such troubles; by doing so, the families of the prisoners lose some of their time and work for going to and coming from the prisons for meeting their inmates and this ends up with the loss of they themselves and the society, as well. On the other hand, the judicial system is in bottlenecks forcing it incumbently to free the prisoners once every now and then under the title of amnesty and forgiveness.

Jail and Jailing

In general, one of the necessary motivations for preserving the group relations in prison is the existence of hostile spirit towards the jailers. Considering all the above cases and knowing that the socially and economically deprived individuals are unable to acquire their positions and wants through legitimate methods are more likely to be dragged to criminality, it is understood that the majority of the inmates are constantly in struggle with their mentalities and conscience and suffer a lot of psychological and mental pressures.

Considering the fact that the dispositional and affective states of the individuals in closed places and under the conditions that they are compelled to live together might be spread to the others in their periphery, it can be readily perceived that all the prison personnel, including the officials, and the personnel who are serving as jailers are exposed to the bombardment of the psychological dullness, anxiety, depression, anger and hatred and other negative feelings. The jailers are also quite likely to transfer these negative psychological states and moods in the end of their compulsory service to their family members thence to the community. On the other hand, a prisoner, especially with low cultural and educational and intellectual levels, sees the jailer as one of the causes of his or her failure in life and the jailer, as well, views the prisoner as the cause of his or her familial problems and bad psychological conditions [4].

Some jobs like jailing are kept hidden from the families and relatives and neighbors due to the bad memories left in the minds of the society members and also their lack of occupational prestige. The jailer who is faced with such an imagination from the society and him or herself about his or her job may happen to compensate the feeling of social humiliation in his or her relations with the prisoner (as the primary cause of such a situation) and s/he cannot be expected to have proper relations. Such an imagination should be discarded and the jailing should be given a prestige equal to that of the other jobs and the jailers should not be incumbently forced to hide their jobs except in special cases and for particular expedencies. The prerequisite to such a change is firstly changing the jailing culture and behavior and actualizing their legal performance and secondly changing the society's attitudes.

Kinds of Recidivism Prevention

The penal sanction guarantees the penalizing of the occurred crimes and is considered as a preparatory work for preventing the future crime perpetrations. Although such a form of prevention has been largely objected, a new concept should be devised for prevention and that is social prevention. Alongside the general prevention, jurists have also come to believe in individual prevention the domain of which is limited to the criminal. According to the fact that the excessive duties and missions of the penal system have caused reduction of its efficiency, it seems in the first place that there should be an ancillary institution at the side of this system. It is here that the social prevention can reserve itself a good ground. The duty of criminal justice is not judging all the disputes existent in the society. Other institutions like family, school and others should encourage to the veneration of the common norms and perform their duties like before. Thus, family, school and other similar institutions should be strengthened so that no additional costs can be imposed on the government and the people's essential freedoms are simultaneously observed.

In order to advance the social prevention of criminality according to a given goal (for example, recidivism or socially adapting the convicts), the efficiency of any strategy should be investigated so that the best results can be obtained with the least costs.

Moreover, separation should be made between the haphazard criminals that may be from all the community's groups and the maximum supervision should be exercised on this group of the criminals for preventing recidivism. Therefore, all the resources, including family members, volunteers of the social prevention groups, schools and other social institutions should be maximally equipped for correcting the criminals and advancing their welfare, especially in regard of the adolescents, with the goal of reducing and avoiding the unnecessary contacts with the formal judicial system and legal interventions. That is because a warning or a professional instruction is sufficient for making a great many of these criminals refrain from a second time violation of the social order.

As for the violators who perpetrate crimes due to behavioral and psychological disorders, special strategies other than penal policies should be adopted such as treatment and rehabilitation for helping them return to the community [5].

Criminological Model:

A) Penal Prevention:

1) Private:

By special penal prevention of crime, prevention of the criminals' recidivism is intended and it is termed "criminals' correction" and it has been stated in the second part of paragraph 5 in Act 156 of the constitution as the duty of the judicature and it can be actualized by this faculty; furthermore, according to article 3 of the procedures of the organization of prisons and preventive and corrective interventions, passed on 11th of December, 2005, the goal of keeping the convicts in prisons is teaching them occupations, rehabilitation and re-adaptation of them in respect to the society [6].

2) Public:

By public prevention, the use of terrifying measures stipulated in the penal laws and, especially, punishments is intended with the reasoning being that the fear of apprehension and punishment makes individuals withdraw from perpetrating crimes. Thus, having criminalized some of the behaviors like theft, smuggling and so forth and also having specified certain heavy punishments for the perpetrators of such actions, the legislator tries frightening the individuals who may be tempted to perpetrate crimes in the absence of punishment so as to prevent crimes.

B) Nonpenal Prevention:

As a social creature, the human beings are subjected to the effects of the social environments immediately after birth or even before it; their personalities are shaped in interaction with the social environment in their periphery. This social environment is composed of the macro- and micro-social environments. In terms of the micro- or nearly micro-social environment, the primitive socialization institutions wherein the individuals establish their first social communications, i.e. family, school, peer group and media, are discussed.

Thus, social prevention can be divided into two branches of the society-oriented and growth-oriented prevention.

Society-Oriented Prevention

By societal or society-oriented prevention, we mean the interventions and measures designed for changing the society's conditions that influence the criminality in the community. From this perspective, the darkness or brightness of the passageways, the congestion, inefficiency of the public services, shortage of houses, life in slum areas and difficulties of transportation influence criminality with some of the urban places enjoying a high criminal capacity due to the existence of the contextual constructs. This kind of prevention is carried out through the identification of the crime occurrence places and the structural properties of the communities and their reformation [7].

Growth-Oriented Prevention

Growth-oriented prevention is one form of the social prevention that seeks stable improvement of the children's social abilities for the fact that they are highly probable to be inclined towards the criminality world. This kind of prevention is laid on the foundation of the idea that the acquirable growth period behaviors and deeds, i.e. from birth to adulthood, can pave the way for the perpetration of the criminal actions. Based thereon, the results of the scientific evaluations indicated that tight interventions taken for the risk-exposed children and their families can bar the rooting of the criminality in the adolescents and be followed by their social development. The growth-oriented prevention ends in the revitalization of the ordinary educational and upbringing conditions in such a way that the intellectual, social and ethical perfection help the child take an ordinary course of life. Growth-oriented prevention has its own specific properties [8].

Factors Influencing the Recidivism Prevention:

Cultural Factors

A) The Role of Religious Beliefs in Recidivism Prevention:

Enjoinment of good and prevention of vice is one of the Islamic discussed topics and it is also considered as one of Islam's secondary pillars. By this provision that has also been pointed out in the honorable ĀYA 70 of the blessed SŪRAH TAWBEH, Islam takes important steps in line with crime prevention.

It has to be noted that Islam's first inclusion circle of sin entails a punishment more severe than that stipulated in the regulations; thus, the criminal policy is concomitantly accompanied by punishment and prevention in this regard; secondly, the worldly and otherworldly punishments enjoy more decisiveness and truth in the Islamic penal code of law in contrast to the punishments enforced by the other nations; thirdly, the existence of two kinds of worldly and otherworldly punishments is indicative of a preventive aspect for the believing Muslims.

Despite the fact that Islam does its best to come up with the required preparations in both individual and social dimensions for rendering the individuals and the society safe and sound, it has not remained ignorant of the correction and rehabilitation of the individuals who may occasionally happen to perpetrate crimes and sins and it has taken into account the most scientific and most human strategies for the aftermath of the crime perpetration.

In case of contemplating the issue with criminological approach and along with the teachings of the social defense school, the precision and fineness of the rules and regulations of this religion would amaze us.

By leaving open the door of repentance, the God has always paved the way for return and correction. It is observed that Islam has prescribed a special position for punishment in spite of all the attentions it pays to the prevention, correction and rehabilitation.

B) The Role of Instruction and Media in Recidivism Prevention:

Mass media are information-providing databases that need hardware facilities and skillful human workforce for performing effective activities and financial supply of these two necessitates a high budget. Before anything else, the media need sophisticated management familiar with the latest issues of their activity area and the allocation of proper budget and selection of the versatile human workforce enables them generate message and information [9].

Islamic Republic System is based on the bond between religion and politics and it intends to revitalize the religious values in the social life. In this system, the information cycle and the exchange of views and opinions are controlled by the government. Radio and television are considered as the most pervasive governmental collective communication media and the activities of the press and electronic information-providing databases are also supervised.

Considering the abovementioned properties, the discussions on the relationship between the crime and media gains a vaster domain in our country because, meanwhile presenting a special definition of the crime against national interests, crimes against the religious values and holies also matter; in addition, the media's capability for the advancing of the system's goals is also taken into consideration in such regards.

The expansion of the communications and the process called globalization by the thinkers of the social sciences has caused reductions in the nation-state power and questioned the credibility of the social sciences' paradigms. Thus, there are velar-cut dos and don'ts in the modern theories of criminology and sociology about crime and media and they have not been ignored by the criminal and cultural-policy-makers of the country [10].

Keeping the aforementioned materials in mind and according to the macro-level criminological theories about the effect of media on crime and the other similar studies and also considering the cultural-national properties, such an adverse effect can be somewhat surely presumed and fought with. However, any activity by the third world countries in this area is a lot more difficult than in the domestic domains.

Criminologists investigate the mass communication means under the title of social or environmental (selected or accidental) factors of crime and emphasize on the dual role in the crime occurrence and prevention.

As believed by one of the criminologists, “the press and the journals, play an important role in the fostering and/or deviating of the public thoughts. The best tool for illuminating the minds and blending the thoughts and beliefs are intended here”. He also has similar notions about cinema, radio and television.

Rob White and Fiona Hines, as well, speak about the large effect of the mass media regarding the society members’ perception and inference of the crime. Considering the criticisms to the role of media in the creation of the general public’s adored perceptions of crime and ground-setting in introducing crime, they write that “group media not only exert an influence on the shaping of crime definitions and controlling the crimes but they also simultaneously play a significant role in creating legal changes as well as re-obliging of some methods of order establishment.

Investigating the Bill of Law on Recidivism Prevention:

The acceptance of the principle of the priority of prevention to treatment has made the judicial and criminal policies choose effective methods for preventing individuals from crime perpetration and limit the criminal population by reducing the recidivism rate. Of course, crime prevention is not a newly emerging matter recently acquainted with by the mankind rather it is amongst the issues underlined by the mankind as well as the divine verdicts that have sought for ways in this regard.

It seems that the first methods of prevention have been laid on the foundation of heightening the criminal costs and increasing the punishments. In this method, intensification of punishment and exercising of severe violence have been applied for terrifying and giving lessons parallel to the crime control in the society.

In these methods and with the elimination and banishing of the criminals, the possibility of recidivism is practically cancelled and recidivism is annulled. This mindset is rooted also in the criminal policy of the US that completely banishes the criminals by sentencing to long-term incarceration based on the slogan “three strikes and out” [11] following the criminals’ perpetration of three crimes and his or her being not corrected by the punishments.

However, the passage of time has shown that this method has not been able to prevent crime emergence because it is presumed in this mindset that the criminal wisely calculates the interests and disbenefits of the crime before perpetration and the augmentation of the punishment intensity and violence is the ultimate reason for reducing the individual’s interest in criminality hence non-perpetration of the crime. This is while the social and environmental factors are also effective in the crime emergence. Furthermore, the possibility of recidivism prevention for the individuals who have tasted the punishment once and have not been corrected is a lot more difficult than the seminal prevention of the individuals who have not committed any violations.

It was with the penal evolutions and growth of the human mind that new literature was formed in the criminal sciences that, accepting the individuals’ free will in perpetrating a crime or leaving it undone, commissioned the punishments to the correction and treatment of the criminals. Enrico Fray’s ideas can be realized as the turning point in the acceptance of the human beings’ free will [12] in the west. As the disciple of Lombroso, he discarded his master’s ideas about the “inborn criminals” and asserted that the human beings are creatures with free will and the biological factors alone are not effective on crime occurrence and, in order to find the roots of the crime, one should go to the environmental and acquirable factors, as well. These evolutions were followed by the formation of the social defense school wherein emphasis has been placed on the proportion between the punishment and the criminal’s personality and the necessity of paying attention to the correction and treatment of the criminal and socialization has been considered as the primary goal of punishment.

Prevention of Recidivism in Prison:

Like other grounds of criminology, preventive criminology, as well, has been densely theorized and defined. In every evolution period of the crime prevention literature, each of the prevention experts have realized an aspect of the subject as being more important and s/he has accordingly presented a definition for crime prevention. However, a simple definition knows crime prevention as meaning all the interventions taken for preventing the crime perpetration in future for reducing criminality [13].

Most of the classical schools believe that the main duty (of penal law) is laid on the foundation of the public interest and benefit. Thus, the main purport of the judicial policy in the area of the crimes is crime prevention. In the discussion on prisoners, there should be seminally existing a specific classification and the prisoners are categorized based on gender, age, criminal history, personality, job and their crime type. The youngster who has committed a crime for the first time is placed at the side of the other prisoners that may have a long history of criminality and s/he happens to learn new lessons and become ready for the perpetration of more important crimes. Upon coming out of the prison, this person may perpetrate new crimes and such individuals are termed habitual criminals in criminology meaning that the crime perpetration becomes a habit for them. Due to the same reason, these criminals are different from those who accidentally or inadvertently perpetrate a crime. Thus, a distinction should be made between them and the ordinary criminals. The separation of the inmates and providing them with the required instructions are less frequently carried out in our country and, on the other hand, prison cannot itself specify more serious punishments than what has been stipulated in the regulations and subsequently enforce them autonomously¹.

Barriers, Advantages and Necessity of Recidivism Prevention in Prison

Paying attention to crime prevention in prison in the public criminal, legislative and judicial policy would have a lot of wonderful effects and advantages for the society and its members, including the reduction of the crimes and criminals' statistics (criminal population) hence reduction in the files received by and referred to justice department's courts and reduction of the work volume of the courts; since one of the problems with which the judicial system is presently faced is the prolongation of the resolving and effective trial, such attentions can shorten the trial period and be followed by improvement in the trial process and enhancement of the quality of the issued sentences².

Additionally, considering the fact that besides jeopardizing the public security, injuring the public thoughts and imposing a lot of material and spiritual losses on the victims, crime perpetration also causes a considerable amount of human workforce efforts and wealth that should be normally spent on the development and construction to be spent on the counteracting of the criminal actions, so, paying attention to the crime prevention brings about reductions in the aforementioned costs and, additionally, crime prevention is more increasingly cheaper and easier than crime discovery and confrontation [14].

On the other hand, crime prevention causes reductions in the criminal population of the prisons and the prisoners' statistics and improvement of the correction and rectification methods and optimal use of the facilities existent in the institutions affiliated with the criminal justice system, particularly the prisons.

If the individuals who have committed crimes can be kept in environments other than prison and with other names and in a proper setting and by different supervisory methods, effective measures can be taken in line with recidivism reduction. Proper classification of the criminals based on their history and incarceration period can have an appropriate effect in this regard. Teaching the required skills in practical and theoretical manners to the managers, administrative staff and jailers is necessary so that they can contribute to the preparation of the inmates for return to the society along with the social worker. Acceptance of this idea that the prisoners are still society members and they should be allowed to enjoy it through their citizenship rights is amongst the other necessities because the prisoners' rights constitute the primary precondition of all the criminal policies claiming the intellectuality and crime prevention according to the public security and citizens' quality of life. Amongst the other solutions in this regard are the reduction in the prisoners' density to the limit of the standards existent in the prisons, expansion of the instructional and corrective facilities and so forth such as by providing the possibility of more meetings, use of social care and prosecution services and application of the substitute methods instead of imprisonment [15].

The Role of the Prisons Organization in Recidivism Prevention in Prisons

¹ In article 47 of the Islamic penal code of law, there are discussions about crime numerosity and this is specific to individuals who perpetrate a lot of crimes at one time; however, based on article 48 of the Islamic penal code of law, "every person convicted by a court's sentencing of him or her to Ta'azir or a preventive punishment, the court can intensify the Ta'azir or deterring punishment, if necessary, in case of the individual's perpetration of a Ta'azir-deserving crime following his or her previous conviction". This is why the courts or the prosecutors ask if the criminal has had a past criminal record or not?

² If a person perpetrates a Ta'azir-deserving crime, the court can intensify the Ta'azir or deterring punishment, if necessary. This is why it is asked during the trial in court or prosecution whether the criminal has had a criminal history or not?

In the past that the legal system's paradigm was punitive laws, the philosophy of prison was comprised of punishment, revenging the criminal and exertion of pain or disability on the criminals. In the modern world, the legal system's model is a reparatory one and, because criminal is not realized as an inborn killer or criminal but a patient or the victim of the incorrect social or familial relations and management and any criminal could have taken another path in life by the occurrence or non-occurrence of an accident or an instant or a factor and, instead of becoming a criminal, s/he could have become a qualified scientist or broker, the philosophy of prison includes rehabilitation; and, even if it fails about a group of the prisoners, the individuals deserving and having the ability of being rehabilitated cannot be victimized by disregarding this perspective. Therefore, prison is just a tool for keeping the criminals away from the society for preventing the imposition of damages on the others; in the prisons' environments, a small human community should be established with natural conditions so that the criminal behaviors can be provided with a chance to be corrected and the criminals can be aided to return to the society. Thus, the organization of prisons can play a very critical role in the prevention of recidivism.

Conclusion

Recidivism prevention has been one of the important subjects in criminology for several decades. This can be even observed in the codified works of the assisting policies in some European and American countries. Of course, the legal systems of the advanced countries have recently authenticated recidivism deterrence as an optimal and effective approach in comparison to strategies like diverse forms of criminal surveillance and criminal justice enforcement and they are implementing them within the format of diverse programs. In order to prevent crime and, especially, recidivism, the identification of its root and source is one of the best available methods. Undoubtedly, crime perpetration is latent in the social structures and type of the individuals' upbringing. Attentions should be paid to these two issues for identification of the crime prevention ways. The correction of the individuals is infeasible without rectification in the social structures because the individuals are subjected to the same conditions under which they have perpetrated crimes upon reentry into the society and this environment again makes them ready to re-perpetrate crimes. Additionally, failure in correcting the individuals even in the structure of the corrected criminals is per se a factor giving rise to recidivism. Although the change in the social structure is of a great importance, it is not an easy task. Thus, after-freedom protection enable the criminals' preparation in such a way that they are dragged towards deviations and social transgressions to a lesser degree.

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