

Community corrections are non-prison sanctions, which are imposed on adjudicated juveniles or convicted adults in two ways: either by a court instead of certain prison sentence or parole board, providing the release from prison. Basically, community corrections are arranged by means of many community corrections programs. Such programs, which are usually operated by probation or parole agencies, imply the general community supervision, work at different residential facilities and some other activities (Folster, 2006). Each of the programs is responsible for delivering the rehabilitation services.

In USA community corrections are widely practiced. Most of the programs tend to be federal-funded. As the statistics reveals, the highest percentage of people, doing community services, are drug-addict felons. The USA developed two types of community corrections programs, which are technological programs to monitor compliance and wrap-around services with rehabilitation periods. Concerning the influence of community corrections on American society, we should mention that they are effective for youth, but not always for adults. We should remember that such programs are limited and not for people who committed violent crimes. All in all, programs are seen to be socially justifiable, because making people accountable to their community is the way to reform them, change their views and lifestyles in order not to commit crimes anymore. If the entire community blames the offender for committing a crime and oppresses him psychologically, then he is less likely to commit a crime one more time.

Generally, the community corrections programs are considered to be rather effective. Using faith-based mentoring has an extremely positive impact on human psyche and moral. Programs, where the intensive community supervision is combined with the rehabilitation services, are able to reduce the recidivism between 10% and 20%. On the other hand, the recent practice shows that the usage of house arrest, boot camps, parole supervision and routine probation is not successful in terms of reducing the recidivism. So, when developing the programs, it is necessary to take into account the objective risk and needs assessment. Due to this, the offenders could be assigned to programs, which would most likely benefit them. Offenders with high and moderate risks should be assigned to treatment programs, which can be the most effective for them. The informal social

control is exercised through the community and familial control. We personally believe that the most effective community corrections programs are those, which tend to collaborate closely with non-profit organizations or community organizations and, which deal mostly with social system, being more favorable to families of offenders.

Australia tends to use the community programs within the ACT Corrective Services board, engaging adults in certain type of residential works with the purpose to get the maximum percent of recidivism. In China the number of imprisoned people was only 1.5 million compared to 2.5 million in USA, regarding that Chinese population is four times larger than American one. The number of inmates in European Union countries is only 600.000 people. In Sweden the prison system is very rational, each individual is punished justly and the number of inmates is constantly reducing due to the high living standards, making Sweden the most economically stable European state. In Canada most of the federal offenders serve only a part of their sentences in prison and the rest in community. They state that the promotional power for the personality change of every individual has been grounded upon personal psychology and motivation, rather than doing the sentence in prison. All in all, other nations see prison system as highly just one. The policies oriented to prison systems are always used to control the rates of imprisonment. Apart from that, foreign countries provide stable economic conditions and peace, whereas in USA we can investigate conflicts between black and white people and Latinos. Americans have such a huge number of inmates annually, because they give the specific attention to non-violent crimes, incarcerating half a million of the drug-addicts or drunkards (National Institute of Corrections, 2007). The American prison system is seen as the world largest prison system. However, the policies directed to the system are not that effective. Americans are seen to be inclined to imprison their fellow citizens. Thus, almost every inmate is provided with free housing and meals. The problem is that money, covering the needs of inmates in prison is charged from the taxes and pockets of American citizens and this is not fair. This way, homeless people have worse living conditions than the prisoners. That is why, America tends to be the shelter for other nations who send their dangerous criminals to be incarcerated in USA with rather soft and “convenient” conditions (Pigliucci, 2011). I would

recommend implementing the system, where the criminal could be punished according to the seriousness of crime, in other words, to be justly punished. Assisting prisoners in cost may force them commit crime one more time, because they feel the lack of discrimination and fear in prison. We should prioritize the points of prison system in USA. Moreover, Americans should clarify the points of advanced prison systems in other countries. Implementing some new laws, they should be aimed at reducing the number of inmates, distinguishing between violent criminal cases and trivial or minor crimes. Respectively, the state budget will foresee the reduced funds to be paid to cover the living of inmates in prison. Prisons generally may cost money in two ways: capital outlays for construction and annual operating costs, which are approximately 80% of personnel costs. The double bunking policy should be used to save space within the prison and with the purpose to save additional costs. The front-end solutions should suggest the alternative to imprisonment, but not in cases with violent crimes. In addition, the back-end solutions should be used to release some minor offenders when prisons are overcrowded, thus, the release should be in the form of probation or community service. Adopting the other prison system of the highly developed countries, the prison system would be changed for the better, reducing huge costs to be covered and reducing the number of prisoners.

Each idea for the community corrections should be implemented within the numerous correctional programs. The programs should include parole or early release opportunity. I would recommend counseling, psychopharmacological treatments and juvenile programs as the possible and effective treatment programs, helping to reduce recidivism. First of all, it is necessary to provide the importance of each program on local, federal and state levels. We should understand the needs of our community. When analyzing the needs of inmates, we should always focus on education and rehabilitation. Moreover, it is extremely necessary to choose the appropriate approach to community corrections, in each case trying to concentrate on the most relevant, for example, psychological approach, criminal justice approach or criminal justice relevance, decreasing the prison population and crime rates generally. I would also advise to review the points

of previous community corrections programs to make sure that we develop rather effective and innovative model.

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