Criminal Justice Ethics

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**Criminal Justice Ethics**

Codes of ethics and criminal justice are mutually connected. Drawing from social contract theory by (Braswell, et al., 2014), the citizens of a nation repose freedoms to be safeguarded by the Republican state. Higher moral principles and standards are expected to be exercised by government justice practitioners so that an ordinary citizen can confidently trust the expert agents of justice who provide them with security. All criminal justice officers such as judges, police officers, and prosecutors should effectively learn to practice the use of their discretion at certain specific instances in their careers. This moral standard tends to become compromised when law enforcement officers are encountered with moral predicaments where they are forced to make split second decisions with people’s lives in their hands when the choice is to tell the truth and jeopardize their careers or bend the truth and paint the law-abiding citizen as the criminal. The primary reason behind his research is to show the correlation between the fair and just decisions made by justice practitioners when integrities lead discretionary verdicts, since mostly there exist shades of ethics responsibilities that are superior to others (Braswell, et al., 2014).

The consciousness and significance of ethics in the institutions of criminal justice are up-surging at a higher rate. The reason behind this faster growth is due mostly to the fact that nearly every other profession including criminal justice officials also participate in fraudulent actions in their daily activities. Recent studies postulate that every year thousands of practitioners lose their job and representing their professions in a dishonorable fashion after being involved in immoral duties (Neubauer and Fradella, 2015). This comprises of activities that are outright illegal and those that have been marked as being criminal in nature. This paper will provide evidence as to why we integrate codes of ethics into justice officers, the intended reason for having ethical principles and the scope of codes of ethical conduct in the criminal justice system.

The extent of criminal justice policies is typically interpreted to barely cover a variety of complex and mid-level moral challenges faced primarily in the fields of criminal justice, law enforcement, corrections, and courts. Within this paradigm outline, criminal justice integrities may be centered on creations brought about by the individuals themselves as opposed the field of expertise itself, such as the challenges experienced by criminal justice agents, the independence of the judiciary and the place of police discretion. The institution can curb challenges such as opposition to particular police techniques, the use of hominem authorized cover strategies as well as creating healthy relationships with prisoners (Braswell, et al., 2014). Criminal justice ethics face challenges that evolve in association with the basics of the criminal justice system, the ethical boundaries of criminal law, and the ethical challenges that develop in consideration to the nature and the roots of delinquency. This as well as broader subjects in the platform of ethical difficulties that have significant expressions within the agenda of criminal justice, for instance, those regarding human rights and trustworthiness have been under much scrutiny in recent times due to the lack of accountability in their own organizations.

According to Maxfield (2015), the extent to which criminal justice morals is narrowly understood, as it is usually in books and scripts structured for those who seek to be criminal justice agents, the program must capture ways in which wider outlines and matters impose on a narrower conversation. Considering how a conversation concerning the judicial handling of drug criminals have a duty to be receptive to bigger concerns regarding the social setting and suitable treatment to drug use and the explanations for incarceration, and overall considerations of the justification and determinations of penalty. Moral matters involving basic circumstances for individual’s relationships and connections, whether they are interpreted interpersonally, socially, on institutionally show a difference when viewed at the level of basic humanity with moral issues that operate through personal and institutional roles. When we talk about the morality of killings and the deadly force police use to compromise their codes of ethics, a lot of what is involved in the ethics of role dealings are well integrated into the field of expertise. As always with the case of applied ethics, ethical determinations need to be thoughtfully evaluated in line with the social roles involved, and of the social situations in which those specific functions present themselves. (Maxfield, 2015).

**Criminal justice ethical systems.**

According to Neubauer and Fradella (2015), there exists ethical systems that explore the ethnicity of the correct verdict. There are two primary moral systems used in the criminal justice system used to evaluate the ethical nature of a situation. They are deontological and teleological (Neubauer and Fradella, 2015).

**Deontological system**

This system explores the fundamental nature of the action. According to Neubauer and Fradella (2015), this system demonstrates the consistent basis of moral judgments and is identifies whether an action is founded on duty was good. He referred to this as a phenomenon of the ultimate standard of ethics, something that an individual must do, a duty (Braswell, et al., 2014).

**Teleological system**

The teleological ethical system according to Maxfield (2015) is mostly involved with the repercussions of an action, and utilitarianism is a generally accepted form of the teleological system. Utilitarianism emphasizes on the happiness and moral integrity of the majority. An act will be judged by the total amount of pain or unhappiness that will be produced. Another form is ethical egoism which shows that an action can be judged by the greatest asset that is created for the individual doing the action. These two methods are useful in that they provide a guiding light which is a code of ethics to the criminal justice practitioners who faces complex conflicts that they must deal with on a regular basis.

**Quantitative Research Methods**

The quantitative research method is an ideal method used to measure criminal justice reality. This is because quantitative research methods involve a pattern of studying the relationship between sets of variables to determine cause and effect. Conducting survey research in this particular research was of significant. Using different variables to investigate the practitioner’s officials and the unscrupulous activities performed by them. The survey proves to be a very useful method in the field of criminology (Maxfield, 2015). The study involves collection from a sample of people through their responses to questions (Neubauer and Fradella, 2015). As a result of the growth of technology, survey research is carried out by mail, telephone, and computer and in person. Typically surveys comprise a combination of closed and open-ended questions. Surveys offer different attractive elements that make them a favorite method of carrying out research. It comes with benefits like being generalizable, inexpensive and versatile. However, when conducting this research, the process faced limitations because of problems of sampling, overall survey design, and measurement. By selecting this method, researchers should take care in making sure that the variables in the survey are clear and to the point (Neubauer and Fradella, 2015).

**Conclusion**

Ethics are the basis of criminal justice system. It enables individuals to develop good rational that is applied, how criminal action are defined as well as helping the society perceive what is an acceptable punishment. A firm loyalty to the moral codes, an ethical governance, and pride in their careers and the spirits it supports are vital steps towards addressing and establishing a firm criminal justice ethics.

**References**

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