Criminal justice system: Literature Review on the Court System

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Criminal justice system deals with the local public, federal and state agencies in dealing with the issue of crimes. The court system being a key component of the judicial system, has been various challenges. Underfunding is the major problem facing the court system. Other issues are corruption, bias, and discrimination.

Challenges affecting the Court system

According to the report on Crisis in the Courts by Peter and others ( ), the court system faces the challenge of underfunding. According to this study, unlike other state government’s elements, the court services were curtailed before the current recession. Besides, most nations ha their courts operate with 10-15% less funding. Judiciary and its related support systems such as for probation officers, juvenile counsellor, and the drug diversion programs are typically 90% personal expenses compared to other agencies. This underfunding have caused various effects on the judiciary system (Peter & Mills, 2012).

Firstly, public safety is adversely affected. This is due to the inability of courts to resolve cases promptly. It is obvious that most states experience delays within the resolving criminals dockets. These delays go to theextent of both prosecutors and judges getting into a dilemma of deciding to warehouse defendants who have not been tried in the local jails or to release the potentially harmful offenders. Further detaining increase expenses to the other agencies of the government. Additional pretrial detention was practically impossible to some extent and other extent it can be constitutionally impermissible. For example, the capital case of Georgia encountered delay leading to the defendant being jailed for a duration of five years. This delay was caused by the state's inability to pay a judge to represent him in the court of law.

On the contrary, the Washington state had a suspect of a criminal case being released due to speedy-trial concerns. As soon he was released, he engaged in a rape case and afterwards killed a pedestrian while on a high-speed chase. The ability of courts in serving for the public safety is cutback resulting in less troubling effects (Supreme Court Decision Making, 2005).

Across the country, the additional costs in both money and time allocated to the local police departments to cater for long distances travelled and time wasted as they await to testify during court trials are not clear. This because they are either delayed or transferred due to unclear inadequate court time. Besides, in Nevada, lack of funds has led to the failure of DNA data concerning the offenders to be entered in databases for use in future (Kathrine,2014).

Additionally, the judicial system's inadequate funding adversely affects the economy. This reduces court time, hence, raising delays in the adjudicating of cases besides increasing related expenses. It is ironical that reducing the state's expenditure on the proper functioning courts adversely affects the state treasury(Peter & Mills, 2012).

Discrimination and bias is the other issue affecting the court system of the modern world. This poses a threat to making just judgement. In the justice system of the United States, it is likely for the judges to differ on a racial basis when it comes time for making a judgment. It hasbeen reported that there exists a small racial gap amongst the African-American Judges. The harsher judges are more likely to give a sentence to the African-American criminals than the whites are (Connolly, 2018).

Corruption is the other factor that affects the American court system. This occurs through the prosecution side, withholding key pieces of evidence. The confidential informants who plant testimony that is sufficient for conviction also display corruption.50% of the American population have lost trust in the court system of their land — this based on the recent scandals that involved judges taking bribes (Seeker, 2015).

Discussion

Court system is a vital component of any given criminal justice system worldwide as it ensures that laws are followed. Courts discover the truth and seek justice with the primary court actors being judges, defence attorneys, and prosecutors.Each of the actors has roles to play in the court system. It is the responsibility of the court system to decide if an offender will be released either before or after the trial. Judges in a court have the mandate to reject or accept plea agreements, sentence the convicted offenders and oversee trials (Arceneaux, 2017).

Bias is a negative quality in the court system since in influences judges to make biased decisions or give a sentence that is not fair when deciding the court cases. This challenges the role of the court, which is to promote justice to the public and criminals. It may cause the members of the public to lose in their trust in the court system (William, *Et al.,* 2018)

Corruption is a vice that has led to the criminals being released as the victims of violence continues to suffer. Although the Supreme Court judges and the federal justice hold their offices for life, elected judges just like politicians are subject to some forces of special interests and bribery among others. There is a great need for them to act morally and ethically to avoid the vice that adversely affects the judicial system Crowe, 2012).

To conclude, the criminal justice system is fundamental in maintaining peace in ensuring justice in a nation. For the court system to function effectively and efficiently, it should be fully financed for it to operate smoothly. Again, court actors should carry out with roles without any form of discrimination and bias in order to make a fair and just judgement. In other words, they should be ethical whenever they make judgements.

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