Victimology

Name of Student:

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Date:

**Victimology**

**The definition of victimology**

As a scientific study, victimology focuses on the various forms of victimization that take place in society. The focus is often on the relationships that exist between as well as their offenders. It also scrutinizes the interaction if the victims with the system that can be able to accord them justice for the acts of crime that they are subjected to (Daigle, 2017). The study often looks into various forms of violations that individuals are subjected to, regardless of the fact that they cannot be categorized under crime.

**The history of victimology, and its development**

The word victim was derived from the word victim which is a Latin term that was used in reference to individuals and animals that were sacrificed so that deities could be pleased. The term was used with the implication that a role that was sacrificial in nature had to be played. The system that focuses on the provision of justice in relation to activities that allude to crime currently makes use of the term in describing individuals subjected to losses, hardships or injuries as a result of the illegal actions of some other party. In 1949, “victimology” was used in Fredric Wertham’s books whose focus was on the murders that had been committed and the individuals who had been subjected to some form of harm by criminals (Spencer & Walklate, 2016). Currently, the term focuses on studies of a scientific nature that look into victimization cases and those who are subjected to the unjust acts. It also examines the victim’s interaction with other parties including the system responsible for meting out justice as well as media houses. With time, victimology was classified as penal or general.

**The difference of victimology from criminology, sociology, or psychology**

Victimology looks into the behavior of victims and the treatment of the same victims by laws on the other and criminology is a study that is of a social and a scientific nature which focuses on the crimes committed by individuals and their occurrence as a social phenomena. Criminology incorporates victimology in its study. It is essential for criminologists to have some information to sociology. Sociology often involves the study of the lives of individuals in settings that are social. In comparison, psychology involves a study that seeks to understand the human mind and the behavior of people (Daigle & Muftic, 2015).

**The establishment of the first safe houses for battered women and their location**

Safe houses are places that offer protection of a temporary nature as well as the support needed by women who need to escape from various acts that pertain to domestic violence. Women’s advocates went ahead and established the first shelter that could be used by women who had been battered. The shelter was located in St. Paul which can be found in Minnesota (Pahl, 2016).

**The establishment of the first rape crisis centers and their location**

Rape crisis centers are often developed to help people who have been raped to get access to the help that they need. The centers were established in various states in the first part of the 1970’s. The states included Berkeley, Washington, Philadelphia Boston and Chicago. They were put up by women who were involved in the feminist movement’s second wave. The first participants in actions that were geared in putting an end to rape were colored women.

**The contribution of the Civil Rights movement to antidiscrimination efforts and the establishment of hate crime legislation and policy**

Hate crimes often arise from religious prejudices as well as other foundation that might be used by the discriminating parties. The movement that lobbied for civil rights ensured that legislation as well as policies that related to various hate crimes were put in place. As a result of the common purpose that was shared by individuals, it become possible for them to band together so that they could compel congress to have the laws that had been put in place to be modified. This especially related to laws that permitted the occurrence of various hate crimes. Later on, the Hate Crime Prevention Act was put in place to ensure that the rights that the citizens were entitled to would not be infringed in any way.

**The role of children’s rights groups in highlighting the problems that child victims face in the criminal justice system**

Child abuse became one of the social problems that had been indentified after its exposure in 1960’s. The problem was addressed as a result of the various psychological as well as physical actions under which children were subjected. This led to some shelters being established so that children could be able to see their protection. The system that was concerned with the provision of the criminal rights of the children neglected them simply because of their age. Groups whose focus is on the plight of children have involved the media so that it can bear witness and even broadcast their actions.

**Organizations to contact that provide specific advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and homicide**

There are various organizations that can be contacted in relation to matters of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and homicide. These include the American Bar Association Commission which focuses matters that pertain to domestic violence as well as sexual assault. The perspective that it provides is legal. Moreover, the services that are offered by the Battered Women Justice Program can offer some technical assistance as well as consultation services so that professionals can be in a better position to deal with the various criminal cases that have to be dealt with in the system hat is responsible for meting out the required justice.

**The services that are not provided by government crime compensation programs**

Where some theft occurs or property is damaged, compensation should not be expected from the government. In addition compensation cannot cover any damage that property might be subjected to. Furthermore, victims of terror cannot be able to receive any form of compensation form the government.

**The need for mandatory reporting by religious organizations of child abuse by clergy in all states and the use of the media to mandate reporting**

Any person who feels that the safety of a child is under threat can go ahead and file a report. In addition, any information that pertains to abuses that are perpetuated by members of the public must be made available. Criminal persecution is a possibility where a report is not offered owing to the involvement of the clergy in various acts of child abuse. The media also has a critical role to play in ensuring that information that pertains to child abuse is provided. Press releases can be issued by the media in relation to mandatory reporting as well as various articles that can be used to inform the local masses.

**If mandatory reporting exists, how long has this been a requirement? What organizations are involved in tracking and helping the victims with this type of abuse?**

The state of Massachusetts was able to require mandatory reporting in the year 2009. Individuals who operate in a professional capacity can be able to report on the cases that pertain to child abuse. Medical professionals as well as people involved in the learning experience of the children can be involved (M.G.L.A. 119 §§ 21, 51A, 2009).

References

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