Effectiveness of Probation on the Rates of Recidivism

Institutional Affiliation

Date

According to criminal law, probation refers to the period of supervision over a criminal, given by the court rather than serving time in prison. Probation allows an individual to stay in their community while they under probation officer’s supervision. However, it is not every single offense that can be put on probation. Some offenders of certain criminal activities are sent to jail or prison without having the probation offer placed on their tables. On the other hand, the national institute of justice defines recidivism as an individual’s relapse into behaviors of criminal activities, often after the fellow gets sanctions or endures intervention for a crime they had committed previously. The two terms have a great relationship, especially in the effectiveness of probation in addressing recidivism.

Different types of probations have varying effectiveness in addressing recidivism. Unsupervised probation: in this type, the lawbreaker is not placed under the direct watch of a probation officer. Nevertheless, the people under this type of probation are needed to complete instructions of orders put by the court. This type of probation is also called informal probation and is commonly allowed for less severe crimes. Unsupervised probation helps in reducing less serious offenses like theft. Unsupervised probation also ensures stability where a lawbreaker can keep a job and remain to be a beneficial participant in their communities. Supervised probation: in this type, the lawbreaker is needed to occasionally check in with the probation officer as well as ensuring conditions put by the court. Offenders can also be placed under alcohol/drug treatments, and community services. Supervised offenders are helped to cope with their daily lives without getting involved in criminal activities. Also, those who participated in illegal activities because of drug use are controlled by this kind of probation. Community control: this is probation that typically happens through house arrest where a lawbreaker is not allowed to leave their homes. An ankle monitoring device is utilized and it gives GPS information concerning the location of the offender. The restriction of movement helps offenders to change in order to be restituted in their communities. Shock probation: in this probation, the judge sentences a lawbreaker to a maximum jail or prison decree. After a little period of jail time, the criminal is set free in a standard jail program. This type of probation is useful in the way that it shocks the offender. The time the offender spends in jail, or prison shows them the consequences of getting involved in criminal activities. As a result, the offenders under this probation fear to commit illegal activities because of being taken back to jails or prisons.

Probation works in addressing recidivism, and there is no need of becoming more punitive. However, it is vital to increase supervision as well as the treatment of the individuals under probation. Some behaviors like drinking, a bad company, as well as the use of other hard drugs, constitute high levels of criminal activities. Individuals under probation receive counseling and restrictions on the use of these substances. Many of them are unable to participate in illegal activities when they are in a sober state. When placed on treatment and counseling, many of them recover and become back to their normal senses. As a result, they avoid taking part in criminal activities. Shock probation also instills fear to the offender as they know the consequences they would face if they engage again in delinquency.

**References**