

Current Policy Selection:

Reintegrative Shaming Theory and Policy

Jasmyn Wilhelm

Department of Criminal Justice

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Dr. Ruth Triplett

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Introduction to Current Practices in Domestic Violence Policies

Modern laws addressing domestic abuse have begun utilizing restorative justice techniques in place of what society deems more conventional forms of punishment. The basis of this change is the Reintegrative Shaming Theory (RST), which focuses on recovery and reintegration rather than punishment. According to RST, criminals can change and rejoin the community if they accept accountability for their acts while maintaining their humanity. This approach is quite different from Disintegrative Shaming (DS), which condemns and isolates criminals, damaging their relationships with society and raising the likelihood that they will commit crimes again.

Restorative Justice and Reintegrative Shaming in Domestic Violence

The Center for Court Innovation in New York and other programs promote victim engagement and hold offenders responsible for applying restoration techniques. It encourages offenders to take responsibility for their conduct, participate in rehabilitation groups, and understand the impact of their actions. These programs support the victims' healing and repair along with helping criminals reintegrate into society. According to the Center for Justice Innovation, "Restorative justice programs that integrate victim participation and offender accountability not only reduce reoffending but also offer meaningful opportunities for community support and healing" (Packer, n.d.).

Supporting Evidence

Reintegrative shame is associated with greater victim involvement in domestic abuse cases and reduces the likelihood of recidivism. According to Lu et al. (2002) study, offenders

who participate in restorative justice initiatives that prioritize reintegrative shaming typically see reduced recidivism rates. The participants of these initiatives are more likely to show regret and accept responsibility for their acts, which raises their chances of recovery and entry back into the community. "Offenders who participate in restorative justice programs that emphasize reintegrative shaming show significantly lower rates of recidivism compared to those who undergo punitive measures alone" (Lu et al., 2002).

Challenges

Even though reintegrative shaming has the potential to provide many benefits, there can be risks in using it in cases of domestic abuse. The emphasis on correctional methods in the criminal justice system is a major obstacle that might be challenging to overcome. In addition, concerns are raised regarding the safety of the victims and the requirement for voluntary involvement since survivors may be uncomfortable to meeting criminals because of traumatic experiences or concerns of revenge. On top of that, the community's resistance to changing from a punishment standpoint to a restorative one could lead to more difficulties for reintegrative shaming to be accepted.

Conclusion

Overall, one step in the right direction for criminal justice reform is the use of reintegrative shame in domestic violence policies. The Center for Justice Innovation and other programs show that involving those affected, holding offenders responsible, and creating support from the community can reduce recidivism and encourage healing. Research suggests that reintegrative shaming has the potential to improve the results in domestic violence cases by

supporting both the rehabilitation of criminals and the emotional recovery of those affected, but there are still challenges to overcome, such as providing safety for the victims and addressing the concerns of the community.

Resources

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