Hello Class,

This discussion reviews evidence to answer why an assessment of the criminal justice system must include an evaluation of gender biases against women that may discriminate against women and suppress their participation in the criminal justice system. Historically, the criminal justice system has underserved women by discriminating against them through a biased lens. The problem has been further exacerbated in underdeveloped countries. For assessments to be accurate, it is necessary to investigate why these biases exist and what can be done to adjust for them.

The most likely reason women are discriminated against is the lack of females in the criminal justice system. Women are lacking in police forces. This weakens the legal process of viewing women equally or unbiasedly. Male police officers are more likely to disregard female criminal complaints. They may not even report crimes reported by females; in predominately male-centered cultures such as in most Muslim countries, the effect is pronounced. The United Nations has a police gender initiative to increase the number of women in police forces. Where women have been added, the likelihood of female victims reporting crimes or providing evidence has increased (*International guide to gender in the criminal justice system*, 2016; *UN police gender initiatives*, 2022).

Women serving in the criminal justice system have increased empathy for female victims. Female victims and witnesses are more likely to connect with the officer due to gender connectedness. A study showed that most women incarcerated for drug trafficking trafficked themselves. A lack of female perceptive has impacted the criminal justice system. They should have been treated as victims and provided therapy for re-entry into society (*UN police gender initiatives*, 2022).

Additionally, Female offenders have been reluctant to come forward due to the stigma of being involved with organized crime and therefore losing custody of their children. If more women are included in different roles throughout the criminal justice system, this stigma might be blunted. Any criminal justice system assessment should recognize these concerns and adjust for bias (*UN police gender initiatives*, 2022).

Stereotypes of gender roles involved in organized crime can further bias the criminal justice system regarding women. Unfortunately, the response to female perpetrators can inadvertently cause recidivism. A phenomenon where victims cannot see themselves as victims is also fostered. Additionally, the institutional embedded inequalities that impact women are reinforced (Hicks, 2021).

When examining institutional biases, it is essential to view these through a sensitive lens due to the similar characteristics of critical race theory (CRT). Because (CRT) is a highly controversial topic and is rejected by a significant population, any similar arguments that propose institutional biases/discrimination must be approached cautiously. The criminal justice systems have addressed the patriarchy hierarchy, but a tremendous amount of work is needed.

Women lawyers, judges, police officers, and other criminal occupations continue to experience and report discrimination. Furthermore, issues of sexual harassment and income disparity continue to be problem areas. For all these areas to be addressed, the female experiences in the criminal justice system must be further studied. As a social institution that impacts the lives of its citizens, the evaluation of gender bias must be honestly viewed and then corrected (Batton & Wright, 2019).

Nearly half of all law school graduates are women, yet they remain significantly underrepresented in legal institutions. On average female lawyers are paid 25% less than men. Evidence of gender roles being enforced in the criminal justice system shows that while men tend to hold positions of authority, women typically have positioned the provide support. When examining the data, it is clear that the criminal justice system continues to place men and women in roles based on gender. That is to say, men are chosen for leadership while women are selected for support and service (Batton & Wright, 2019).

In conclusion, an accurate assessment of the criminal justice system and honest evaluation of the gender biases against women must be made to diminish discrimination, improve access to justice, and fully participate in the criminal justice system. Because the criminal justice system is based on a patriarchal system that reinforces gender stereotypes and biases, it is unlikely for female defendants to receive impartial justice. The research supports the countermeasures include increasing the number of participants in the criminal justice system and assuring they have access to promotion and positions of power and authority. Efforts should be made to determine if a female defendant is a victim, and then a program should be developed to assist them in resisting recidivism.

Bobby

References

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