**Part I: Research Paper Topic**

**Introduction**

Generally, the criminal justice system can be referred to as the system of law enforcement that involves the apprehension, prosecution, defending, judgment and sentencing of those who are found to be guilty of criminal activities. Punishment of offenders under the criminal justice system is also key. It is important to bear in mind that under the criminal justice system, punishment is for correction, preventing criminals from engaging in the same criminal acts as well as deterring others from performing such acts. It should be noted that its similarity with criminology comes in the fact that both disciplines rely on other disciplines like sociology, economics and psychology while the difference comes in the fact that criminology’s focus is on the study of crime and criminal behavior while criminal justice’s focus is on concerns that are related to crime like the conduct of police officers in handling criminals (University Libraries, n.d.). This paper will analyze the criminal justice of Denmark, explain the concept of comparative criminal justice and how this concept of comparative criminal justice is applied in Denmark. This paper also aims at discussing how the criminal justice of Denmark compares with that of the United States. This paper will discuss ideas from different scholars on the criminal justice system of Denmark.

**Criminal justice system of Denmark**

Denmark is regarded as one of the countries with the best criminal systems in the world. Its criminal system describes how pre-trial proceedings and trial proceedings are conducted. It also describes how the court is supposed to conduct itself in the midst of questioning witnesses and suspects. The Ministry of Justice in Denmark is in charge of this system and police officers together with courts are the administrative bodies of these systems. The systems applied in correction of accused under this system are said to operate under the authority of the minister of Justice (Ravn, n.d.).

Denmark is successful in coming up with an effective criminal justice because its history dates back in the year 1660 where Denmark was a declared monarch that was governed by Christian Laws. The obsoleteness and biased in these laws resulted in introduction of democracy in 1848 that has led to the growth of legal systems in Denmark up to date. The criminal justice system of Denmark is part of its well-developed legal systems (Ravn, n.d.).

The reason for choosing the Denmark criminal justice system to be the topic of this research is because this system has clarity in most of the critical areas of a justice system. It provides a clear classification crime and states clearly the age of criminal responsibility. It also describes drug offenses and which categories fall under this category (Ravn, n.d.).

**Comparative criminal justice**

Comparative criminal justice refers to a scenario in which justice systems in the world are compared in terms of their efforts in maintaining social justice and order, what justice to them is and how they attain this justice as well as the policies and institutions that provide criminal justice in the states being analyzed. Normally, the processes of prosecuting, adjudicating, judging, sentencing and punishing criminals is compared in the various states. The concept of comparative justice system requires that states focus on maintaining social order and availing justice to their subjects (Reichel, 2016). Denmark criminal justice system follows the concept of comparative criminal justice system by ensuring that its maintenance of social order and how it avails justice to its subjects is done in accordance with the international laws and regulations on criminal justice.

The criminal justice system of Denmark compares in various ways with that of the United States. One of the areas in which comparison can be drawn is in the prison systems of both states. The models of criminal punishment in both countries are recognized to apply progressive punishment principles that aim at minimizing politicization and emotionalism of crime. They have adapted prison conditions that show how the countries view crimes in terms of their social and political structures. These conditions are all about providing the best living standards for prisoner s and this is done as a way of ensuring proper treatment of marginalized citizens (Selke, 2011).

**Part II: Annotated Bibliography**

There are various scholarly articles that analyze the Denmark criminal justice system and try to interpret parts of the systems that need interpretations. Some of these articles also disclose challenges facing the Denmark criminal justice system and make recommendations on how the system can be improved.

According to Lene Ravn in the World Fact Book on Denmark’s Criminal Justice System, the role of victims in prosecution, judgement and sentencing in Denmark, the victim is not entitled to be part of criminal proceedings and they are always notified by the prosecution concerning the actions that have been taken. The victim in Denmark is permitted to act as the prosecutor in rare occasions which include majorly the offenses against the honor of the person or special circumstances where the office of the public prosecutor has made the decision not to prosecute (Ravn, n.d.). This is borrowed from the principles of international criminal law that provide that in criminal proceedings, the state is mandated with the task of prosecuting on behalf of the victim and the victim will be allowed to prosecute on special circumstances.

According to William L. Selke in Denmark and the United States, the prison system of Denmark is one of the recognized systems in the world for their consistent improvement and high quality service delivery to the prisoners. It is disclosed in the article that the prison system of Denmark aims at ensuring that crime is not emotionalized or politicized in any way which will ensure that criminals are tried judged and sentenced in ways that are free and fair. The article also emphasizes on the fact that the crime control policies in Denmark present a reasoned approach of handling criminals that is emulated by states in various parts of the world (Selke, 2011).

On the other hand, the National Criminal Justice Reference service in an article published in 1980 described Denmark as having a prison system that is internationally acclaimed as it used community alternatives and open prisons that allowed conjugal visits among many other freedoms to the prisoners and made them feel valued and this gave them the desire to keep living and live transformed lives. From this article, it is clear that the criminal justice system in Denmark which includes prison systems has been quite functional for some time now (National Criminal Justice Reference Service, 1980).

According to an article published by George Town university, there two competing theories on how the society should punish offenders. They include reformation and retribution. Retribution is all about seeking revenge while reformation is all about seeking the correction of the offenders. The article analyzes the prison systems in Denmark and concludes that they base their systems of punishment on reformation of the offenders which is all about their correction (Foote, 2012).

**Reference**

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