GLOBAL CRIME PREVENTION

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Abstract

Crime has risen dramatically in recent decades and its costs have followed. States are spending ever-increasing amounts on health and property, as well as on police, investigative procedures, courts, and prisons. According to a recent observation, crime control absorbs a considerable percentage of the gross national product (GNP) in developed countries and much higher in less developed countries.

However, these expenditures have had relatively little impact on the crime rate and the rehabilitation of criminals, with the relatively high number of recidivists increasing exponentially.

As crime resists efforts to combat it, the interest of legal experts has gradually shifted to innovative methods of prevention rather than punishment. Several studies have shown that crime prevention can significantly reduce the number of crimes, as well as reduce their costs.

Key words: *crime, prevention, recidivism, strategies, young people.*

INTRODUCTION

So, crime in public places can be reduced by using civilian guards - recruited from the unemployed - and installing video surveillance circuits. In addition, young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to be arrested when they receive vocational training and are encouraged to complete their education.

"A growing body of literature shows that crime prevention works and can be more effective and less costly than traditional punitive approaches," said Mr Pino Alaarchi, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control

and Crime Prevention. "These strategies are important not only for reducing conventional crime but can also protect young people from those who recruit for organized crime," he noted[1] .

Crime prevention strategies werehigh on the agenda of the 10th United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Vienna in April 2000. Particular attention will be paid to crime prevention, to new challenges in this field and to the prevention of organized crime.

1. CONTENT

Crime prevention was also the focus of a joint workshop organized by the United Nations Center for Crime Prevention and the International Center for Crime Prevention, a non-governmental organization based inMontreal (Canada) and affiliated to the United Nations. The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime was set up by several countries to collect information and examples of good practice in crime prevention from around the world.

Delegations represented at the Congress will examine two important approaches to crime prevention that have been explored over the past two decades: social prevention and situational prevention.

Social prevention aims to eliminate problems that can lead a young person to crime, such as lack of parental supervision, poor primary education or poor physical or mental health. The community helps by teaching young people to obey the law, building relationships between local police and the community, and setting up drop-in centers for unemployed young people or voluntary treatment programs for young drug addicts. *(E. O'Hara, 1970, pp. 3-4).*

This strategy has achieved amazing results. According to the International Center for the Prevention of Crime, a four-year program from 1989 to 1993 in five American cities, the Quantum Opportunities Program, funded extracurricular activities for youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, including homework assistance., peer-to-peer training and community service, which reduced arrests by 71%. Every dollar invested in the program saved about $3.68 in social benefits and other government-funded programs such as youth counseling and unemployment insurance *(L. Cârjan, M. Chiper, 2009, p. 14.).*

A two-year program, from 1980 to 1982, in Ottawa, Canada, provided children (ages 5 to 15) in a low-income family housing group with free activities such as swimming, judo, classical dance, scouts and

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[1] https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/speeches/speech_2000-06-26_1.html accessed on 01.06.2022

competitive games. This project reduced crime by 56% and saved $2.67 for every $0.17 invested in the program *(L. Ionescu, D. Sandu, 2011, p. 2.)*.

"Partnerships" with local authorities, police or businesses have also been been successful in reducing crime. In Sydney (Australia), police have joined forces with key stakeholders in car theft, notably drivers, manufacturers, insurance companies, repairers, and local authorities, to implement a comprehensive public education program and preventive measures to limit the possibility of theft, such as safer parking. This process has reduced car theft by 25% in one year *(N. Volonciu, 2000, p. 28)*.

Situational crime prevention uses modern technology, surveillance, and architecture to ward off potential criminals. This method has led to a strong growth in security and private policing companies, increased surveillance by residents or non-police professionals, and widespread use of technical assistance such as CCTV and cameras *(L. Cârjan, M. Chiper, 2009, p. 14.)*.

Some situational prevention projects have attempted to influence urban planning and architecture to reduce break-ins and burglaries, including retreats. Others have worked to identify crime "hot spots" in urban areas or to help victims, including victims of domestic violence or burglary, avoid reoffending. *(E. Stancu, 2004, p.23)*.

This strategy has been successful in preventing a wide range of crimes and is now part of official crime prevention policy in several European countries such as the UK, the Netherlands and France.

In the UK, a project involving council officials, police, social workers, and the university was launched in 1986 with the aim of ending crime in the Kirkholt working-class housing estate in Rochdale. Project organizers set up a neighborhood watch program to surround burglarized homes and encourage residents to upgrade their locks and locking systems, as well as get rid of gas or electricity meters. coin-fed electricity (to reduce the amount of readily available change) *(J. Nepote, 1983, p. 2)*.

By the end of its third year, the Kirkholtprogramme had led to a 75% drop in thefts. The money earned by reducing gas or electricity meter losses and reducing theft of cash and goods has covered the costs of the program. In addition, the program saved $3.84 for every dollar invested during policing, prosecution, probation, and detention *(L. Ionescu, D. Sandu, 2011, p. 2)*.

The Kirkholt Program and other successful crime prevention programs persuaded the UK government to pass the Crime and Disorder Act in 1998, which sees local authorities, police, and other organizations, including social services, education, probation and child protection services and the courts, jointly establish community safety strategies. The government has earmarked about $450 million for a three-year program that targets, among other things, domestic burglary and violence, family and youth issues and policing. *(E. O'Hara, 1970, pp. 3-4.)*

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"Developing countries are slow to invest in successful strategies," says Irwin Waller, Director of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime. However, he notes that the limits of their budgets prevent developing countries from making similar expenditures when crime prevention is urgently needed there. "If the UK is investing $450 million, you are saying it is essential that the international community also invests in crime prevention in African or South American cities in the throes of violence," he said.

Crime prevention is an increasingly popular means of fighting organized crime. Key strategies include countering the lure of criminal groups through social and cultural programs in schools or the media, increasing efforts to deter juvenile delinquency and reducing opportunities for organized crime by limiting illicit markets. For example, health projects or information campaigns can reduce illicit markets by reducing the demand for drugs or sexual services *(LeClère, 1974, pp. 11-12; C. E. O'Hara, 1970, pp. 3-4.)*

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has launched several projects to raise awareness among governments and the public about the consequences of sex trafficking of women and girls. "We need to break the silence and taboos around this issue to raise awareness and prevent trafficking in women and girls," said UNIFEM Executive Director Noleen Heyzer.[2]

One project focused on educating girls and staff in remote orphanages in Russia about the risks of trafficking in women. The orphanages encourage employers to hire from among their residents who are required to leave the institution by the age of 17. However, according to Ms Heyzer, many of these "employers" are in close contact with transnational traffickers.

The project has already yielded positive results. "The orphanages are working hard to vet the recruiters and the girls themselves are being warned about possible trafficking," she added.

Another UNIFEM project, based on case studies of Nepali women and girls who have been lured into prostitution through deception, has produced a fictional film revealing the entire network of traffickers from Nepal to the brothels of Mumbai. The film, which premiered in New Delhi (India), will be shown in Nepali villages and major cinemas across South Asia.

Other strategies could prevent organized crime from entering the legal economy. We could, for example, combat smuggling through an

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[2] https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/unpd-cm7-2008-11_p06_unifem.pdf accessed on 01.06.2022

international product marking system and reduce the profits of criminal groups through tougher legislation. n on money laundering. Greater transparency in the public service could help control corruption *(C. Bulai, A. Filipaş, C. Mitrache, 2001, p.123).*

The forthcoming Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (see Summary Sheet No 1) together with its three additional protocols against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, against the smuggling and transport of migrants and against the illicit trade in firearms encourages governments to use such prevention strategies. The new convention, which will provide legal support for prevention, will also be discussed at the 10th Congress, and is expected to be presented for adoption at the Millennium Assembly later this year[3].

CONCLUSIONS

Despite various projects demonstrating that crime prevention achieves positive results, many obstacles and ethical disagreements remain. Critics suggest that situational prevention has its own dangers, turning society into a "besieged fortress" where people barricade themselves in their homes.

Companies do not agree to bear the costs of certain measures. Some businesses refuse to apply theft prevention measures on the grounds that they risk discouraging spontaneous purchases. Insurance companies find it difficult to verify questionable claims because it's cheaper to pay them all off with minimal checks.

The lack of public funding, which is generally used to build the criminal justice system rather than prevent it, is another major obstacle. Although spending on prevention and communities has increased over the past two decades and child development issues are receiving more attention, research funding continues to be severely lacking.

It will be necessary for the application of modern crime prevention techniques such as transnational organized crime, crimes against migrants and tourists and cybercrime. These types of crime are likely to grow rapidly as trade goes global, business travel and tourism expand, and traditional borders open.

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