Changes in Policing and Crime Control

Institution Affiliated

Date

It is true that every field has experienced a lot of changes. This is partly because of the change in technology and also change of things in the world. Policing is also a field in which a lot has changed since the past. Policing refers to how the policemen have the duty to maintain law and order. The police enforce the laws of the land and by so doing order is maintained in the country. Policing has been affected in different ways. One of the ways in which this is the case is with regard to punishment.

Punishment refers to how sanctions are applied to someone who in the wrong in order to make them suffer for a wrong move they took. Punishment is meant to deter members of a society from engaging in wrong things so that the society can enjoy peace and tranquility that would otherwise not be realized if punishments are not meted out to those people who are in the wrong. This behavior of punishing the members of a society who are in the wrong is not only a thing for human beings but the same has been found to be true in the social animals like bees and other cooperatively breeding vertebrates, (Singh and Boomsma, 2015). This is a very good finding because it shows that the act of punishing is meant to ensure that the society at large enjoys peace.

Punishment has changed from the way the police officers and the court system dealt with it in the past. For example, in the past, police officers who found a person doing a wrong thing could even beat him up as a way to punish him before even arresting him. This has changed nowadays and the police officers have to know that there are things that they cannot do. This is because, as opposed to the scenario in the old days, there is something that is now known as excessive force. Police officers know that the issue of excessive force is rather a new thing but a very important thing because if a police officer is found to have used excessive force, chances of the case getting dismissed are very high. This was not a possibility in the old days and as such, police officers have to take not of this and act accordingly.

Another important part of policing is police patrol, (Andresen, 2015). Police patrolling refers to how police officers are deployed to a particular geographic area with the aim of monitoring the activities of such area to avoid the occurrence of crime and therefore ensuring peace in such an area. In the very old days, police patrolling involved the use of horses. This was the case in the old days when cars had not been discovered. After the discovery of cars, they started being used in every sector and this was the case in the police patrolling too. This does not mean that horses are still not used in other parts of the world, but in the United States they are no longer commonly used.

The use of cars in patrolling is very convenient because of different things. First, cars are fast and as such it is easy to catch the people in the wrong. Another thing that is an advantage with the cars is that when a person is caught in the act, they are easily transported in the car to the police station. This could have been hard when the use of horses was the thing. This is therefore a good step forward in the police patrolling.

Another thing that has changed with regard to police patrol is with the device that gives the officers the updates that they need in order to be at a particular place where a crime is taking place or a place where the police need to be in order to avoid a particular crime from taking place at all. Sometimes back, the police officers would make use of radio that would notify them about such things and also with regard to warrants that they needed to execute. Currently, however, this has changed. The police officers have computers installed in their police cars where they only have to type some data into such computers and they would be able to be notified about this kind of information.

The use of internet for updates is also a new thing in the police department. When the police officers get online, they get a lot of information that helps them to know where to go at any particular time to deal with crime. This makes work easier because a particular piece of information will reach a lot of police officers at any given time.

Another thing that has changed a lot with regard to police patrolling is the use of police dogs. In the old days, seeing a dog in patrol was very rare. Police dogs were generally mostly used for PR reasons and also for public demonstrations. This however has changed nowadays. The police dogs are used more often in different occasions and it is no longer rare to see these dogs at work. The use of police dogs for patrols has increased due to changing in crime. In the old days, drug transportation was not as rampant as it is now. Nowadays criminals are making a lot of money by drug trafficking and now the police officers have to come with ways of combating this. Dogs are a good choice because they can smell these drugs and get hold of the drug traffickers. Due to increase of these crimes across the globe, the need for sniffer dogs to help in combating this crime has led to increase in use of dogs. These dogs are nowadays seen everywhere.

During patrols, the police dogs accompany the police in areas whereby the police are expecting to find drugs. The dogs are also used to counter terrorists’ activities. As it is, terrorism is on the rise, not only in America but across the world. Terrorism is increasing by the days and ways to combat the same need to be improved in order to serve the purpose effectively. Police dogs have found a new task with regard to this development. The police dogs are trained to sniff out guns and other weaponry. The gun powder especially is very noticeable when it comes to police dogs. This makes it possible for the dogs to sniff out guns and save people’s lives.

As shown already, the use of technology in policing is taking new route. As it is, nowadays, police officers are sometimes required to use videos to get some evidence that would be used in courts. The reason for this is because as years go by the testimony by police officers is not being believed as was the case in the past. In order for the police to be able to prove their point, they are now using videos to record evidence that would be used in order to corroborate their testimonies.

References

Singh, M., & Boomsma, J. J. (2015). Policing and punishment across the domains of social evolution. *Oikos*, *124*(8), 971-982.

Andresen, M. A. (2015). Identifying changes in spatial patterns from police interventions: the importance of multiple methods of analysis. *Police Practice and Research*, *16*(2), 148-160.