Combining the ethics of care and restorative justice theory and practice: the case of domestic violence

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Resumen:
The ethics of care is a moral theory that conceives of individuals as embedded in relationships and is concerned with how individuals ought to behave in relationships. The thesis argues that the ethics of care can serve as the philosophical foundation for rest [+]
Restorative justice views crime as more than breaking the law – it also causes harm to people, relationships, and the community. So a just response must address those harms as well as the wrongdoing. A more formal definition is this: Restorative Justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that allow all willing stakeholders to meet, although other approaches are available when that is inappropriate. The goal here is transformation of people, relationships and communities. Restorative justice practices have been developed over the last decades in various European countries in different legal and social contexts. Crimes including violence in the private sphere of intimate relationships (intimate partner violence) have been referred to Victim Offender Mediation (VOM) for many years and in several countries in Europe. However, some researchers point to these cases as outliers in our data.

The dynamics of intimate partner violence (IPV) create particular challenges for the practice of restorative justice, especially with regard to safety and trust. These approaches and practices are also expanding beyond the criminal justice system to schools, to the workplace and religious institutions. Some describe this as an out-of-ordinary justice. The modern field of restorative justice developed through experiments in several Mennonite communities in the 1970s. Seeking to apply their faith as well as their peace perspective to the “real world” of criminal justice, Mennonites and other practitioners in Ontario, Canada, and later in Indiana, USA, experimented with victim-offender encounters that led to, “The Little Book of Restorative Justice.” Restorative justice practices have been adapted widely in schools and churches, and it is now being recognized as a useful practice in many different settings, especially for minor cases.

The Little Book of Restorative Justice

The Little Book of Restorative Justice is a concise and accessible guide to the principles and practices of restorative justice. It is written for anyone who wants to learn more about this approach to justice, whether they are working in the criminal justice system, schools, or other settings.

The Little Book of Restorative Justice is based on the authors' extensive experience in restorative justice. It provides an introduction to the key concepts and principles of restorative justice, as well as practical guidance on how to apply these principles in real-world situations. It is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to understand and use restorative justice in their work.

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