

The Effect of Personal Values in Policy Recommendations

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Policy recommendations are the toughest nightmare that established task forces assigned to special cases have to undergo, it is even worse when ethical considerations have to be made. This paper will present the effect of personal values in policy recommendations on issues that encompass complex ethical considerations. The Columbine high shooting incidence will be used as an example to allude to these ethical considerations on policy recommendations. Emphasis will be laid on how the complexity of ethical considerations would affect the situation at hand. An evaluation of whether it would be less problematic if the ethical issues were more clearly will be established.

The twentieth day of 1999 saw an unforgettable gloom mask the whole of Colorado education realm (Mackay, 2010). According to Mackay (2010), two students killed twelve of their fellows, two teachers, and left twenty four other students seriously injured. The greatest burden was borne by the entire education sector when it settled on them that policy recommendations needed to be instituted to deal with crimes at schools. Upon reporting of the incidence law, enforcement agencies could not agree on the way forward because of vested interests and values. There were recommendations to conduct unannounced searches in lockers, and wall units of students in the future to prevent such incidences (Mackay, 2010). Such a decision involved ethical consideration especially in schools with mixed populations. Students are entitled their privacy; thus, unannounced searches would break the right to privacy freedom that is entrenched in the United States constitution. An agreement of this issue could not be reached, this was because there were no clear cut delineations on the need for public safety on one side, and personal values guiding ethical considerations on the other.

Decision to have blueprints of a whole school going with an administrator is a highly polarized issued because of it presents a loophole to be exploited by criminals to commit more atrocities on a school while, on the other hand, it takes care of rescue mission incase of incidences (Austin, 2003). The Columbine high incidence was acerbated by conflicting radio frequencies from different media houses. Policy recommendations to control entry into future crisis areas remained a controversial issue (Austin, 2003). According to Home Land Security (1999), media has right to keep the nation informed, a decision to lock them out is not clear cut because of the ethical considerations and personal values. This shows that decision making can be greatly affected by personal values. The policy recommendations after this incidence were that forcible entry operations through unauthorized areas are appropriate in times of crisis in schools (Home Land Security, 1999). This is when normal access points are compromised. Unannounced searches were authorized though not unanimously, and fire policy guidelines were also presented.

In conclusion, Columbine high shooting incidence might have been devastating, but lessons learnt from it are crucial. From this incidence, effect of personal values in policy recommendations has been unmasked, this has perpetuated a pool of well informed and wiser policy makers in the present day. If ethical consideration were clear-cut and defined by law, then the Columbine high shooting incidence policy recommendations would have been achieved more amicably. This serves to inform that problems are lessened by clear cut ethical guidelines.

References

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