Lucia Cabrera

Assignment II

My primary research question was; what would be an appropriate punishment for first time offenders and repeaters for people who abuse their partners? My secondary question was; should there a law to make it mandatory for the Department of Corrections (in Saipan) to have programs such as; in-house counseling, anger management, or any other program(s) to help the abusers while incarcerated? After many nights of wondering, I wonder how the programs will help the men/women and what good it does when they get out of jail, but then again, it was just a thought for there is no such program at DOC. I interviewed 2 experts; one in the field of domestic violence and the other who is a Parole member. Both participants emphasized the importance of having such programs but because of budget issues and other federal matters, it will be a while before such programs can be reinstated at DOC. I was not able to talk to anyone from DOC and because of this reason; I was not able to deliver my letter to the commissioner. Furthermore, I have not given up hope of one day, finding out why is there no such program in DOC and if there are any plan in the future to have such programs available for the inmates.

I met with 8 women and collected some information about their experiences being battered. Some are not too nice to share with and I can relate to why some women rather not report abuses to the proper authority. In all the interviews I did, all the women stories seemed to have a pattern; Alcohol, jealousy, gambling, or drugs. However, one of the women said “he is critical about everything. You’re never sure when is a good time to talk or when not too.”

This topic was challenging. I thought that being in the field for almost 9 years, I would have the answer to everything, but I don’t. The challenging part of this topic was getting women to agree to share their stories without being pressured. Thankfully, no one felt it was pressure, although, a few that I have called declined to do an interview for fear of their husbands or maybe they feel like they are back stabbing their abusers.

This paper should have been so much better if more experts were willing to share some insights on this matter, but because of confidentiality, it was impossible to get most to talk.

I approached this topic to the best of my ability, but I thought my research questions were weak and should be edited or rephrased. The other problem I ran into while working on my research was time. Time working on my research and I had other personal issues I had to deal with. So, if my paper seemed it is missing out some information, it is because I ran out of time or just could not find the time because my bf is constantly belittling me or punishing me by taking the laptop away from me.

I would like to continue working on this topic to better understand why men/women abuse the person they claim to love. I stand/sit here today to share with you fellow classmates, that sometimes, punishing the abuser is not always the best answer, sometimes, it’s better to walk away and never look back, although it is easier said than done.

Before I leave tonight, I would like to share a piece of cake, er, advice to anyone who is in an abusive relationship. The sooner you leave the relationship, the sooner the healing process begins. The longer you stay, the harder it is to get out. There is help out there 234-5100 for the DV hotline and it is 24/7. If you witness an abuse, please call 911. Imagine what goes thru the victims mind while being abused and the public pretend not to see, now, imagine you in the victim’s shoes.

My thought on the whole research was not only the women and children, but I thought of how abusers could be helped as well.