

## Restorative Justice

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### **Description of Module**

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### **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

As we all know that there are various alternatives of imprisonment and Restorative Justice (RJ) is one of it. In other words, it can be said that, RJ is a type of alternative method of justice in which the society addresses an offence and seeks reparation and it is a kind of new outline for the Criminal Justice System which is speedily gaining acceptance and support in International level. It is basically, a response to crime that focuses on restoring the losses suffered by victims, holding offenders accountable for the harm they have caused, and building peace within society.

As per RJ, an offence as harm to a persons and the community and seeks to solve the problem and repair or restore the harm. In the traditional justice systems, an offence is treated as a violation of the system and than the traditional system focuses on establishing blame or guilt, and then imposing punishment but RJ given an opportunity or a chance for victims to have a voice and for offenders to achieve realisation about what they have done, to feel true regret, and work towards reparation. In RJ, victim and offender are played an active role, by expressing their feelings or approach and helping to decide the outcome. Hence, RJ is a kind of doorway to forgiveness of offenders by victims and a chance for re-integration of offenders and victims back into the society. Restorative Justice is a kind of problem-solving approach to crime which involves the parties themselves and the community generally, in an active relationship with statutory agencies. It is not any particular practice, but a set of principles which may orientate the general practice of any agency or group in relation to crime.

These **principles** are:

seeing crime problems in their social context

a forward-looking (or preventative) problem-solving orientation

Flexibility of practice (creativity).

Crime is viewed primarily as a conflict between individuals that results in injuries to victims, communities, and the offenders themselves;

The aim of the criminal justice process should be to create peace in communities by reconciling the parties and repairing the injuries caused by the dispute;

The criminal justice process should facilitate active participation by the victims, offenders, and their communities in order to find solutions to the conflict.”

But **Howard Zehr** viewed through a restorative justice lens as, “crime is a violation of people and relationships. It creates obligations to make things right. Justice involves the victim, the offender, and the community in a search for solutions which promote repair, reconciliation, and reassurance.” **Joy Wundersitz and Sue Hetzel** having the opinion that the Restorative justice “holds that criminal behaviour is primarily a violation of one individual by another.