

IELTS Writing Task 2

Studies show that crime rates are lower among those with educational degrees. Therefore, the best way to reduce the crime rate is to educate criminals while they are still in prison. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

The educational background of inmates has emerged as one of the fundamental factors in determining potential criminal behavior. Research shows that those with higher educational level, display better behavior and thus, suggest reorientation of the prison to help the convicts get educational degrees. I find it rather an ineffective approach in comparison to other practices.

Reformers sight the large number of studies that support this particular practice. There has been significant growth in the funding of prison programs, aiding prisoners to earn high school degrees or university degrees, by federal governments and private activists, in the last 50 years. By monitoring two groups, one with degrees and that without them, the researchers have found that there is a distinct difference in the rates of re-offense. Those with educational degrees have lower rates of re-offense than the others. This stems from the fact that those with degrees have found better jobs and re-established themselves in mainstream society. This also serves the true purpose of imprisonment which is rehabilitation and correction, not mere punishment.

However, when compared to the impact of improved educational infrastructure for the unprivileged, the effectiveness of prison education restricted. It is undoubtedly more desirable to prevent crime before their onset which is ensured by proper access to primary education. There are studies that have observed a higher rate of crime among inner-city youth who cannot afford good public schools. Being unable to make the ends meet is one of the primary reasons why they turn to crime. By supporting them in their primary and secondary education, the amount of felony can be minimized.

Thus, even though prison education has a positive impact, it is not justified to prioritize it over other, more efficient and result yielding educational measures.