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Topic: Recidivism

Did you know the divorce rate among couples where one spouse is in prison for one year or more is 80% for men and close to 100% for women? This is one of the impacts of recidivism. Everyone at a point in life made poor decisions, some extreme, some not. Just because someone lands themselves in prison does not make them a bad person. Inmates deserve just as much of a second chance as anyone else. There are several reasons to solve this problem of the extremely high recidivism rates in the US. The solutions I believe should be offered are education and community service programs in prisons; reasons support these programs would help inmates smoothly transition back into their community, therefore, they are less likely to commit another crime.

Volunteering helped me grow closer to my community and gave me a sense of belonging. My teacher introduced me to volunteering, and it allowed me to have an appreciation for my community. Similarly, inmates need someone who will lead them so that they can learn the benefits of community service. According to Project Management Institute Southern Maryland". Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. And the better you feel about yourself, the more likely you are to have a positive view of your life and future goals." If inmates could participate in community service while in prison, it might offer them the opportunity to feel welcomed back into the community when they are released.

Education programs have a huge impact on recidivism rates. For example, Correctional Education Association found that correctional education lowers long-term recidivism by 29%. In addition, The Center for American Progress states "The significant personal benefits of prison education include increased personal income, lower unemployment, greater political engagement and volunteerism, and improved health outcomes". This indicates that education assists inmates in the long term by teaching them the skills they need to survive outside prison.

In closing, these programs should be included because they will benefit inmates in and outside of prison. Inmates will increase their knowledge about themselves and the world. Community service programs will help inmates prove to themselves and the community that they truly care about them. Also, these programs will create a smoother transition when it is time to re-enter society. Lastly, we can come together to make this change! So that we can aid the next generation and accomplish changing the stigma surrounding prisoners, along with making the world a place where prisoners feel they belong.

Word Count: 450

