

Some people are of the opinion that prisons are basically universities of crime, fostering the king of behaviors they aim to eradicate, and are, therefore, not effective. Others feel that prison life ~~is~~ is not hard/harsh enough. Discuss the arguments on both sides of the issue. What is your opinion the matter?

Nowadays, the effectivity of crime prevention measures, especially confinement, has been frowned upon/has come under fire, all the less so with escalating crime figures which are ~~a~~ proof of the ineffectiveness of detention. As for the grounds for this complication, some people are inclined to attribute it to the fact that prisons are not tough enough on offenders whereas others reflect that the reason lies with the fact that correctional facilities are breeding places of criminality.

With respect to the former group, they conceive of penitentiaries as places ~~that where~~ offenders (who perpetrated) perpetrating felonies must be strictly controlled and even forbidden of basic rights with a view to appreciating those rights after they are released, lest they reoffend.

From the perspective of the latter group, not only **are** **correctional facilities** not conducive to eliminating crimes, but also they **sow the seeds of** the very offence that has brought the alleged victim before the law court at first. Despite efforts being exerted to preclude crime, detainees in a prison will inevitably share their methods of engaging in manifold offences ~~and,~~ thereby affecting other detainees, especially juvenile delinquents who are more liable to be influenced. On the other hand, it is a given that criminal gangs do exist in penitentiaries, promoting practices such as intravenous drug using or physical assault.

As far as I am concerned, albeit challenging to find, there is a fine line between being tough enough on a criminal and preventing the convict from feeling outraged and thereby seeking revenge from society/nature/the environment. As the pressure on inmates builds up, they are inclined to feel more inflamed as to the way they are being treated which, in turn, will invite future crimes, trapping the criminal in a vicious circle, hence the failure of this strategy. As for the view of prisons being universities of crime, my firm conviction is that this is the very problem we need to address, otherwise young lawbreakers will turn to felons.

The main conclusion to be draws-drawn is that should we genuinely aspire to make prisons an effective measure of combating crime, exerting pressure on inmates will not be a pragmatic approach, emphasizing the importance of prospecting for alternative initiatives.

361 words