

Framing the Inquiry

See written report

Locating and processing information (2)

Source	Key Q. 1: What is rehabilitation? What does it involve?	Key Q. 2: How effective is it vs negative aspects, eg. cost. And what are alternatives to rehabilitation?
Gordon, Claire. <i>Prisons neither deter crime nor rehabilitate criminals</i> . 2010. Student at Yale Opposing Viewpoints in Contexts: galegroup.com. http://bit.ly/TOcd60		America imprisons more of its citizens than any other country in the world – 1% of population. Underclass – 1 in 36 hispanics, 1 in 3 blacks imprisoned. It costs \$23,876 to imprison someone for a year. Because inmates are exploited of cheap labour this perpetuates violence rather than rehabilitates them, inmates are also kept in solitary confinement with little human interaction – mental degeneration. Once convicted of felony, stripped of rights > cannot vote. Restricted employment. Not enough programmes offered. Drug treatment is only available to 1 in 10 inmates who need it.
Vaeroy, H., Andreson, K., Mowinkel, P. <i>The Likelihood of Successful Crime Prevention: Norwegian Detainees on Preventive Detention Views on Programmes and services Organized and Provided by the Criminal Justice System</i> . Psychiatry, Psychology and Law, Vol 18:2, p.240-247. 2011.		73% detainees acknowledge their risk of reoffending because of vulnerability. 58% thought rehabilitation programmes negative and not available enough. 69% did not think it was effective and had bad experiences with rehabilitation. Need to be more individually based approach.
Newbold, Greg (former prisoner, now expert on crime and punishment). <i>The Problem of Reoffending</i> . The Press, Christchurch. March 24, 2007.	-tried different ways to rehabilitate criminals 'Tough love', beating and disciplining, bread and water diets, locked up longer 'soft love', extra privileges, counselling, special courses, released early. Doesn't make a difference, the recidivist rate is the same (70%).	'Reason prison inmates should be doing programmes is because they don't want to go back. A lot of prisoners don't actually care much. A lot of criminals like the way they are so they'll do the programmes to impress the parole board but it's actually a wasted investment because they don't have any intention of going straight.'
Lomas, D. <i>Senseless Sentencing</i> . NZ Listener, July 30, 2011.		Rehabilitation system does not offer many drug treatment programmes by 83% of prisoners have drug/alcohol problems which they don't fix so are likely to get another sentence. ½ come back within a year. Only about 5% of all offenders are required to do a substance abuse programme. Drug and alcohol units are responsible for 30% reduction in recidivism for those who complete programme. Corrections Department only spends 3.4m on 1.1b budget. Problems with overcrowding undo good of rehab. "Break the cycle" instead of putting minor offenders in prison put them in community based rehab programmes.

...Sources 5 & 6 not included in this exemplar...

Evaluating the reliability and usefulness of selected information (3)

Source	Information found	Usefulness of information
Prisons neither deter crime nor rehabilitate criminals	Q2. Cost, # people imprisoned, racial bias, inmates exploited, makes situation worse.	Could be biased because only trying to show negatives to back up statement. However is interesting and is reinforced by other research so is useful.
...the likelihood of successful crime prevention...	Q2. What prisoners think of rehab programmes	Limited to study in Norway. > think about relevance to rest of world. Can be used as a specific example.
The problem of reoffending	Q1. Ways government has tried to rehabilitate inmates. Q2. Prisoners don't really care, wasted investment > attitude.	Relevant to NZ. Both questions. I think source can be trusted: newspaper; experienced criminologist.

... sources 4, 5 & 6 not included in this exemplar...

Form developed conclusions

Recently I watched 'Shawshank Redemption,' which raises the issue of rehabilitation and its effect on the prisoners, and this made me think about the effectiveness of rehabilitation. To find out more about how this applies to the real world, I decided to do my research report on this. My hypothesis was 'It is worth investing time and money into rehabilitation programmes for criminals.' (1)

I broke this down into two key questions; primarily, 'What is rehabilitation and what does it actually involve?' and secondly, 'How effective are the current rehabilitation programmes vs. the negative aspects (such as cost) of these programmes, and how could these be improved?' (1)

So, what is rehabilitation and what does it involve?

Greg Newbold, a former prisoner and now expert on crime and punishment, explained some of the New Zealand government's attempts at rehabilitating prisoners in the Press article 'The Problem of Reoffending.' *I think that this is a reliable source because of Greg Newbold's experience in the matter and I find newspapers to have little bias. Also, this article is relevant to New Zealand so I find it easier to understand some of the ideals.* One of the ways rehabilitation was attempted was through 'Tough Love,' where prisoners were heavily disciplined, and were put on bread and water diets, locked up for longer times and beaten to punish and deter prisoners. However this was reasonably ineffective, so another approach, 'Soft Love,' was applied. In this, prisoners were offered extra privileges, counselling, education programmes, special courses, and were released early for good behaviour. This is commonly what we think of when we think of rehabilitation. However, both approaches made little difference to the crime and recidivism rate for prisoners — it remained approximately 70%. *This made me think about how effective these forms of rehab actually are. I think that through 'Tough Love' this would make inmates angry towards the state and although deter them from crime, angry prisoners are not someone you would want as your next-door-neighbour. Alternatively, it could institutionalise prisoners like in 'Shawshank Redemption'.* (4)

According to a report from 'World and I' titled 'Rehabilitating Rehabilitation,'² rehabilitation is a way to justify the imprisonment of an offender, as it is necessary to reform inmates. *I had not thought about this approach, as my idea on why we lock people up is to protect society, rather than the prisoners.* (4) The objectives of a rehabilitation programme are to change the character of the prisoner to conform to the law, and to return a productive citizen to society. The report suggested the best way for this to be carried out was through making the programmes 'offender oriented', to target and solve each individual case, rather than using a 'blanket programme. *This makes sense to me as it reminds me of the variance in character in 'Shawshank Redemption,' I think if a programme was attempted to rehabilitate these prisoners, trying to force them all into the same programme would not work because each character would not relate well to the same thing.* (4) Rehabilitation also involves Family Counselling (especially for youth) and in New Zealand, has a strong focus on personal responsibility.

How effective is Rehabilitation and what are improvements that could be made to the system?

America imprisons nearly 1% of their population - more of its citizens than any other county in the world, but this is closely followed by New Zealand. *This is a lot more than we should expect in prison. So does this mean that our rehabilitation programmes aren't working?* (4) According to a study published in 'Psychiatry, Psychology and Law,' *Norwegian detainees do not think so.* (4) The study revealed that 73% of the offenders interviewed acknowledged their risk of reoffending because they felt vulnerable and felt they would not be set up to leave their life of crime when released from prison. One of the reasons for this was because they are a lot less likely to be employed and felt the only way to get money may be through illegal means. 58% of prisoners also felt negative towards rehabilitation programmes or felt they were not available enough, and 69% found rehabilitation unhelpful or ineffective and had bad experiences with the rehabilitation courses offered. The study suggested a more individually based approach would be a lot more beneficial to the inmates, and more accepting attitudes from the general public can also play a large role in the success of rehabilitation.

'Rehabilitating Rehabilitation' also agreed that rehabilitation fails because the programmes are based on character building, which is undermined because prisons are degrading. The public expects longer sentences for the prisoners, as punishment of the crime, but this renders the objective of rehabilitation ineffective. Not to mention, the longer an inmate spends in prison, the more expensive it is for taxpayers. *So perhaps the attitude towards rehabilitation is wrong: for it to be effective people have to be more accepting towards criminals. But this isn't easy, especially for the victims of crime.* (4) The article also named alternatives, which seem closer to the systems in place today: Incapitation, which is deterrence through incarceration, punishment, which involves capital punishment and is fashioned to deter crime as well, and retribution, which involves making the prisoners take responsibility for their actions; perhaps through money or labour. *However, although these seem plausible, they don't seem to work in conjunction with rehabilitation programmes. This makes me consider again how much the prison system needs remodelling to allow for a productive citizen to be released back into society with little risk of reoffending.* (4) Greg Newbold believes that the attitudes of prisoners also have to change for them to be rehabilitated. He says 'The reason prison inmates should be doing programmes is because they don't want to go back. A lot of prisoners don't actually care much. A lot of criminals like the way that they are so they'll do the programmes to impress the parole board but it's actually a wasted investment because they don't have any intention of going straight.' *I think this is a particularly valid point because without the drive of the prisoners to turn their life around, it won't happen.* (4)

It also may be the type of rehabilitation courses offered that is unsuccessful for keeping our citizens out of prison. (4) *In the Listener article 'Senseless Sentencing' based off ideas in 'Flying Blind' by Roger Brooking, Roger Brooking states* (5) that there is a large gap in the programmes offered by prisons to stop inmates reoffending; the Rehabilitation system does not offer many drug treatment programmes, ...*(paragraph continues)*....

In conclusion, my findings show that currently the rehabilitation programmes offered, if any, are insufficient because they are not modelled correctly for the needs of prisoners. I still believe that rehabilitation programmes are an important investment and agree with the objective of producing a productive citizen who can safely join the workforce. But first focusses and attitudes have to change to allow this to work. It is important to get governments investing in the right programmes. Based on my research, gearing programmes to a more individually based approach is also an aspect that should be considered, so the programmes can be more effective and stimulating to the needs of the prisoners. (4)

References

'The Problem Of Reoffending,' by Greg Newbold. The Press, March 24, 2007. Greg Newbold was a former prisoner and now expert criminologist.
'Rehabilitating Rehabilitation,' from 'The World and I,' ISSN 08879346 By Ralph A / Rossum and Contance Rossum. (<http://bit.ly/PwuvvN>)
'Prison; too Harsh or not Hard Enough?' by Marc Alexander, The Press March 22, 2006.
'The Likelihood of Successful Crime Prevention : Norwegian Detainees on Preventative Detention Views on Programmes and Services Organised and Provided by the Criminal Justice System,' study in Norway conducted by Henning Varøy, Klaus Andreson and Petter Mowinkel. Published in 'Psychiatry, Psychology and Law.' ISSN: 13218719 (<http://bit.ly/QxpFvci>)
5 Roger Brooking is the writer for the Drug and Alcoholic Assessments for the NZ Parole Board who wrote 'Flying Blind,' a book about the problems with the NZ Rehabilitation System.