

Review of: "The Effectiveness of Prison Education in Reducing Criminal Recidivism: A Systematic Review"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper addresses the relationship between rehabilitative educational programs and recidivism among prisoners. Although the topic is important and the paper starts fairly well in setting the need for such a review, the remainder of the paper is not rigorously done. The paper is more like a student report that has done its best to minimize the number of studies reviewed (from over 1200 to only 10!!) and lacks any statistical analysis that is required of academic papers. There are many sentences in the paper with incomplete thoughts or meanings; for example, the sentence starts with 'Although' and ends without providing a counter argument that makes the use of the term 'although' meaningful.

Table 1 is given without providing any reference to it in the text, and yet its column titles are in English and Spanish! The number of papers is said to be 10 in some places and 11 in other places! Every section of the paper is written like the literature review section, where the subject of study or findings of the focal papers is listed. The number of studies used is too small, but even with that, no attempt has been made to use a more rigorous approach to the study, such as a meta-analytic approach.

Regarding the issues mentioned above, I believe this work does not qualify for publication in an academic journal.