

There is in Economics, something called " The Law of Diminishing Returns ". You may Google it for the exact definition, however the law generally states, that if one input, let's say XYZ, in the production of a commodity is increased while all other inputs are held fixed, then a point will be reached when additions of the input, XYZ, will progressively diminish the increases in the output.

Here is an example; You bring a candle into a dark room for light. When you add a 2d candle, you have twice the light. 3 candles, 3 times the light and so on. At some point, bringing another candle in the room will not bring enough extra light to make it worth more candles. Here is another example that may be " closer to home " for you. You drive an older car with many miles on it and it needs constant repair. At some point, you realize that the car isn't worth any more repair and it needs to be replaced. It becomes just too costly to drive anymore.

So what does all of this have to do with this Criminal Justice course? Consider the issue that some folks in society think that there is a point where we should " give up " on those people convicted of a crime! No matter if they are a man, woman or child of any age, they are not worth any more help! No more rehabilitation, counseling or whatever program. The tax payer has paid enough! Don't spend one more dime on these convicted people! Now the question for each of you as a student of Criminal Justice, what do you think? Should we forget the "Law of Diminishing Returns " and continue to assist these people or " lock them up and throw away the key " ?

Honestly, I think it would have to be decided on a person to person basis, because sometimes being incarcerated really does make a difference in people. While those who have been incarcerated multiple times being incarcerated may not be the answer to help rehabilitate them I think we should forget the law of diminishing returns and continue to assist and help people in the system as much as we can so that they can someday become productive members of society. I think just about everyone in the system can be rehabilitated with the right tools, unless the person has committed a class A-I or A-II felony in which case I do not think they should be allowed amongst everyday people in society for the rest of their life.