Can educating adult offenders counteract recidivism? (R-22, 1992)

This paper describes some efforts within the Correctional Service of Canada to study the benefits of its Adult Basic Education programs, both for the general process of reintegration and in reducing the likelihood of recidivism for different categories of offenders.

The paper provides an overview of the fundamental approach that the Correctional Service of Canada has taken in implementing and delivering the Adult Basic Education program. The research findings indicate there is encouraging evidence that involvement in Adult Basic Education during incarceration can improve adjustment after release, particularly for higher risk individuals. The existing evidence suggests that the current commitment to teaching basic language and mathematical skills should not be curtailed.