

Prison Trip *Expectations Before
the tour*

My Expectations

The scheduled prison trip will be a very new experience for me since never in my life have I been in or even near a prison. Much of what I know about prisons is what I have read about in articles and seen in the movies and news. This trip is therefore very exciting to me since I get to see what the conditions will be like and I have numerous expectations as will be described below.

1. Living conditions

In terms of the living environment and living conditions in the prisons, I do not expect a lot of positive. I would expect to find poor living conditions for the inmates in terms of the structures they live in and also the resources and facilities available to them for daily use. This is because I don't think there is much funding given to ensure that the living conditions of inmates are improved. Further, I expect large numbers of inmates in the prison. This is because we all know that our country has very large numbers of individuals behind bars (Patterson, 2010). The great numbers behind bars will be a contributing factor to the expected poor living conditions due to a strain in resources available. Further, I expect that the inmates will be served with low-quality meals. This expectation is based on stories I have read and heard from ex-convicts.

2. Inmate guard relations

Considering the fact that the individuals hosted in prisons are criminals or are considered criminals, I do not expect such a friendly form of relationship between the inmates

and the guards. I expect that the guards will be a little harsher to the inmates as they try to enforce rules and also shape up the behavior of the inmates (Kohut, 2011). I would also expect this kind of relationship as the ideal relationship since familiarity between the inmates and the guards can affect the role of the guards drastically in enforcing rules.

3. Inmate interactions

Human beings have a great sense of community. To this fact I would expect that the inmates in the prison that will be visited will have organized themselves in some form of a community to make it more bearable to live there. I would expect that they will have formed some cliques, work relations and even friendships among themselves. I do not expect a tense or formal relationship between the inmates but rather a community spirit to help them have a sense of belonging while in the prison. Based on strict prison rules I would expect zero or very little harassment or bullying among the inmates.

4. Work

From what I have watched about prisons and even read, the day to day routine for the inmates is all work. I expect that the inmates in the prison that will be visited will be actively engaged in various work activities for a significant part of the day. These should be works around the prisons for example cooking, organizing and cleaning among others. I would also expect that the inmates will be allocated work depending on one's preference other than being forced to work in areas they do not at all like to help them be more productive and also to keep them happier.

5. Correction

Since prisons are correctional facilities, I would expect that there will be a number of programs aimed at correcting the behavior of inmates. These programs could include support

groups, training and counselling sessions. I expect that all inmates take part in at least one of these to help shape their behavior, solve any psychological issues that may be causing dysfunction in their behavior and also help them gain skills which they can apply in a work setting to help them be productive in an area even after prison. In general, I expect to see some effort of making the inmates better people, so that they are better placed to go back to the society after their terms, stay without relapsing to crimes and also have skills they can apply in the marketplace.

Feelings about prisons based on my experiences or what I have seen in the media, movies, etc.

Based on what I have seen in the media, there is so much more our prisons have to do to effectively serve their role of correction. I feel like prisons today are more focused on punishment rather than correction and this does more harm to the inmates and the society. I feel like more should be done of correcting ill behavior to better inmates and make them better members of the society rather than punish ill behavior. Also based on what I have seen and read, another major problem is over crowding. I know it cost a lot to house and feed these inmates, that is why a better solution needs to be implemented. I feel like these solutions to help the overcrowding and assisting inmates to better shape themselves for society will be a win for everyone involved.

References

- Kohut, M. (2011). *When you have to go to prison: a complete guide for you and your family*. Ocala, Fla: Atlantic Pub. Group.
- Patterson, W. (2010). *The city is served Bartholomew! To the American Prison!" selected novellas and stories 1995-2009: a compendium*. Prague, Czech Republic: Citizens House Publishers.