**Can money buy happiness?**

The one thing, that is responsible for the drive, motivation, and the motives behind everyone’s hectic daily routine is – money. For the longest time, money has ever been the ultimate goal for the majority of humans, if not all. Money has been the driver of many motives and the end of the cycle is nowhere foreseen. As humans, we strive for a good life. We want to live comfortably. We have dreams and plans that need to come to fruition; and for the bulk of us, the line between where we are, and the execution of our goals, is money: literally. That is why it is very easy for us to tie money directly to happiness. It is very easy to relate the excitement one might have after executing a certain plan with money with true happiness. But that is not happiness! Money cannot buy happiness, and here is why.

Christopher Peterson talks about how money increases comfort in people lives. And how money raises the standards or people; hence assuming that they are relatively happier. **But I disagree, and strongly believe that happiness is different from comfort.** To be comfortable, is to live a life that is conducive and less stressful. To be comfortable is to not have worries about basic needs like shelter, food and water. And that is what money always provides in abundance –hence Peterson’s conclusions.

However, consider the people in most rural areas, who have no money at all. They just spend their days farming, making children and spending quality time with their extended families. They have these basic needs already catered for by other means other than the usual exchanges with money. Would we call them happy? If they are, was it because of money? Surely not! So then can we say happiness transcends comfort? Could we say, that there is a difference between happiness and comfort? Could we say that there is absolutely no relation between happiness and money?

I side strongly with Amy Novotney’s conclusions that money cannot buy happiness; but not necessarily with his analysis. There are general things that money cannot solve and hence put equal stress on both the rich and the poor, but I do not think that is what makes money unrelated to happiness.

To me, money is a means of exchange. It is society’s legal form of transactions and it is with this that we are able to acquire all we need and want. That’s it! Yes, with money, we are able to get our dream car, dream phone, dream houses and all other great things that make us feel excited ***temporarily***. Happiness should be sustainable. It spreads over a long period of time. It is the constant joy that one feels, from within that could be due to a barrage of reasons in different aspects of life depending on one person to the other.

The kind of happiness that a person might get from buying a new house, cannot be compared with the happiness they get with connecting with family and getting all emotional support they might need at a point in their life. That, is what money cannot offer. Even with the vast power and capabilities of money, it can never secure emotional and abstract excitements and joy that human beings really cherish. The kind of excitement that makes a mark in a person’s life, and does not have a short life span. That kind of excitement, is what I consider happiness. Which is clearly not in the reach of the things money can buy. Hence money cannot buy happiness.

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