**MONEY AND HAPPINESS**

Money can buy happiness but only to some extent. Human beings are materialistic beings. We need basic needs like food, clothing and housing. In addition to this we also have wants which are basically not necessary for survival but are needed in order to create comfort in our daily lives. These needs and wants are part of what makes us happy as human beings. In order to get access to these wants and needs we need money. Money is used as a form of exchange in the acquisition of these things. Scholars like Peterson and Kiang et. Al. seem in to in complete agreement while others like Novotney seem to be in complete contradiction.

To begin with, money actually does buy happiness. I believe that if a poor person is given money they become happy. This is because they will be able to get hold of the basic needs. The money can be used to provide housing, clothes and food. I mean who would not be happy when they are provided with an opportunity to get a hold of the basic human needs? This happiness also increases when the money increases as they are able to not only provide for their needs but also cater for their wants. After they become comfortable, an increase in money or income then has no effect on their happiness. Peterson (2008) agrees with this as he says, the impact of additional income is greatest among those who have little money, but it does not stop mattering even after someone is able to meet their basic needs.

Nevertheless, money can buy happiness as long as it is spent on the person having it. If I for example have money and spend it on gifts, I would definitely feel happier. As Kiang et al states, acquisition of a benefit gift or favor brings positive feelings of gratitude to a person. People also get happier if the money they have is used on other people other than themselves. This can clearly be seen in Peterson (2008) research. According to a survey conducted on Americans, it was found that the amount of money people spent on gifts to others or gave to charity was positively associated with general happiness, even when overall income was controlled.

On the hand, money does not actually buy happiness. Happiness cannot be defined only by material things. Happiness can be gotten from being with a support system like family members and friends. Happiness can also be gotten by being content with life. Money in most of these cases poses as an obstacle rather than a useful tool. Novotney (2012), a research carried out on high net worth people showed that most of their concern in contrary to what people thought was actually on how to become good parents rather than how to gain more wealth. Most people thought that money actually an obstacle since it brought about a sense of isolation to most of them.

In conclusion, the relation between money and happiness is a very controversial topic. Happiness cannot really be defined. If happiness cannot be defined then we cannot actually tell what brings about happiness.