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Comprehension-2023

1) How important is happiness to most people, and what is the relationship between material wealth and happiness?

Ans) Happiness is the utmost goal of a person. All efforts and struggles of a person are driven by their quest for happiness. People search for happiness in material things, wealth and luxuries. However, happiness is not directly proportional to material wealth. For example, Europeans and North Americans, despite having material wealth, are not the happiest people.

2) How does the author characterize the concept of 'Voluntary simplicity' as a movement and as a philosophy?

Ans) "Voluntary simplicity," was started as an experiment which became a movement through books, magazines, communities and internet. And, philosophically, it is deliberate choice, eradicating all those things from one's life which depart them from their inner self.

3) What impact is feared by the growing consumerism of modern society?

Ans) Growing consumerism is equating success, importance and value of a person with material possessions. Moreover, it is erasing the line between wants and needs, which is pushing the people to run after material things.

4) What influences make it difficult for people to reduce their consumption patterns?

Ans) Fear of inferiority and rejection, bombardments of ads by the sellers, affiliation of success with material possessions, and cultural barriers make it difficult for people to reduce their consumption patterns.

5) What are the challenges and rewards of voluntary simplicity?

Ans) ^{cc}Voluntary simplicity" is hindered by growing consumerism; affiliation of success and importance with material possessions, and psychological desires. On the other hand, if adopted, it would reward into more time for oneself and their loved ones, more satisfaction and fulfillment, and eventually more resources for future generations.