

# IMPACT OF MATERIALISTIC OUTLOOK ON HUMAN LIFE

Are we (human) exceptional? That is, have they developed beyond their evolved state? What is the nature of human experience and behavior?



As humanists we tend to be materialists, rejecting divine or mystical explanations for any natural or human phenomena.

We tend to be materialists which is excessively concerned with physical comfort or the acquisition of wealth and material possessions, rather than with spiritual, intellectual, or cultural values.

The impact of materialism in society is complex subject. Materialism can be defined as a dominating sense of desire to pursue wealth and other tangible things that can provide physical comfort that ignores the importance of spiritual values. The characteristics of such materialistic people are greed for money, tendency to become rich quickly even if it

involves a lot of risk. It also involves the desire to live in plush houses, wearing highly expensive clothes and jewelry and driving flashy cars. In short, the urge to lead an extravagant life.

Materialism is sometimes used as status symbol, causing people to purchase items that they cannot afford, so that they can fit it. Not only do they buy things to “look cool” but they also do it to flaunt their wealth. Materialistic people tend to save less, weakening economic expansions.

### **Effects of Materialism on society**

Personal satisfaction and greed are the most important aspects of life of the society driven by materialism. Many people echo the sentiments that the real cause of the economic problems that has hit the world is greed caused by materialism. The real problem may not be so simple but it could be one of the reasons. Here the greed is not only confined to acquisition of money but also power, Where there is power, corruption is bound to happen.

Materialism promotes many other negative feelings as well like lust, selfishness, jealousy, sense of hopelessness, etc. People are forgetting their moral values and often fail to understand the distinction between right choices and wrong ones. The only thing that matters is good quality life and false comforts. They think that everything around them is dictated by need of humans and is being provided by

environment. All their beliefs are based on scientific inference only. The worst of all they have lost faith in God as they refuse to believe in anything that we cannot see or hear or touch. As a result, they remain unrepentant after committing sin. Thus materialism has adversely affected the entire framework of our society.

### **Effects on Teens**

Teenagers are directly affected by materialism, because society tells them they need trendy & expensive items. Materialism in teens could lead to self-esteem issues and bullying, because they are pressured into buying these things and are often teased if they don't.

### **Suggestions for Restructuring our Society**

We can still mend our ways and move towards a beautiful world. For this, we have to look for a purpose in our life. Each individual has to make some changes in his outlook. We have to separate ourselves from material world. This will make us happy both with or without the material things that we desire. It will make us feel that “ if I get that things it's good but if I do not get that it's fine with me”. It's not very easy for us to get this kind of mental set up but it is not an impossible task too. The rough phase of economy has given us some valuable lessons. That, all the tangible things of the world that acquire may go some day still we have the strength within us to survive in tough conditions. We are

happy that we have not lost ourselves and support of our family. These things matter more than any other to achieve success. There is sense of truth and honesty associated with hard work which non-physical. Lack of knowledge of the non-physical aspects of our life is major cause of downfall not only of individual but collectively as society. Spiritual help us to know our real identity. If we lose our wealth it can be replaced but if we lose our own self then we cannot replace that.

The actual solution of the problem, be it economic or otherwise, can be obtained through introspection. We can identify what has caused us face this kind of problem that we are in today. Set ourselves free from the material world , recognize the real self that lies within us in dormant condition. In this way we can prevent the influence of materialism from blocking us.

**Thanks & Regards**

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