**On the relationship between money and happiness: an exercise using proverbs from around the world**

**PART A**

Consider the statement below:

“The more money someone has, the happier that person is”

Please choose one of the following

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I strongly agree | On the whole I tend to agree | I neither agree or disagree | On the whole I tend to disagree | I strongly disagree |

Please add below any comment that you may want to make:

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**PART B**

Please spend a few moments thinking about the proverbs below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Money is power | Money is the root of all evil |
| The rich man plans for tomorrow, the poor one for today | After a rich man gets rich, his next ambition is to get richer |
| When gold speaks, every tongue is silent | With money you can buy a house, but not a home |
| It’s not money that brings happiness; it’s lots of money | The best things in life are free |
| Time is money | You cannot force anyone to love you or to lend you money |

For discussion

Which proverbs strike you as true? Which ones as valuable?

To what extent do you think that they apply to everyone, regardless of one comes from?

Do you think there is wisdom in proverbs?

Can you think of some proverbs about money or wealth from your own culture?

Please have a go at answering again the question below:

Consider the following statement:

“The more money someone has, the happier that person is”

Please choose one of the following

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I strongly agree | On the whole I tend to agree | I neither agree or disagree | On the whole I tend to disagree | I strongly disagree |

**PART C**

Below are all the proverbs containing the word “wealth” from the Prentice-Hall Encyclopaedia of World Proverbs.

For each proverb, please rate (a) whether wealth is portrayed in a good or bad light, and (b) how truthful you think the proverb is.

The range of ratings is from 2 to -2. Give a 2 where wealth is portrayed in a very good light, and -2 where it is portrayed in a very bad light; give 1, 0 or -1 for in between ratings. Similarly give a 2 is a proverb strikes you as very true, and -2 if it strikes you as very untrue; give 1, 0 or -1 for in between ratings.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| P**roverb** | Is wealth portrayed in a good or bad light? (2=good,  -2=bad) | How true is each proverb?  (2=very true, -2= very untrue) |
| A man's wealth is his enemy |  |  |
| Bear wealth; poverty will bear itself |  |  |
| By labour comes wealth |  |  |
| Great wealth and content seldom live together |  |  |
| Great wealth, great care |  |  |
| Great wealth will marry off even an old woman |  |  |
| He that marries for wealth sells his liberty |  |  |
| If there is wealth, there is joy |  |  |
| Ill-begotten wealth and illicit pleasure are both bad |  |  |
| In wealth beware of woe |  |  |
| Inherited wealth has no blessing |  |  |
| I It will do no good to have wealth that you won't use |  |  |
| Little avails wealth, where there is no health |  |  |
| Much wealth brings many enemies |  |  |
| The best wealth is health |  |  |
| The greatest wealth is contentment with a little |  |  |
| The rich man's wealth is enjoyed by crafty tradesmen |  |  |
| The rich man's wealth swallows the morsel of the poor |  |  |
| The unjustly acquired wealth never reaches the third generation |  |  |
| The wealth which enslaves the owner is not wealth |  |  |
| There is no wealth where there are no children |  |  |
| There is no wealth without pouring out one purse into another |  |  |
| Wealth and content are not always bedfellows |  |  |
| Wealth and happiness, like smoke, vanish |  |  |
| Wealth can be concealed, but not poverty |  |  |
| Wealth can be sought, but reputation never |  |  |
| Wealth counts not so much as good will nor as knowledge and pleasant speech |  |  |
| Wealth is a fine thing, but to find an heir is not easy |  |  |
| Wealth is best known by want |  |  |
| Wealth is cautious |  |  |
| Wealth is an enemy to health |  |  |
| Wealth is invited, but poverty invites itself |  |  |
| Wealth is like a pool: as soon as you dig a channel, it all runs out |  |  |
| Wealth is like a rheum, it falls on the weaker parts |  |  |
| Wealth is like smoke |  |  |
| Wealth is not his who has it, but his who enjoys it |  |  |
| Wealth is not picked up like lice |  |  |
| Wealth is of no use to the dead |  |  |
| Wealth is short-lived |  |  |
| Wealth is the poison of pleasure and the root of sorrows |  |  |
| Wealth makes wit waver |  |  |
| Wealth makes worship |  |  |
| Wealth may be bequeathed to the children but it never reaches the grandchildren |  |  |
| Wealth will not keep death away |  |  |
| Wealth without learning is like beauty without chastity |  |  |
| When there is wealth, there is power |  |  |
| When you have wealth and fame, even strangers gather round;  in times of poverty and lowliness, even relatives depart from you |  |  |
| Where wealth is established it is difficult for friendship to find a place |  |  |
| Where wealth is, there sorrow is |  |  |
| Where wealth, there friends |  |  |
| Who seeks for wealth without previous wealth is like him who carries water in a sieve |  |  |

Please have one more go at answering the question below:

Consider the following statement:

“The more money someone has, the happier that person is”

Please choose one of the following

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I strongly agree | On the whole I tend to agree | I neither agree or disagree | On the whole I tend to disagree | I strongly disagree |

**PART D**

Biographical information:

How old are you? ………(years)

Are you male or female?........................

What degree are you studying for?.......................................................................

What is your nationality?.......................................................................................

What is your ethnicity?..........................................................................................

Are you of any religion, and if so which one?........................................................

Do you work, and if so what do you do?...............................................................

**PART E**

Evaluation

I will present the results of the questionnaire to the class in a few weeks’ time. In the meantime, can you comment on the usefulness of using proverbs as a way to discuss the relationship between wealth and happiness? What you did you think was good or bad about this approach?

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Thank you!