

Topic- Understanding Happiness and Prosperity correctly

Subject - Human Values and Ethics

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Understanding Happiness and Prosperity correctly- A critical appraisal of the current scenario

Happiness- To be in a state of liking/ harmony

Being happy means that we are in sync with our natural acceptance

Unhappiness- The state of disliking /contradiction

Respect- state of harmony between two human beings

Prosperity- the feeling of having more than required physical facilities.

-Correct assessment of need

-Competence so that there is production of physical facilities

Our basic aspirations are happiness (mutual fulfilment) and prosperity (mutual prosperity). Happiness is ensured by the relationships with other human beings and prosperity is ensured by working on physical facilities.

Right Understanding: This refers to higher order human skills – the need to learn and utilize our intelligence most effectively.

Good Relationships: This refers to the interpersonal relationships that a person builds in his or her life – at home, at the workplace and in society.

Physical Facilities: This includes the physiological needs of individuals and indicates the necessities as well as the comforts of life. It means the feeling of having or being able to have more physical facilities than is needed.

There are many problems manifest today at the level of individual, family, society and the nature. Identify some of these problems humans suffer from.

Today we are generally trying to achieve happiness and prosperity by maximizing accumulation and consumption of physical facilities. This effort is giving rise to many problems manifest today at the level of individual, family, society and the nature. These problems are:

- **At the level of individual**– Rising problems of depression, anxiety, suicides, stress, insecurity, increasing health problems, lack of confidence and conviction etc.
- **At the level of family**– Breaking up of joint families, mistrust and disharmony in relationships, divorce, generation gap, dowry deaths, neglect of older people etc.
- **At the level of society**– Growing incidences of terrorism, violence, communalism, racial and ethnic struggle, corruption, adulteration, sex-crimes exploitation, wars between nations, proliferation of lethal weapons etc.
- **At the level of nature**– Global warming, weather imbalances, depletion of mineral and energy resources, deforestation, soil degradation etc.

Difference between wealth and prosperity

Wealth is a physical thing. It refers to money or physical facilities.

Prosperity - It is a feeling of having more than you require. It refers to an 'abundant mindset'. Prosperity includes physical facilities, health and happiness. So, prosperity has other factors besides wealth.

Based on this distinction, there are different kinds of people in the world.

- Materially affluent but deprived
- Materially deficient but happy
- Materially affluent and happy

References:

Gaur, R.R., Sangal, R., Bagaria, G.P. *A Foundation Course in Human Values and Professional Ethics*, 2010, Excel Books.