

Monbiot believes that 'there appears to be some evidence that wealth causes misery' (lines 13-14) while Odone says that 'the rich make our society infinitely better' (line 23).

What is your view? Justify your answer by examining any two issues, one from each writer. Support your discussion with specific examples from your own experiences and observations.

I agree with the arguments put forth by Monbiot and is in favour of the notion that wealth causes misery.

Monbiot argues that as we become richer, we become less content with ourselves (line 37-38). He believed that there is a never ending pursuit of wealth as we become wealthier and even wealthier. This is true as people are stuck on a hedonistic treadmill so as to achieve a higher standard of living. People are inured to materialistic pleasures and many of the ~~things~~ ^{things} that people yearn for are luxuries by necessity.

This would only force everyone on the treadmill for a bigger paycheck to run even faster, increasing more stress for no greater rewards. Hence, while people may seemingly be contented with their short term gains, happiness is indeed elusive as they are ~~out~~ ~~on~~ running on a never ending treadmill in their pursuit for wealth. Wealth and contentment would never coincide ~~as~~ due to the phenomena of "affluenza" that is plaguing many societies. It is a "virus" that has taken over most Man ~~as~~ as they embark on a journey for a bigger salary and larger profit margins. Hence, ~~the~~ ~~is~~ Monbiot's argument is logical and convincing as it is reflective of our society as a whole. link back to stand on "misery"

On the other hand, Odone contends that affluence facilitates cultural grazing, from art galleries to foreign countries (line 52-53). No doubt, with increased wealth, people are able to travel to other countries and make trips to museums and galleries to appreciate other's culture. However, this is not a true reflection of the ~~entire~~ ~~so~~ healthy population as a whole. Take a look at Wall Street of America, or Raffles Place of Singapore, ~~the~~ office workers clad in impeccable suits are moving so quickly ~~in~~ in their fast paced lifestyle. ~~There~~ ~~is~~ Among these people are definitely ^{the} wealthy ones, however, they do not have the time and

energy to participate in the appreciation of the arts after a long day at work. Hence, the exposure to other's culture is still rather limited despite economic progress. Therefore, I feel that the argument put forth by Odore is flawed and unconvincing.

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