

In today's world, society is faced with a number of challenges. Homelessness, illness, poverty, unemployment and crime are only a few. In order to provide and help individuals lead a healthy lifestyle it is necessary for society to take the general needs of the individuals that compose the society itself into account and try and eliminate the challenges or resulting outcomes which negatively impact such as the ones listed above. This essay will aim to answer the question as to how society could improve its well-being, while facing the crisis of food and energy as it currently is the case.

The task of improving society is not an easy task, as society itself is composed of a large number of individuals, each facing different situations, subject to their own desires and needs, many negative challenges faced by society often being the outcome of a situation that appears to have none, or only an inconvenient alternative. These situations could perhaps be avoided, if the general social situation were improved.

In order to effectively improve society we must first be able to determine the needs of society and attempt to satisfy these, beginning with the basic before eventually arriving at the more complex ones. Identifying the needs alone will not be the entire solution, when identifying these we must also set priorities and target the ones most important first.

Each country provides benefits to its society in order to improve the standards of living and general well-being. The most effective method of improving and truly perfecting the overall well-being of society would, without a doubt, be to take each country's schemes into account and extract the most important or beneficial procedures.

Austria, for example stresses the importance of recycling by only collecting garbage which has been collected in special bags provided by the city council. These bags are clear; allowing the person responsible for the collection of the bags to easily determine which ones qualify for pickup. The penalty of not respecting the recycling scheme is a high fine, as the presence of non-recyclable contents could not only affect or hinder the recycling process, but also damage the equipment necessary.

The United Kingdom's social security make it easy to visit the doctor by requesting that each individual register at a designated medical center near their home and provide the information about the designated General Practitioner (GP) to the company which employs them. This enables the individual's designated GP to be easily contacted in the event of an emergency, who would be able to provide any relevant or necessary information. Also, the UK's social security pays part of subscription medicine leaving only the total amount of GBP 5 for the individual to settle, regardless what the price of the medication is. In the Kingdom of Bhutan all medical and fees for prescriptions are financed by the kingdom directly.

France attempts to minimize unemployment by limiting each individual to a total of 36 working hours a week. While this could be considered an expensive method of reducing unemployment, since it would require that while the number of working hours are less, the salary remains sufficient for each employee to maintain a lifestyle and also would require the hiring and training of additional staff; this scheme ensures more positions for more individuals and also reduces the problem of overworking, limiting each individual to the number of working hours permitted, therefore enabling them to spend more time at home with their friends, families or themselves. In the occasion that an employee is required to work more than the number of hours permitted it will be required that the employer enables the employee to recuperate the extra hours by providing an additional day off known as the RTT. This enables the employee to an occasional 3 days off enabling them to travel or in the case of an expatriate, visit their family, if it is possible to have the RTT consecutive with the original RP.

While it can be argued that today's society is faced with a food and energy crisis, we must also consider what we are doing in order to change or improve this situation. It is common sense that scarcity and high demand result in each other; demand is high when supply is low which, in turn increases the value of the supply. What would happen if we reduced demand? Recent news has shown an increase on waste in the UK, some families disposing of enough food in a week to feed an entire other family. The preparation of less food would not only reduce waste but also help the individual economize and reduce their

expenses. The same argument goes for water; the amount of water saved by turning the faucet off while brushing teeth can, over a certain amount of time, become enough to wash a load of laundry.

The main problem with encouraging awareness or discouraging consumption is that each individual considers only their own comfort and convenience and is therefore negligent towards the outcome of their actions. In order to increase awareness and successfully have society respond it is necessary to motivate. We could do this in a similar way as previously mentioned, by taking examples from other sources.

The Hilton Hotel group, for example, has launched a worldwide program in 2006 known as the “we care” program. “We care” is a competition between the Hilton hotels worldwide in an effort to reduce the usage/waste of water and electricity in an attempt for Hilton to realize the goal of becoming the industry leader in environmental management. Each employee of the winning hotel will receive a mountain bike as a reward of their efforts.

Just like the Hilton, some type of event or competition with a prize could be launched in order to increase awareness and motivate individuals to reduce their energy consumption and reduce their waste. An event to increase awareness must not be limited to the form of a competition, but could also be an event, an opportunity to bring society together in a way that would educate them on important issues.

The previously mentioned challenges that society faces today are the result of some individual's situations. These situations could be avoided with society's provision of a proper lifestyle and facilities to enable this. The improvement of overall social well-being would be the automatic result of the successful implementation of schemes from other countries and efforts made by the motivated individuals as the reduction of consumption would, probably lead to the decrease or softening of the crisis we are facing and also improve the social as well as environmental issues.