REASONS PEOPLE WORK

There are many reasons why people work. One person may work for one reason and another person for another. If one were to ask someone why he/she works, his/her first answer might be, "to earn money." While this may be true for many people, there are some rich people who also work very hard and they surely do not need the money. They must work for other reasons. Although people work for many reasons some of the more important reasons are as follows:

Earning Money
Most people need to work to make a living. In the days of the pioneers when each family raised its own food, cut its own firewood, made its own clothes, and built its own home, there was less need for money. Today we depend on other people to do these jobs. Therefore, it is necessary to earn money to buy the things that are needed and wanted. Some of the things that are bought are necessary for life and others add happiness and enjoyment to life. It should be remembered that the amount of money a person earns from an employer will depend on what the worker has to offer the employer. The more valuable a service, product, or benefit that can be provided, the more the employer will be able to pay.

Security
It is only natural that people are somewhat worried about the future. Most people are concerned about how long they will be able to keep their jobs or what might happen to them and their families if they were unable to work. Sometimes workers say they are saving a "nest egg." The worker might say that the money is saved for a "rainy day." This means that the savings could be used when the worker is out of work or is ill for a long period of time. The reason people buy insurance of all kinds is that they are concerned about the future. Work that is done today may provide money that can be used in the future. Therefore, some people work to provide this security.

Gaining Experience
Sometimes people work at a job so that they can gain some experience and get a better job. A person might start out as a dishwasher in a restaurant. A good worker will gain experience on the job and might move up to a cook’s helper in the kitchen. Work is necessary so he/she can gain experience on the job. This experience may help a person become a more valuable employee and provide a chance for advancement on the job.

Feeling Important
All people like to feel they are needed. This gives a purpose to life. Many times one hears the saying, "He wanted to make something of himself." Many people can make something of themselves through work. Work by one person provides a service or product for another person. People belong to clubs and organizations because it makes them feel important. Doing a good job at work can also make one feel important. If people take pride in their work, they may find it a very enjoyable part of their lives. Hearing the words, "good job" makes most people feel very good.
Achievement
Most men and women want to achieve something during their lives. Working provides a way for them to get the things they want out of life. It is important for workers to set some goals for their future work. Workers should know what they want to achieve and then set out to achieve it.

Recognition
All people like to receive credit for what they do. From the time they are small children, they like to be told they are doing a good job. Receiving credit and recognition for doing good work makes anyone feel good. It also makes people try to work harder and do better. Next to the need to earn a living, perhaps the reason most people work is to receive some form of recognition.

Social Values
The work that a person does is valuable to society. The work a doctor does benefits not only the doctor, but also the people who are treated. The work that a waitress in a restaurant does provides a service to each of the customers. Without the farmer, there would be no food to eat. Without the work of people, the world as it is today could not exist. Each day, everyone benefits from the jobs that others do.

Some, who do not need the money, work without pay for the benefit of others. A person may work very hard to help a neighbor who is ill or handicapped. Many times, people work to aid those who have been harmed by floods, hurricanes, fires, or earthquakes.

Some also volunteer much time and money to help such organizations as the Community Chest, United Way, or Red Cross.

Keeping Busy
Many times people complain about their work and how much they have to do. They say it would be better to relax and take it easy rather than work. But the fact remains that without work, some people would find it difficult to find enough to do. Work provides an outlet for their energy. There are times when older workers would prefer not to retire. Their jobs give them a chance to keep busy.

It is easy to see that finding a job and doing that job to the best on one’s ability is an important part of life. People work for many different reasons, from wanting money to helping others. Since so much of one’s adult life is spent working, it is important to study the world of work and choose a job carefully.

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