

ASPIRATIONS: BIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, POLITICAL

A human being can have aspirations or desiderata of various kinds:

(a) biological, e.g. to keep in good health, to excel in a sport, to become beautiful, to marry a beautiful and healthy partner, to raise healthy and beautiful children,

(b) psychological, e.g. to have a satisfying job, to be liked by his colleagues, to make a favorable impression on others, to pass for kind or talented,

(c) economic, e.g. to earn an adequate income, to secure retirement benefits, to become wealthy,

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(d) cultural, e.g. to learn to paint, to teach mathematics, to promote an ideology,

(e) political, e.g. to hold public office, to manipulate public opinion, to contribute to the victory of a political party,

This classification seems more adequate than the traditional dichotomy into "lower" (or material) and "higher" (or spiritual) ~~or ideal~~ aspirations.

Needless to say, any consideration of welfare, happiness, or quality of life, will have to address all five factors listed above.