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Generation Y consists of children born between 1981 and 1999. They are also referred to as millennials or the internet generation. Several critics have accused this generation of being narcissistic. Narcissism refers to an exaggerated sense of one’s capabilities. Millennials grow up believing they are special and therefore seek ways to stand out from the rest.
Millennials are technology savvy and prefer communicating through emails and social media rather than face-to-face interactions. They broadcast intimate information embellished with lies and fabrications in order to promote their self-importance. However, maintaining a false image is difficult and emotionally draining since it constantly involves watching one’s actions, words and appearance. When the truth comes out, criticism and public humiliation from ‘ friends’ can be so damaging that one can succumb to depression. Thus, there are likely to be increased incidences of anxiety, acute depression, suicidal deaths, and a society dependent on antidepressants. In addition, meaningful relationships between people will be scarce, leading to a fragmented society. For example, millennials are obsessed with celebrities and try to imitate their lifestyles and unrealistic concepts of beauty. Young girls do cosmetic surgeries such as skin lightening or liposuctions. Some of these surgeries have disastrous health effects such as susceptibility to skin cancer, leading to depression and suicides.
Millennials are materialistic. They are willing to sacrifice personal relationships and manipulate others for their personal gain. Recent incidences of economic recessions and rise in unemployment have made them resort to criminal activities that can give them the money they desire. In addition, those who manage to secure jobs are burdened with college loans that their depressed wages cannot repay. More and more youths engage in espionage, terrorism, and white collar crimes. For example, children as young as grade school goers are recruited by drug barons to peddle illicit drugs. Such activities portray a bleak future for humanity characterized by high crime rates, high drug dependency, less empathy, and less community involvement.
Finally, many millennials were raised in divorced families. As a result, they have no faith in the marriage institution and see it is a constraint to their success. Romantic relationships have become battlefields for egos rather than cooperation. Cohabitations are rampant because they pose no long-term obligations and are easy to walk away from when their egos are threatened. This trend has increased the use of birth control pills, and the rate of legalized abortions. Consequently, the future society is likely to have very low marriage rates, increased singlehood, increased risk of impotence and infertility due to overuse of contraceptives, and an elderly society. In addition, the consumer market is likely to decline since it depends on the blooming of families who purchase products such as houses and cars. Millennials are also more liberal about homosexuality than older generations. They do not hesitate to try out new sexual orientations in order to satisfy their primal needs. Hence, future society is likely to embrace gay and lesbian marriages.