

Millennials: The Patient Generation

Since childhood, parents and teachers have told us that we are unique, talented, and ultimately special. We are the Millennials. We are the ultimate investment by our parents and tax dollars, creating the highest educated generation. That investment alone has made us the elites of society. Millennials are the revolutionary generation that have our priorities straight. We are a generation that settles for nothing less than complete contentment. Whether it is a job, a marriage, or a particular lifestyle, we have delayed our lives to find what will bring us the utmost satisfaction. We have embedded this idea that these “markets of life” are competing for us. We are the desired.

Our generation has high expectations of what lifestyle we want to live. Our lives are directly influenced by our families, friends, hobbies, interests, communities, and colleagues but, most of all, ourselves. *Fortune* magazine’s writer Nadira Hira states: “They walk in with more information in their heads, more information at their fingertips - and, sure, they have high expectations, but they have the highest expectations first and foremost for themselves”(Hira). People are striving to live the comfortable “American Dream” lifestyle. We have become a patient generation, as more than half of college seniors move home after graduation waiting for the perfect job to open. If the perfect job is not available immediately after college, then we simply go home to our parents, who in all probability will welcome us back with open arms. Earlier generations, such as Baby Boomers and the Greatest Generation, differ by having a sense of embarrassment of living at home after obtaining a college degree. People in today’s generation see this as being economically smart by helping their children get on their feet instead of digging a

hole of debt from the cost of living without a stable income. Our generation has made life easier for the future by being shameless and swallowing our pride.

We, Millennials, think differently of ourselves compared to past generations. It is estimated that twenty-seven percent of adults have a college degree, making our generation the elites in society. This makes the Millennial's generation the highest record of educated adults in the United States. We have been taught to market ourselves and that we are fancied by high paying companies. Our generation recognizes that there are more jobs than young people to fill them. It has been estimated that some 64 million skilled workers will be able to retire by the end of this decade (Hira). Businesses are realizing that they may have no choice but to accommodate our needs. Being a part of the higher education elites of today's society, I know I have options. Growing up seeing our parents settle for less encourages our generation to be aware of all possible alternatives. People are not interested with centering their lives around their jobs. We live in a fast-acting society, and we Millennials will not settle our work and personal life until we are fully satisfied.

Not only are we waiting for the dream job, but we are waiting for the dream partner as well. Both men and women are in no hurry to settle into marriage. One reason for this delay in marriage is the playing field of jobs has been leveled. More women are filling occupations that in the past had been unavailable to women. David Popenoe, co-director of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University, says: "Later marriage is very strongly associated with higher levels of education" (Census). The higher the education a person obtains the stronger chance of being employed, which ultimately delays marriage. Previously in our culture, women had based their standards of marriage

and the ideal partner solely on the potential for stability. Women have empowered the idea of being financially independent resulting in postponing marriage. Martin O'Connell, chief of the Census Bureau's fertility and family statistics branch, found, "The median age for first marriages in the United States is 26.7 years for men and 25.1 for women. That is roughly a year older than a decade ago for both" (Census). Perhaps, the greatest change in our generation that is a factor that has delayed marriage is the decrease of traditional religious values. In our generation, it is more frequent to see couples live together without getting married as cohabitation is accepted more in today's society. Marriage is controlled by our clocks. The time will come when we desire and wish.

The Millennials are the brightest generation not just because of our higher education, our comprehension of sophisticated technology gadgets or our remarkable ability to multitask; we are the most intelligent generation because we have learned to be patient. Time and energy is valued considerably in our generation. We will not devote ourselves to a job, a marriage, and a lifestyle that does not give us complete happiness. We have seen the dissatisfaction of our parents as they have settled for comfort, not pleasure; we will not do the same. The idea of time is beautiful because it can not be reproduced. Millennials appreciate this idea by making life's journey correct the first time. That being said, I will sit back, relax, and wait because life is short, but does not have to be miserable. We are the Millennials and we will not settle for anything less than total satisfaction of every aspect of life.

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