

Convention on Health Analysis and Management

CHAM 2016

Money: angel or devil?

*Bernard Accoyer, Marguerite Bérard-Andrieu, Philippe Denormandie, Luc Ferry
Moderator: Erik Orsenna*

Different spiritual systems do not all view wealth in the same way. According to some beliefs, hardship is a disgrace which wealth allows one to escape from. For others, wealth is a disgrace and hardship is a path to paradise.

1. Money as emancipator

Until 1965, women in France could neither open a bank account nor sign an employment contract without their husbands' authorization.

2. Money as a developer and creator of common interests

Money has undeniably been a necessary condition for the development of trade in the history of civilisations. After World War II, economic relations were a key aspect in the building of Europe.

3. Money for growth: Keynes vs. Schumpeter

In the market economy, innovation essentially serves to render fashionable things outmoded, speed up obsolescence, stimulate consumption and thereby stimulate growth. Growth favours innovation and innovation is involved in ensuring growth. Innovation destroys jobs and creates new ones, as Joseph Schumpeter demonstrated. Ancient worlds are destroyed and replaced by new ones. In France, the majority belief is not favourable to innovation, but promotes a modern interpretation of Keynesianism in which low salaries and minimum welfare benefits are raised to rediscover the path to growth. 80% of the French population is Keynesian and believes that growth would be stimulated by salaries and consumption, although growth in fact requires innovation above all else.

4. Innovation and preventive self-destruction?

Faced with the passage of time and the coming and going of trends, large companies naturally fear that their models will change. Staying a step ahead implies accelerating the decline of current models and investment in new models and innovation.

5. Treatment rather than a healthy life: a short-term vision

The healthcare system too often limits itself to developing a short-term vision, focusing on care and its immediate effects rather than developing prevention methods that reveal a long-term vision. From a concrete point of view, ONDAM, the national healthcare expenditure target,

poses an obstacle to the emergence of a long-term vision and trajectory. In addition, payment per treatment is likely to create a perverse effect in the sense that medical professionals will find it advantageous to rapidly rehospitalize. Within the current system, health professionals and pharmacists have no incentive to actually treat their patients. They earn money by selling them treatments and medications, achieving nothing more than spending public financial resources and fighting against the common good.

6. The government's lack of long-term vision

Politicians have even less of a long-term vision than operators in the healthcare field. This is reflected in their decisions.

7. The illusion of free care

The organization of France's healthcare system poses a threat to the future. With no awareness of total costs, even more so due to third-party payers, patients are not responsible for their consumption habits. The dwindling of funds is presented as a devil and threatens the sustainability of the healthcare system.

8. Treatment innovations vs. health innovations

Innovation in the health field is too focused on treatment and not enough on everyday health. The approach should start with habits to develop the most effective treatments to address them.

9. Prevention is ultimately the result of a personal approach and partly depends on money

With the total lack of a preventive policy in France, both on the political level and from the point of view of the teaching hospital, the approach can only be personal. It is, of course, among the wealthier classes that prevention is most prevalent. Money becomes a source of inequality.