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## Reliance is Golden

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# Reliance is Golden

By Adam Bryson

As the world becomes increasingly automated, many people are no longer self-sufficient. This has caused many people to be dependent on others for things that those in the past did themselves. The results is that being self-sufficient is becoming increasingly rare and valuable in society. Being self-sufficient is beneficial due to the value in day to day life, the value in the work force, and the value in emergency situations.

In the modern world, it has become increasingly easy to be functional without being self-reliant. There are shops for everything, and most times, individuals do not even need to leave their house as they can call and have food and groceries delivered to their house. This has caused many people to no longer learn skills that at one point were considered essential to everyday life, such as sewing. According to "British Heart Foundation's Big Stitch Campaign," less than forty percent of people could confidently say they can sew. This is a very drastic change from not even twenty years ago when many people were able to and did sew their own clothes. Now, however, people would much rather get a new shirt or a new pair of pants.

Not only is the lack of self-reliance affecting the individual, it is also affecting how companies hire new employees. The workforce has become increasingly educated as it becomes easier to go to college or other institutions of higher learning. This has caused employers to start putting more emphasis on practical skills when hiring. Many recent college graduates have very prestigious educational qualifications; however, they lack many practical skills that make an individual self-reliant. For example, an individual is heading to work and their tire becomes flat. If the individual is not self-reliant, they will need to call someone else to fix the tire and will be late. This is shown because as many as fifty percent of drivers

who took a survey by "America's Automotive IQ" were found to not be confident or not have any idea how to change a tire" and that "only 42.2 percent said they felt confident..."(Spector). If they are self-reliant, however, they will not need to call someone to fix the tire and instead fix it themselves and arrive to work on time.

Being self-reliant is important, but not needed when it comes to the normal day and the work force. However, when persons are thrown into a survival situation they need to be able to become self-sufficient, or they may lose their life. This is something that is a growing problem. In the past when people were self-sufficient they were able to rebuild even after natural disasters because they had the skills. In the present, many people do not

know skills that would be useful in major disasters such as economic collapse or invasion of foreign troops. This was a problem many artists and office workers faced during the Great Depression because after they were fired, the only jobs available were manual labor, and many had never done such jobs. This caused many to be overlooked and thus could not provide for their families.

The message is clear about how valuable and rare self-reliance is. The increase in technology has made many people's lives easier, but with that ease comes complacency and laziness. In the modern world, many people have lost the value of self-reliance and are now over reliant on other people and technology.

Can you sew  
on a button?  
How about  
change a tire?