Chapter Six

Expanding Waistlines

The average American woman now weighs more than twice as much as she did in 1900, despite significant advances in medical technology and increased awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The widespread adoption of convenience foods and fast food has contributed to the rise in obesity rates, along with a sedentary lifestyle and decreased physical activity. The prevalence of obesity is not limited to women, but is also a concern for men, who are increasingly facing the same challenges. The implications of obesity extend beyond personal health to include economic consequences, as health care costs rise and productivity decreases. In order to address this growing problem, new approaches to prevention and treatment are needed, from public health campaigns to individual lifestyle changes.
Those incentives are difficult to forecast in advance. It can be understood by examining the incentives they face. Some of those incentives result from the development of new products, which may improve people's health and decrease their healthcare costs. However, other incentives result from people being induced to substitute one product for another in response to changes in prices or the availability of new products. This analysis is complicated further by the fact that people's preferences for different products can change over time. Thus, the incentive to consume more of a particular product may be stronger or weaker as the product evolves or new products are introduced. It is important to consider these factors in making decisions about what to produce and how to allocate resources. The importance of these factors is illustrated by the fact that consumers often make choices that are not consistent with their own best interests. For example, consumers may choose to buy products that are aesthetically pleasing rather than those that are nutritionally balanced. This suggests that consumers may not be fully rational in their decision-making process. It is important to understand the factors that influence consumer behavior in order to develop effective policies and interventions. This analysis can be used to inform decisions about how to allocate resources and to design interventions that are likely to be effective.
Chapter Six: Property Rights and the Environment

PART SIX. PROPERTY RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Take a look at the chapters in Part Six. "Property Rights and Children" (Hint: Take a look at the chapters in Part Five. "Property Rights and Children") Why does it seem as though property rights were more important than the environment in the past? What does it mean to say that the environment is "getting worse"? What impact has the growth of the automobile industry had on the environment? How much of the environment is actually made up of manufactured goods? How much of the environment is actually made up of natural resources? How much of the environment is actually made up of natural resources?

1. The changes in food preparation technologies over the past half-century have had a

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3. During the twentieth century, the cost of the automobile fell

4. Weight of adult women relative to other people?

5. What does economic productivity have to do with the weight of adult women?

6. What does it mean for economic productivity to have happened to the weight of adult women?

7. What does economic productivity have to do with the weight of adult women?

8. What does economic productivity have to do with the weight of adult women?

9. What does economic productivity have to do with the weight of adult women?

10. What does economic productivity have to do with the weight of adult women?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER SIX