

The best aid to give is intellectual aid, a gift of useful knowledge. A gift of knowledge is infinitely preferable to a gift of material things. There are many reasons for this. Nothing becomes truly one's own except on the basis of some genuine effort or sacrifice.

A gift of material goods can be appropriated by recipient without effort or sacrifice. It; therefore, rarely becomes his own, and is all too frequently and easily treated as a mere windfall. A gift of intellectual goods, a gift of knowledge, is a very different matter. Without a genuine effort of appropriation on the part of the recipient there is no gift. To appropriate the gift and to make it one's own is the same thing, and neither moth nor rust doth corrupt. The gift of material goods makes people dependent, but the gift of knowledge also has far more lasting effects and is far more closely relevant to the concept of development. Give a man fish, as the saying goes, and you are helping him little bit for a very short time; teach him the art of fishing, and he can help himself all his life. Further, if you teach him to make his own fishing net, you have helped him to become not only self-supporting but also self-reliant and independent man and businessman.

This then should become the ever increasing preoccupation of the generous supply of the appropriate intellectual gifts — gifts of relevant knowledge on the methods of self-help. This approach, incidentally, has also the advantage of being relatively cheap of making money go a long way. For 100/-you may able to equip one man with certain means of production, but for the same money you may well be able to teach a hundred men to equip themselves. Perhaps a little pump-priming by way of material goods will, in some cases, be helpful to speed the process of development (E. F. Schumacher).

(339 words)

SUITABLE TITLE:-

Knowledge: The best gift

PRECIS:-

Giving someone appropriate knowledge is the best form of gift. It is better than material gift because receiver has to put no effort to accept the latter, therefore they do not give it much value. However, the gift of knowledge requires the receiver to strive for it due to which it becomes their own permanent personal possession. Knowledge also leads towards development and independency of a person, so such gifts should continue till the person becomes self sufficient. Knowledge is cheaper and better than material gift because it can give life long skills to masses. However, along with knowledge, sometimes material gifts can catalyse the developmental progress

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