

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 the 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 makes them free. The gift of knowledge also has far more lasting effects and is far more closely relevant to the concept of 'development.' Give a man a fish, as the saying goes, and you are helping him a little bit for a very short time, teach him the act 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 aid-programmes to make men self-reliant and independent by 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 POUNDS 100/ - you may be able to equip one man with certain means of production, but for the same money you may well be able to teach and hundred men to equip themselves. Perhaps a little 'pumppriming' by way of material goods will in some cases, be helpful to speed the process of development.

(E. F. Schumacher)

given
part

Precis

— 1 — 1 — 87

Intellect: A Useful Gift for Humans

Intellectual aid is beneficial for long-lasting development in a person's life. It is a more useful gift when compared to material goods. Knowledge can save one from the hassel of appropriation or dependency in terms of recipient's choice. It is advantageous as it prepares a person to be self-reliant and independent. Moreover, this gift is also free of cost. Equipping one with useful knowledge can benefit him in the long run, for making money and development. However, material things sometimes provide ~~quick~~ speedy development in one's life.

Words = 87

