

# CHARITY

Over time, the meaning of charity has evolved from one of "Christian love" to that of "providing for those in need; generosity and giving". Charity is something I would say I love so much as to regard as a hobby because it is all about the love and care that is shown to those that are regarded as less privileged in our today environment.

In Christian thought, charity is the highest form of love, signifying the reciprocal love between God and man that is made manifest in unselfish love of one's fellow men. Charity gives us a sense of fulfillment. People who give are happier people. It brings a great deal of joy and contentment to us. Psychologists say it activates the pleasure centre in our brains.

In our world today, there are various unfortunate people who are poor, helpless and alone, several places are made for the survival of these people which are known as an orphanage, old age home or some organizations which are operating through a charitable trust. To help these places, people should always contribute by offering money or some other essential things that those people require like clothes, food, education, toys and books for kids.

Also, there are so many who single handedly cannot fend for themselves to the extent that they are dependent on generous individuals just to feed. I have seen so many little children and family starve to death just because they have nothing to feed on. Acts of charity could be in form of cash, material gifts, quality time or kind words. It could be in the form of providing basic necessities like food, water, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education, occupation and security, I had personally made my birthday a day of celebrating the needy; on every 5th of may depending on my location; I would visit any orphanage home with my birthday goodies in other to share and take nice pictures with them.

In spite of charity being necessary and beneficial, it has to be focused on alleviating the poverty level among the needy and helping them to be independent of funds from well-wishers. A charity that lacks strategies to ensure that the poor are not entirely dependent on it eventually brings more harm than benefits

Contrary to popular opinion, you stand to gain a lot by being generous. The giver is rewarded as much as the recipient. Some even say it has health benefits and it boosts our mental well-being. In fact, people who live in developed country are given tax breaks for participating in acts of charity.

In conclusion, charity is not about discriminating, it is not about showing love to some certain set of individuals e.g. our religious people but it is rather a way of extending or rendering help to helpless individuals without considering their background or their religion, I have also learnt that humanity is connected in more ways than we can imagine. However, when we show kindness to people, we create a chain reaction which causes that kindness to find its way back to us. It's like the law of attraction of the universe; so in my own little life, I have seen the extent to which people are impoverished and I can say charity is dear to my heart.