

Argument Reconstruction II: *Doing Good Better*

P1: (implied) We want to do as much good as possible.

P2: Good intentions can easily lead to bad outcomes. When helping others, being unreflective means being ineffective.

P3: The author is emotionally biased towards the Fistula Foundation due to his experience with the Foundation.

P4: There are far too many problems in this world and not enough time to solve all of them. Therefore, if we want to make the world a better place, we must make some difficult, morally ambiguous choices in order to maximize good.

P5: By applying data and reasoning to altruistic acts we can turn good intentions into astonishingly good outcomes.

C: Therefore, the author should not donate to the Fistula Foundation, and instead give to charities that are objectively more effective and can do more good than the Fistula Foundation.

NOTES:

P1: (implied) We want to do as much good as possible.

P2: Good intentions can easily lead to bad outcomes. When helping others, being unreflective means being ineffective. ~~An example of this is seen in PlayPump, an organization set up to do a lot of good, but even with the good intentions it ended up doing more harm than good due to the lack of feedback leading to ineffective help.~~

P3: If we want to make the world a better place, we must make some difficult, morally ambiguous choices, ~~such as who to save given two patients in a hospital in different life-threatening cases.~~ TRADEOFFS

P4: There are far too many problems in this world and not enough time to solve all of them. Billions of people in the world who need our help, but we cannot help them all.

P5: The fact we are in the top 1% in terms of wealth in the world (assuming we are in average western society) means that money donated to less fortunate people has more value to them than it does to us.

P6: By applying data and reasoning to altruistic acts we can turn good intentions into astonishingly good outcomes. ~~An example of this is seen in Michael Kramer and Rachel Glennerster's analysis of charities in Africa, and subsequent implementation (based off of the data analysis) of the deworming program which was highly successful.~~

C: Therefore, we should use quantitative reasoning, making use of tools such as QALYs and WALYs, to ensure we prioritize the most good we can do. We should therefore follow the author's definition of effective altruism (improving the lives of others the most with whatever resources available), to ensure we are doing the most good as we can, such as when donating to charities.

P3+p4

Much more simple

New Conclusion abt fistula foundation (p48-49)