

Question: Sadhguru, I am a working person with a family, so I am not able to do much by way of charity or helping people. What can I do?

Sadhguru:

Charity is different from contribution. Contribution does not mean pulling money out from your pocket and distributing it to people. That is charity. Charity, I consider as obscene because only where love is missing charity is possible. If you do something for your own children, do you think it is a great charity? No. But when you do something for that poor child on the street you feel you have accomplished. You call it charity because you have no love for him. You have never felt any responsibility for him. This is not what the world requires.

When you feel responsible towards somebody or something, you want to contribute. You feel the urge to do your best and the more opportunities you have to do it the better you feel. Whatever we do our life itself can be a contribution. Let me give you an example. All of you dress up in the best possible way when you go out. Imagine, when you are going for a meeting and everyone attending the meeting including yourself comes in stinking tattered clothes. The room wouldn't be the same, would it? Did you know that your coming like this is in itself a contribution to your surroundings? Man is generally not aware of the contributions that he makes to people around him. Now, if you are aware

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of the fact that your choice of clean clothes made a difference and if you come with the consciousness that you dress like this because you want to contribute to everybody's life around you, think of how beautiful your dress would feel.

So everything you do can be a contribution. It isn't necessary that you must give something to somebody. You can give of yourself. Take the case of the bus driver on the streets. What a useful man he is! If there were no bus drivers on the streets, think of how many people's lives would be dislocated. But the fool doesn't know this. When you sit inside a bus, do you ever wonder whether the man knows to drive or not? Never. You have tremendous trust in bus drivers, much more than the trust you repose in your parents. While he drives the bus, you just put your lives in his hands and comfortably go to sleep. If he is aware of the trust you have in him, how wonderful would he feel driving the bus? But all he thinks is, "I know the route and I need to drive to get paid". Yes he will get paid. But his life will become infinitely more meaningful if he were aware of his job as a contribution to people around him. Just make your life a contribution and you can see for yourself the kind of difference you make in the world you live in. ®

