

## 88 / Donation

Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Ashokji Chavan celebrated his birthday on 28-11-2009. He appealed to his well wishers, party workers, public, followers, colleagues etc. that instead of spending money on bouquet, the said amount should be donated to CM Relief Fund. The appeal was well received and a handsome amount of Rs.21 Lacs donation was given to CM Relief Fund. Surprisingly of this amount, donation of Rs.1,11,000/- was received from a recently elected MLA. Well that is not the point I wish to talk about.

Friends, you will agree that on many occasions unnecessary overspending is done just because you have the money or even at times by borrowing in case of social customs, religion etc. I can visualize many instances when such overspending can be avoided and handsome donation can be given to a good institution, schools, and trusts carrying out charitable work.

I am aware that the list is only illustrative but my intention is to emphasise on this practice of giving donations.

1. Offerings are given to GOD on religious occasions, social customs etc. in the form of rice, wheat, flowers, coconuts, sweets etc. Don't you feel that it is possible to make token offering to GOD and the amount saved can be donated or for that matter the offered articles such as rice, sweets etc. can be given to a hungry person?
2. Exorbitant amount is spent on Birthday celebrations of a kid who has no interest in the parties thrown by his parents. Many times the kid is so small that he or she is not even aware that his/her birthday is being celebrated. What is the use of celebrating birthday of year old kid on massive scale? Don't you think substantial amount can be donated for the other unfortunate kids?
3. Overspending is also done during religious rituals like marriages, thread ceremony, after death, maha puja etc. We stay in a society and try to follow the rules, regulations, conventions of the society. In fact, every person is at the centre point of his 'Society'. We generally think of the society's reaction whenever we wish to deviate from its rules & conventions. If we are weak minded then we do not indulge in deviation.

But **it's time to rethink on many outdated customs, blind faiths, beliefs which are followed by all classes irrespective of education, wealth, age etc.** We must try and unearth new meaning of the customs and if convinced and if not causing any disturbance to others, then we must become a **trend setter**. Have confidence that one day the society will follow you.

4. You are aware that we spend money for 'Necessity, Comfort and Luxury.' However, it is interesting to note that the terms are relative and the classification will vary from person to person. Necessity of one person may be luxury of another person. **Hence it is necessary to always bear in mind the basic purpose of spending.**
5. It is high time that every one should realise that majority of people are deprived of even basic necessities in life such as food, shelter and clothing. I earnestly request the readers to think seriously on the subject and form the habit of donating.
6. I can read the expressions on your face as to whether the author has the moral right to give advice? Well friends, I can understand this. But let me assure you that I have formed this habit of giving donations ever since I started earning. I have spent handsome amounts on donations & charity. Even substantial compensation (received due to an accident on 24-07-1996) was donated.

**I am confident that the readers will definitely think seriously on this subject. But Friends, do not stop after thinking but ACT. (Thinking Converted in Action.)**