

Give Yourself First

Many people give money towards charitable causes. But the basic belief in them is that they should give from their surplus. Dharma, as preached in India, says that we should give from the little we have if not even from the very little. Giving repeatedly reveals true compassion of the person.

Your wallet gets lighter once you give from it. This is the economy of the world. The economy of the heart is different. The more you give the more you have. I know that every Rotarian wants to give to The Rotary Foundation. You, the DRFC and the RRFCC can make the members in the district hold abundance in their mindset. This is the first step in making them to give. They must be taught to think abundance and believe that they can all be Bill Gates when it comes to giving for The Rotary Foundation. This belief will match their desire sooner than later.

Most people in the world who are underprivileged live in the pit of despair and unfulfilled hopes. As a Rotarian you took the resolution to make world a better place and improve one life at a time. Can you afford to live with broken resolutions? Remember, it is you who took that resolution to eradicate polio, reduce infant mortality and to provide better healthcare facilities to people. Whatever you made in the distant past when you were an ordinary member or in the near past as a district leader, that is what you are now. We must only be guided by the promises we made with our own free will. If people fulfill their promises they reward themselves and if they don't they fall in their own esteem.

Most people spend their lives desiring to do something, like playing a musical instrument, or becoming a sportsperson or a performing artist. But they become lazy and careless to put that effort needed to reach perfection.



Similarly, giving is also a habit that needs practice. A small donation of US \$100 every year by a Rotarian is the first step to become a philanthropist. With over 1,10,000 Rotarians in India this contribution of US \$100 from each member will result in a collection of over US \$11 million. With extra amounts coming in from big donors we should cross US \$15 million every year. This is achievable.

Rotarians should be taught by the DRFC and the Club's TRF Chair to shake their mind and heal themselves from the thought that they cannot give. It would be a tiresome long hike by foot. But this exercise has to be done if we have to move from fund raising to fund development in India. Donors must be taught to expand their thoughts.

The power of doing good is indescribable. Its glory is ineffable. Only those who donate and see visible results of their contributions through The Rotary Foundation will realise its splendour. Remaining in the company of donors will produce the desired effect and that is why the seminars of The Rotary Foundation become important. It is just not a Sunday

event and an outing for the RRFCC, DRFC and the District Governor.

A noted philosopher said, "When I chased money, I never had enough. When I got my life on purpose and focused on giving of myself and everything that arrived into my life, then I was prosperous." The Rotary Foundation helps you to join with all in the community. It is both union and the way to the union. This is in a way a higher path to connect with people everywhere. They learn to give themselves freely. The results of your action are measurable very soon. Give yourself first to the noble cause for which The Rotary Foundation was started. You will find innumerable Rotarians will tread the path of service through The Rotary Foundation.



*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation
Director, Rotary International
2007-2009
Member, International PolioPlus
Committee*