Money and Charity

Paul and Katia debate the merits of giving money charity.

Paul: Hi, this is Paul from England speaking with Katia from Mexico. First question is do you give money to charity?

Katia: Well, Paul, it's a difficult question because you really want to help people, but I always question myself where if the money really gets to where it's supposed to go, so personally I rarely do give money to charities. I'd rather give my time, so I know if it's actually something happening. What about you?

Paul: Yeah, I guess that makes sense. If it's a registered charity then I don't see there's a problem really with giving a donation.

Katia: Yeah, I guess so, but really I wonder. There are so many charities in the world, and you wonder really how much money do the people actually get, so it's difficult to really know.

Paul: How about if you're walking down the street and you see a homeless person asking for money?

Katia: Homeless people! That's also difficult because you can see they need money or they need food. Sometimes I feel if you give money, you are supporting their way of life so I would rather give some food so they can eat, but maybe if it's a disabled person, I am more willing to give, rather than just the homeless.

Paul: Yeah, I'd agree with you. It's difficult to know what they're gonna use the money for, so usually I never give money to men but if it's like an elderly woman, I'm happy to give a small donation.

Katia: Why not men and only women?

Paul: Well, going back to what you said about supporting their way of life, I mean, not in every case, but I think that often it can just be man's choice to be homeless on the street and he does have a chance to get a job I think.

Katia: So you think the woman really doesn't have a choice, and the man...

Paul: I think it's more difficult for a woman.


Paul: For sure. Do you give money if you see children on the street?

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Paul: I'm a little bit reluctant to give money. I heard in a lot of poor countries that it can actually even be a business, like a parents will send their children onto the street.

Katia: Unfortunately, that's true.

Paul: OK, so maybe you like what you said before: it's better to donate your time than to donate money.

Katia: Possibly. And hopefully things will change.
A) Main Points: Answer the following questions about the interview.

1) Who prefers to donate time?
   a) Paul
   b) Katia
   c) Both

2) Who does Katia mention helping?
   a) Disabled people
   b) Elderly women
   c) Anyone

3) What does Paul think?
   a) Men have more options
   b) Men work harder than women
   c) He wants to help everyone

4) How do they feel about giving to children?
   a) They try not to
   b) They give extra
   c) They never do it

B) Phrase Match: Match the phrases on the left with the example on the right.

1) question myself
   I agree

2) that makes sense
   handicapped

3) disabled
   helping

4) supporting
   slow to make a decision

5) reluctant
   wonder

C) Unscramble: Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.

1) money charity you give to do ?

2) what see do you a homeless if you person do ?

3) think that you more options do for jobs men have ?

4) do you children on money you see the street give if ?

How would Katia and Paul respond to the questions? And You?
Paul: Hi, this is Paul from England speaking with Katia from Mexico. First question is do you give money to charity?

Katia: Well, Paul, it's a difficult question because you really want to help people, but I always question myself where if the money really gets to where it's supposed to go, so personally I rarely do give money to charities. I'd rather give my time, so I know if it's actually something happening. What about you?

Paul: Yeah, I guess that makes sense. If it's a registered charity then I don't see there's a problem really with giving a donation.

Katia: Yeah, I guess so, but really I wonder. There are so many charities in the world, and you wonder really how much money do the people actually get, so it's difficult to really know.

Paul: How about if you're walking down the street and you see a homeless person asking for money?

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Paul: Yeah, I'd agree with you. It's difficult to know what they're gonna use the money for, so usually I never give money to men but if it's like an elderly woman, I'm reluctant to give a small donation.

Katia: Why not men and only women?

Paul: Well, going back to what you said about supporting their way of life, I mean, not in every case, but I think that often it can just be man's choice to be homeless on the street and he does have a chance to get a job I think.

Katia: So you think the woman really doesn't have a choice, and the man...

Paul: I think it's more difficult for a woman.


Paul: For sure. Do you give money if you see children on the street?

Katia: Well, it depends, because that's also giving money to children so they can continue asking for money, so I avoid it. I also avoid it. What about you?

Paul: I'm a little bit reluctant to give money. I heard in a lot of poor countries that it can actually even be a business, like a parents will send their children onto the street.

Katia: Unfortunately, that's true.

Paul: OK, so maybe you like what you said before: it's better to donate your time than to donate money.

Katia: Possibly. And hopefully things will change.
### What do you think?

#### Discussion

1. Is it true that “it is better to give than to receive?”

2. In what situation would you give money to someone on the street?

3. If someone had a weapon and tried to steal money from you, would you fight or comply?

4. Are you a generous person?

5. Do you think that government should try to help homeless people or do they have a responsibility to help themselves?

6. How much do you worry about money?

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If someone is so desperate that they are going to threaten my life, then of course I’m going to give them whatever they want. However, if I sense that the person may try to kill me because they don’t want me to identify them later to the police then it may be smarter to take a chance and fight. Who knows how I would really react if the situation was real.  

Shakespeare wrote: “Neither a borrower nor lender be.” In other words, don’t get loans and don’t give loans to people. It sounds cold but money has the power to destroy a relationship. If you loan money to your brother and he never pays you back, you lose a lot of respect for him. With other things, like food, I’m generous.

|                | Paul - US            | Merve - Turkey |

I have found that the more I worry about making and saving extra money, the more stressful my life becomes. That doesn’t mean that I think we should just forget about everything and blow all our money in one night in Vegas, but there should be a balance between being too careful and being not careful enough. The middle ground is happiness.

Normally, I don’t give money to people on the street because I once had a bad experience. I tried to help a homeless guy out and he kept on following me. Even though I felt sorry for him, I couldn’t trust him because he seemed pretty crazy. Finally, I had to yell at him to leave me alone.

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Write about one of the discussion questions:
A) Main Points: Answer the following questions about the interview.

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3) disabled ___ 4) helping ___
4) supporting ___ 5) slow to make a decision ___
5) reluctant ___ 1) wonder ___

C) Unscramble: Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.

1) Do you give money to charity?
   | money | charity | you | give | to | do | ?

2) What do you do if you see a homeless person?
   | what | see | do you | a homeless | if you | person | do | ?

3) Do you think that men have more options for jobs?
   | think | that | you | more options | do | for jobs | men have | ?

4) Do you give money if you see children on the street?
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