



Hindus believe that charity, or *dana*, is important. This is because helping others is helping Brahman, as all living things have an *atman*, or piece of Brahman, within them.

- *Dana* means giving & *sewa* means selfless service. The concept of charity in Hinduism is about helping others without expecting something in return & because it is the right thing to do.
- Hindus practise an important concept called *ahimsa*, which means not harming or killing anything living. Therefore, helping to protect the environment & looking after other people & animals are very important to Hindus.
- Charity given out of duty, without expectation of return, at the proper time and place, & to a worthy person is in the quality of goodness. Bhagavad-gita 17.20
- "Relieving the ravaging hunger of the poor is the most secure use of a rich man's wealth." *Tirukkural 226*
- "There is none other who does greater good than the one who removes the hunger of those in a difficult situation, helpless, weak and disturbed." *Mahabharata XIII 59.1P*
- By giving a little, you save a lot – SATOPADESAPRABHANDA
- For Hindus, *dana* (giving) is an important part of one's *dharma* (religious duty). *Dharma* has a wide variety of meanings such as eternal law, duty, conduct, behaviour, morality & righteousness. Each person has a *dharma* towards family, society, the world & all living things.
- Ancient texts, the Upanishads point out that we are all part of the whole.. For instance, in the **Chandogya Upanishad**, Uddalaka comments on the Brahman while talking to his son Shvetaketu:

There is nothing that does not come from him, Of everything, he is the innermost Self. He is the truth; He is the Self Supreme. So the concept of *Sewa* is also serving the Supreme in all forms

The Upanishads are assorted of texts central to Hinduism from oral traditions. They contain information regarding the philosophical principles & concepts of Hinduism, including *karma* (right action), *brahman* (ultimate reality), the *atman* (true Self or soul),...

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from internet: ***Vasudeva kutumbakam***– sometimes spelled *vasudhaiva kutumbakam*– is a phrase from the Hindu text the ***Maha Upanishad*** that is typically translated as **"the world is one family."** It is so valued that it is engraved in the entry to India's parliament building.. The term comes from the ancient Sanskrit *vasudeva*, which means the Eternal Reality, and *kutumbaka*, meaning "family." In the alternate spelling, *vasudha* means the Earth. The overall meaning of the expression is the same – that all the world, universe or reality is one.