



THE DROWNING CHILD

You're on your way to a fancy party!
You're looking suave in your nicely pressed shirt and your shiny new shoes.
You walk pass the pool in the clubhouse when you hear a "HELP!" You look over your shoulder and a child is crying in distress and looks as though she is drowning. You can swim and know that you can help her without causing injury to yourself. However, your shirt will be soaked and your new shoes will be destroyed. You will miss out on this fancy party too.

WOULD YOU SAVE THIS CHILD?

DONATE NOW

MAKE A DONATION TO OXFAM

Oxfam is a global organization working to end the injustice of poverty. We help people build better futures for themselves, hold the powerful accountable, and save lives in disasters. Our mission is to tackle the root causes of poverty and create lasting solutions.

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THE STARVING CHILD

Jamal is a poor boy in Uganda who is experiencing extreme hunger. You can help alleviate his life threatening condition by donating to an overseas aid agency such as Oxfam that will deliver food to his community. However, it will come at the price of a new pair of shoes, shirt and missing out on a party.

WOULD YOU SAVE THIS CHILD?

IF YOU WOULD **SAVE** THE DROWNING CHILD, WHY WOULD YOU NOT **DONATE** TO HELP JAMAL?

THE DROWNING CHILD ARGUMENT



- A child drowning in a pond is a bad situation.
- If it is in our power to prevent something bad from happening, without thereby sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, we ought, morally, to do it.
- By saving the drowning child, we do not thereby sacrifice anything of comparable moral importance.
- Therefore, we ought to save the child.

THE CHARITY ARGUMENT



- A starving child is a bad situation.
- If it is in our power to prevent something bad from happening, without thereby sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, we ought, morally, to do it.
- By saving the starving child, we do not thereby sacrifice anything of comparable moral importance.
- Therefore, we ought to donate to charity (and/or apply ourselves to those causes that help prevent suffering and death from lack of food etc.).

COMPARISON OF ARGUMENTS

The Drowning Child

- The child may lose his life if you don't help.
- If we can save someone without sacrificing anything significant, we should do it.
- Pulling the child out of the pond is not sacrificing anything significant.
- We should save the child!

The Starving Child

- Jamal may lose his life if you don't help.
- If we can save someone without sacrificing anything significant, we should do it.
- Donating a dollar to charity is not sacrificing anything significant.
- We should donate to save kids like Jamal!

WE SHOULD THEREFORE DONATE

