

Babies given away on Pakistan TV show

4th August, 2013



A talk show in Pakistan has given away two baby girls live on television. The show is called Aman Ramzan and it is hosted by a popular celebrity Aamir Liaquat Hussain. Mr Hussain gave the two infants to two childless couples last month. Mr Hussain's show is famous for giving away computers,

motorbikes and other goods. Many people believe he gave away the babies so that more people would watch his show during Ramadan. TV companies do their best during Ramadan to get people to watch their programmes. CNN said the baby giveaway worked for Mr Hussain because he got record numbers of people watching his show. He plans to follow up last month's show by giving away a baby boy next week.

The two babies were abandoned at one of Karachi's rubbish dumps. A welfare organisation rescued them. A spokesman for the charity said: "Our team finds babies abandoned on the street, in garbage bins. Some of them dead, others mauled by animals. So why not ensure the baby is kept alive and gets a good home?" He explained that he did research on the new parents, saying: "The couples were already registered and had four or five sessions with us." New mother Soraya Bilquis said she and her husband waited for 17 years to get a child of their own. She looked at her new baby and said: "My life is complete now because of her. I can't describe how happy I am because someone will grow up and call me mother."

Sources: *Al Arabiya / CNN / BBC*

Writing

It is very wrong to give abandoned babies away on TV. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

talk / popular / celebrity / childless / Ramadan / TV companies / giveaway / record / rubbish dumps / welfare / abandoned / research / registered / waited / grow up

True / False

- A television talk show in Pakistan gave away ten babies. T / F
- The new parents of the babies did not have any children before. T / F
- People think the giveaway was to get more people to watch the show. T / F
- The show will give away another baby girl next week. T / F
- A charity rescues babies from rubbish dumps and garbage bins. T / F
- The TV show checks the backgrounds of possible new parents. T / F
- One of the babies went to a mother who waited 17 months for a baby. T / F
- The woman said one more baby would make her life complete. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. show | a. throughout |
| 2. hosted | b. saved |
| 3. popular | c. attacked |
| 4. during | d. well-liked |
| 5. plans | e. left |
| 6. abandoned | f. programme |
| 7. rescued | g. whole |
| 8. mauled | h. intends |
| 9. sessions | i. presented |
| 10. complete | j. meetings |

Discussion – Student A

- What should happen to people who abandon babies?
- Is the baby giveaway OK if the babies get a good home?
- Is the baby giveaway OK if it raises awareness of abandoned babies?
- Will the child suffer at school if people find out she was given away?
- What should governments do with abandoned babies?
- Is the happiness of the new mothers most important?
- Do you think the mothers are unhappy about anything with the show?
- What questions would you like to ask the TV show host?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. live | a. on the street |
| 2. hosted by a | b. couples |
| 3. childless | c. already registered |
| 4. he got record | d. on television |
| 5. He plans to follow | e. complete now |
| 6. abandoned | f. up and call me mother |
| 7. mauled | g. up last month's show |
| 8. The couples were | h. popular celebrity |
| 9. My life is | i. by animals |
| 10. grow | j. numbers of people |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of giving away babies on a TV talk show?
- Do you think shows in other countries will also give babies away?
- What do you think of babies?
- What do you think of Mr Hussain using the babies to get more viewers?
- Is the TV show performing an important public service?
- Would you watch such a TV show?
- Should the TV show give lots of money to children's charities?
- What would happen to the babies if they weren't given away?

Spelling

- hosted by a popular byeietchr
- the two nftnasi
- dcslesilh couples
- Mr Hussain's show is masfou
- watch his show ugdnr Ramadan
- the baby aayvegiw worked
- The two babies were nbdeodnaa
- A lfweera organisation
- aerbgag bins
- neseur the baby is kept alive
- The couples were already esrireetgd
- I can't dcriesbe how happy I am

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. a	5. h
6. e	7. b	8. c	9. j	10. g

Role Play

Role A – TV show host

You think it's OK to give away babies on live TV. Tell the others three reasons why. You don't see what the problem is. Many people like to watch the show – it got record numbers because of the baby giveaway. Tell the others your show does a great public service.

Role B – Charity boss

You think the TV show is very important. Tell the others three reasons why. You want more people to understand the problem of people abandoning their babies. Your charity will get more money because of the TV shows. The babies will get a better life. You can't see anything bad about it.

Role C – Child expert

You are shocked that the TV show is giving away babies. Tell the others three reasons why. You want them to stop immediately. You think more people will abandon their baby because of the show. Babies are not prizes. You think the show's host has no heart.

Role D – New parent

You are very happy you have a new baby but you don't think the show is a good idea. Tell the others three reasons why. You would rather get a new baby without being on TV. You are worried about your privacy in the future. You don't like the idea that your baby was a TV show prize.

Speaking - Babies

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| • their eyes | • the softness of their skin |
| • their smell | • their cute size |
| • their smile | • their playfulness |
| • their laughter | • the site of them sleeping |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.