

this task. Economics as a science does not account for this responsibility. A man works not for bread alone, but also to shoulder this responsibility. Otherwise, those who have had their meals would no longer work.

Any economic system must provide for the minimum basic necessities of human life to everyone. Food, clothing and shelter constitute, broadly speaking, these basic necessities. Similarly, society must enable the individual to carry out his obligations to society by educating him properly. Lastly, in the event of an individual falling prey to any disease, society must arrange for his treatment and maintenance. If a government provides these minimum requirements, then only it is a rule of *Dharma*. Otherwise, it is a rule of *adharma*. Describing King Dilip, Kalidas had said in *Raghuvansha*, “Being responsible for the maintenance, protection and education of his subjects, he was their true father. Others were merely instrumental in giving them their birth”. The description of King Bharat after whom our country has been named Bharat, also runs similarly, i.e. “By maintaining and protecting his subjects, he was called Bharat”. This is his country, Bharat. If in this country, maintenance and protection are not guaranteed, then the name Bharat is meaningless.

### **Education - A Social Responsibility**

To educate a child is in the interest of society itself. By birth, a child is an animal. He becomes a responsible member of society only by education and culture. To charge fees for something which is in the interest of society itself, is rather odd. If due to their inability to pay the fees, children are left without an education, will the society be able to endure this situation for long? We do not charge fees from trees for sowing the seed and caring for the sapling. On the contrary, we invest our money and efforts. We know that when the tree grows, we shall reap fruits. Education is a similar investment. An educated individual will indeed serve society. On the other hand, it will not be surprising if people grow indifferent to society which leaves them to fend for themselves. Before 1947, in all the princely states in India, no fees were charged for education. The highest education was free. In the *Gurukuls*, even food and lodging were arranged without any charge. The student used to go to society for *Bhiksha*. No householder would refuse *Bhiksha* to the student. In other words, society used to bear the burden of education.

Similarly, it is rather surprising that one has to pay for his medical treatment. In fact, medical treatment also should be free as it was in this