**Charity begins at home**

Charity is a kind act. Charity or kindness is giving help to the needy. It is a desirable quality in anyone. It refers to the love and sympathy one has for others. A child should be encouraged first to love his own dear and near ones. This will enable him to love his fellowmen later on. A person’s first duty is to help the members of his family. There are some people who contribute lavishly to charitable institutions, but pay little attention to the poor members of their own families. The proverb can be explained from another point of view also. Any act of goodness can have a solid foundation only if it spreads goodness around. An act of charity must not be undertaken by spreading starvation at home. Any good act must have its beginning from one’s own environment. Similarly, it is hypocrisy to preach to others what we do not practise ourselves. A person may say that there is corruption in the country and that we should oppose it. If this same person is placed in a position of authority, he himself cannot resist the temptations. All the great leaders and reformers preach against the dowry system and they themselves give dowry through the back door. The greatness of Gandhiji lies in the fact that whenever he planned some political programmes for the nation, he would place himself in the font, not minding the sufferings. To be charitable is not bad, but be charitable at home first. The world judges us by our deeds and not by our words.