**THEME: MAN’S HARMONIOUS CO-EXISTANCE**

**TOPIC: JUSTICE**

**Sub-Topic 2:1**

### UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF JUSTICE TO PROMOTE HUMAN INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS IN SOCIETY

###### Meaning of Justice.

Justice refers to the fair treatment among people in the society aimed at ensuring good relationship.

**Or** Justice also means more rightness based on ethnics, rationality, law, natural law and religion.

#### The Need for Justice

***(Activity 2;2 fountain)***

***Qn. Discuss the type of Justice needed in society.***

###### Types of Justice.

* ***Retributive justice.*** This is based on the term retribution i.e. meaning to seek punishment or vengeance which is to punish someone for their wrongs.
* ***Distributive/ economic justice.*** This is focused on achieving equitable allocation of assets, resources, privileges and powers with in a society.
* ***Retractive justice.*** The key focus is on restoring social relationships and social harmony by repaying debts (monetary) and therefore addressing the underlying behavior and reversing its consequences.

Common forms of restorative justice practices include;

* + Victim offender mediation.
  + Family group conferencing.
  + Healing circles and community reparations.
* ***Procedural justice.*** This is an approach to justice that emphasizes that a fair and unbiased procedure must be followed when serving justice to perpetrators.

The key elements of procedural justices include;

* + Having your day in court.
  + Neutrality in decision making i.e. court not interfered.
  + Trustworthiness etc.
* ***Social justice.*** Combines both the theories of both procedural and distributive justice and refers to the creation of a society where equality and fairness are established.

Social justice may influence whether;

* + Health care.
  + Housing.
  + Minimum wages are right.
  + Discrimination in age, sex, race etc.
* ***Environmental justice.*** Has two key ideas.

First, it emphasizes that all people equally have the right to a safe and clean environment. Second, it holds that some people are inequitably affected by environmental degradation than others.

* ***Economic justice.*** Is about the fair distribution of society’s economic resources, and tends to reflect a perspective that sits anywhere on the left side of the political spectrum from Marxist to enter left progressive.

It advocates for equal opportunities for all to participate in, contribute to and benefits from the economic system.

* ***Criminal justice.*** The primary goal of criminal justice systems is to maintain social order and protect citizens by deterring crimes and punishing offenders.

It also aims to rehabilitate offenders and reintegrate them into society as law abiding citizens.

Its typically divided into three main parts i.e.

* + Law enforcement agencies e.g. police.
  + Courts (probation).
  + Corrections e.g. prisons.
* ***Corrective justice.*** This is the principle of fairness that deals with the rectification of wrongs done to individuals.
* ***Global justice.*** This refers to justice at an international level. It explores the fair treatment of individuals regardless of their nationality or the nation they belong to.

Emphasizes on equality on people’s rights, protections, opportunities wild wide.

###### Why is their need for justice today?

* Saves people from criticism and racism.
* Justice protects people from discrimination based on sex, religion, tribes, color, age, level of education, financial status etc.
* Where there is justice, even the disabled, the elderly, the homeless are catered for and treated equally in the society.
* Justice helps people to enjoy economic equality i.e. they get on opportunity to participate in the economy equally, to earn and spend.
* Justice also causes political equality.
* It reduces torture and suffering due to oppression and intolerance.
* It ensures that everyone gets the essentials for a good life e.g. basic needs like education, inheritance rights etc.
* Protects people from ageism i.e. whenever people get older, the levels of discriminations increase. Through proper need for justice, this is solved.
* Helps promote equality between genders and protected the female gender from too much discrimination then.
* Also protects people from sexuality-based discrimination. This is because it costs people their ability to work, love and even live in many tragic cases.

#### Injustices in the society today

(Activity 2;3 fountain)

***Qn. Identify the injustices that are common in Uganda today.***

* Child abuse. This is the form of rejection and punishment of children.
* Women’s suppression. Women are abused in different ways like defilement, rape, polygamy etc.
* Justice has been commercialized today. This is the payment of some money in the courts of law for the case to be judged in the courts of law.
* Oppression and exploitation of workers by the employees e.g. little payments, over working, delayed payments etc.
* Mob justice id very common today.
* The crowd being driven by motions tends to execute justice without following any procedures. This may result into various problems like murder, injuries etc.
* Marital unfaithfulness is also common in Uganda today. E.g. adultery, divorce, prostitution etc. this is being unfair to the each other as partners.
* Defilement is among the injustices today. This is the case where an adult chose to have sex with under aged partners i.e. girls/boys below the age of 18 years.
* Rape. This is an injustice because one partner is forced to have sexual intercourse without his or her consent. It’s associated with problems like injuries, STDs, death etc.
* Abortion. This is the deliberate removal of the fetus from the womb before its time. This is murder and un injustice.
* Tribalism. When bosses tend to favor their own tribemates in areas like promotions, salaries and even jobs.
* Robbery. This is when un individual’s property is removed by force. This is being un fair to the owner of the property.
* Corruption and bribery common in work places is also an injustice today.
* Strikes which is also common in some institutions. It’s associated with a lot of destruction which is un injustice.

###### How can we rectify the injustices discussed above?

* Seeking guidance and counselling services.
* Teaching about justice to the masses so as to promote peace.
* Using the courts of law to solve conflicts.
* Reporting cases of injustices like mob justice, rape to authorities like police.
* Using community leaders to sensitize the masses on justice and effects of injustices to the community.
* Promoting reconciliation among conflicting parties.
* Holding peace talks with conflicting parties like in times of wars in a given community or country.
* Preaching the gospel of love, forgiveness and patience to people i.e. people are to live together as children of God.
* Setting up organizations like the UNO, WHO which try to fight for human rights and also promote the people’s well-being.
* Setting up homes to cater for the disabled and also the homeless and also feed them. This fights against idlers who have effects to people like theft, rape for the street kids etc.
* Creating laws and also opening up offices which defend human rights. Like women suppression and child abuse.
* Preaching the gospel of equality of all human beings as created in Gods image. This is also to be done by the church/ religious leaders so as to transform people’s mindset.

#### Dangers of injustices in society

(Activity 2;4 fountain)

***Qn. Identify the dangers caused by injustices in the society and country today.***

* Injustices Cause death to innocent people.
* Injustices causes high poverty levels among people i.e. through the outcomes of war.
* It causes hatred among individuals.
* Injustice can lead to revenge which makes the problems continuous.
* It’s against the bible teaching which stresses love for one another.
* Injustices like murder, theft can lead to imprisonment.
* Injustice also causes misery and suffering.
* It leads to loss of property. This is witnessed in the mob justice and civil wars.
* Injustice also causes one to turn away from God.
* It can also lead to loss of employment. E.g. like for those workers who participate in strikes at most can be fired by their bosses.
* Injustice also leads to loss of respect among people.
* Injustice also leads to family break up due to family associated problems.
* Injustice at school leads to school drop out to those students who are violent at school.

#### The need for laws to attain justice

Laws can help enforce justice through the following ways;

* They can help attain justice through enforcing acceptable behavior among the citizens.
* The laws have also guided the society in resolving conflicts.
* The laws have also helped in keeping peace and repressing chaos in society.
* The laws have also promoted justice through promoting security in the society.
* The laws have also made people/ citizens to know their roles as citizens which eases the promotion of justice.
* The laws cause appropriate penalties to the wrong dowers and also promotes fair justice to the citizens or people in society.
* Laws also build up the respect for one another since they tend to defend and avoid discrimination. Like in women, child abuse etc.

###### Acceptable ways of achieving Justice

The acceptable ways of achieving justice today include the following;

* Calling for police rescues where there are cases of injustice like mob justice.
* Engaging the local leaders on the laws to be amended.
* Guiding and counselling i.e. teaching people the laws so as to avoid cases of injustice.
* Going to courts of laws so as to resolve conflicts.
* Basing on the biblical view about justice i.e. teaching people that they all are created in Gods image, so no need for misconduct to others.
* Teaching people to learn to forgive and love one another whenever in wrong.
* Advocating reconciliation among the conflicting parties.
* Taking part in peace talks so as to solve conflicts with in conflicting parties.
* Discovering local organizations and taking part in them so as to promote justice. i.e. the community beliefs and norms etc.
* Sensitizing the masses through social media on the importance of staying at peace and also the effects of injustices.

#### The role of Government in upholding justice in society

(Activity 2;8 fountain)

***Qn. How is justice maintained by the government in Uganda.***

* The government has established anti-corruption unit to fight against corruption.
* It has equipped the police with weapons and transport means to fight against wrong doers

e.g. thieves and murderers.

* The government has tried to keep security by deploying the soldiers/ army in areas facing political instabilities e.g. soldiers were deployed in northern Uganda to fight Kony.
* The government has employed faithful judges and has financed courts of laws to manage cases and punish those who commit injustices.
* The government has promoted gender balance in all sectors of the economy by encouraging women to participate in development.
* Promotion of democratic leadership; the government has organized periodic elections to enable Ugandans have leaders of their choice.
* The government has encouraged the formation of associations to fight for children and women’s rights. For example, the federation for female lawyers helps women by giving them free legal advice.
* The government has recognized those with disabilities through financing their projects

e.g. giving them free education and encouraging them to participate in politics.

* The government has promoted right for education to all Ugandans through its policy of universal primary education and universal secondary education.
* The parliament has been empowered to secure incompetent ministers and to investigate on the misuse of funds by leaders through its public accounts committee.
* Allowing freedom of press; the government has allowed the establishment of different media to enable people get information e.g. many radio stations, TV stations, newspapers have been opened up.
* The government has promoted freedom of worship through accepting different religious denominations to operate.

Qn. Which problems does the government face in its struggle to promote justice.

* The government Lacks trust worthy people as many Ugandans are corrupt and have selfish tendencies.
* The government faces Opposition from the public; some time because of ignorance culture or tribal differences.
* People are ignorant about their rights which promote misuse of such rights.
* Lack of support from the politicians especially those on the opposition side. They sometimes prevent government machinery executing justice.
* The government has inadequate funds to finance all its programs that aim at maintaining justice in communities.
* Local governments have little experience in maintaining justice and managing peoples’ affairs.
* Contradiction with cultural values; sometimes governments’ plans and policies contradict with cultural values and this makes it difficult for implementation.
* Increase in population (over population) and inaccessibility of the available resources make the government fail to fulfill its plans etc.
* Lack of enough funds to support all government’s programs of maintaining justice.
* The government is also faced with pressure from other countries and international organizations when trying to pass laws stopping certain injustices like homosexuality.

#### The Inter-Religious Council in Uganda

(Activity 2;9 fountain)

***Qn. Identify the objectives of the Inter Religious Council of Uganda in promoting peace in the country.***

* Promotes the sharing of knowledge among religious communities.
* Has built a peaceful and just society.
* Promotes multi religious dialogues on issues of common concern.
* Employment of people through the different religious denominations i.e. schools, offices etc. so as to promote peace.
* Preaching against exploitation of workers or other people in different capacities and races

i.e. racism.

* To morally transform its members by preaching against moral decay and encourage people to stay in peace and believe in God.
* Promoted support programs to people like the orphans, disables etc. this is done by setting up charitable projects so as to transform people’s mindset to have believe in God and have justice.
* Involving in the directly opposing of dictatorial governments and also act as governmental advisers on matters arising of peace in a nation.
* They are also involved in the building up of social services to the masses like have built schools, health services to promote the educational and health care services to the masses.
* Promoted equality in the different religious dispersions i.e. equal judgement, equal distribution of resources and equal treatment of any denomination in the country.

#### Ways of solving land conflicts in Uganda

###### Define land conflicts.

Land conflicts are disagreements about the ownership and use of land.

(Activity 2;10 fountain)

***Qn. Discuss the causes of land conflicts in Uganda today.***

* Family wrangles among the family members themselves.
* Hatred between siblings in families especially polygamous families.
* High poverty levels among people led to land grabbing by those who have the potential to sue the poor in court due to financial stands.
* Bribing authorities and unsatisfactory power struggle.
* Illegal settlements. i.e. occupying some one’s land without seeking permission later also results to conflicts.
* Delayed justice in land cases. i.e. land cases in court tend to drag on for long without delivering the required justice leaving tenants facing forceful eviction in their land.
* Increasing number of corrupt land officials who connive with fraudsters to issue more than one land title for a particular piece of land.
* False claims of land ownership done by some people. This get involved in land fraud of printing forged documents claiming land ownership that is initially state controlled.
* Problems in the inheritance of property like land at most also brings wrangles due to the land struggles.
* Fake land tittles. i.e. through print out of fake tittles claiming ownership of land which doesn’t belong to them also leads to land conflicts.

###### Suggest ways people use to solve land conflicts in Uganda today

Land conflicts in Uganda can be solved by doing the following;

* Holding clan and community meetings to hold an open dialogue between the conflicting parties.
* It can also be done through changing cultural practices which put vulnerable people at risk.
* Land conflicts can be solved through reconciliation between neighbors.
* Demarcating boarders’ disputes among the conflicting parties.
* Surveying and getting a land tittle registered in the rightful owner’s manes can also resolve the conflicts.
* Going to courts of law can also help in solving land conflicts.
* Working with trusted community leaders and government officials in situations where internal discussions may not work.
* Addressing unjust customary practices that are putting vulnerable groups at a disadvantage.
* Use of mediations. i.e. mediators tend to negotiate and bring opposing parties together and attempt to work out a settlement that both parties accept or reject.

#### Power struggle and influence as a cause of social instabilities and justices

Define power struggle?

Power struggle is a situation in which two or more people or groups compete for control in a particular sphere.

Examples of power struggle include;

* Physical intimidations such as bullying, posturing, anger or upset facial expressions, getting uncomfortable close or moving too quickly, talking in a negative tone, making humiliating statements as a form of retaliation.

(Activity 2;11 fountain)

***Qn. What does power struggle/ influence cause to social instabilities and injustices in a country.***

* Caused misunderstandings among the competitors as well as their supporters.
* It has caused physical wars and fights between the supporters of the politicians.
* Has caused a lot of instabilities in families and has separated communities.
* Has caused a lot of hatred, fights and riots.
* These struggles have also led to loss of lives through the fights and riots.
* Have also led to loss of property.
* Power struggle and influence has also led to discrimination according to races, religions, gender etc.
* Also led to regional tensions and imbalances.
* Power struggles and influence have also led to imprisonments and suffering. Like among the presidents like Nelson Mandela by then, MPs etc.
* Has resulted into racism and nepotism among people of different tribes.

###### How can you advice people who are power hungry

* Advise them to know that there is no culture than being human and taking people as humans too.
* Advise them that they should not take part in power struggle because authority comes from God.
* They should have trust in God for all the efforts they put in campaigns and believe that God is the author of leadership since he is the supreme leader.
* They should also know that power is God given and one should accept defeat.
* They should also spread the gospel of peace as they pursue their political career. This helps to reduce on the risks and outcomes of the injustices to happen like riots, strikes etc.
* Advise them to have a zeal of leading others, settle their disputes, reconcile in parties and agree to work together to avoid injustices.

**Sub-Topic 2:2**

### THE VALUE OF A JUST SOCIETY

Definition of a just society.

A just society is one in which the rights of people especially the minority are safe guarded.

###### Or

Is an interdisciplinary project that aims to promote equality by strengthening the values of laws, access to justice and redistributive public policies through teaching, research and public engagement.

(Activity 2;13 fountain)

***Qn. Discuss ways through which people should treat each other fairly.***

* Always being kind to one another.
* Practicing active listening and having proper communication skills among one another.
* Respecting each other’s points of view.
* Understanding differences among people. Like in the age, sex, religion. Status etc. also tries to create a just environment.
* Having love for one another and taking others as brothers and sisters as we believe that all are created in Gods image.
* Appreciating those who support you and also forgiving those who hurt you.
* Treating each other’s with empathy and equity regardless of whom they are.
* Avoiding acts of gossiping, backbiting and teasing others.
* Avoiding the acts of disrespecting and embarrassing others.
* Obeying given policies of a given tribe, culture or country also tends to promote a just society.

#### People who have struggled to create justice in society

***(Activity 2;14 fountain)***

***Qn. Identify the personalities that you know who struggled to create justice in the society.***

* ***Arch bishop Jonam Luwum.***

Was a leading voice in criticizing the excess of the Idi Amin regime that assumed power in 1971. He delivered a note of protest to Amin against the policies or arbitrary killing and unexplained disappearance of people.

* Cardinal Emmanuel Nsubuga (1914-1991)

First Arch bishop of the Arch diocese of Kampala, and was an opponent of human rights abuse of the military dictatorship of Idi Amin. Spoke against the government human right abuses and also encouraged priests and nuns in the country to shelter people fleeing harassments by the army during the civil wars.

* Princess Dianna of Wales (1961-1997)

Participated in charity runs in that she raised awareness and advocated for ways to help people affected by cancer and mental illness. She also associated and encouraged the AIDs patients by then and also offered the hand of help.

* Mahatma Gandi (1869-1948)

Was an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and political ethicist.

He employed nonviolent resistances to lead the successful campaign for India’s independence from the British rule.

Inspired moments for civil rights and freedom across the world.

* Nelson Mandela. (1918-2013)

His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by fostering racial reconciliation and socialism. Also advocated for political equality between the blacks and the whites.

In summary, the above personalities fostered justice in the societies or countries they were in in the following ways;

* They tirelessly fought against injustices against human beings especially the;

>Hurting > The poor and destitute

* The hopeless > Land mine victims
* The lowly hearted > AIDs patients
* etc.
* They also used non-violent methods to prevent injustices.

#### Factors that undermined the Attainment of Justice

(Activity 2;15 fountain)

***Qn. Discuss the factors that undermined the attainment of justice in your community today.***

* Incompetency of those that pass out justice.
* High levels of favoritism.
* Language and cultural barriers.
* High bribery levels in the court system also tends to undermined the attainment of justice.
* There is also a lot of coercion of eye witnesses hence displacing the right evidence.
* Court delays in addressing a given issue presented in court also tends to delay people in attaining justice.
* Increased poverty levels. i.e. one fails to raise the demands to win a court case due to poverty leads to exploitation by the richer parties.
* Other people also lack legal representations when it comes to court ruling. i.e. the lawyers to stand by their side.
* Lack of evidence and the required finances to win a given case.
* Trial by media can also undermine justice. i.e. when media is got involved in a given incidence.
* Mandatory sentencing and jury trials can undermine the application of the principles of justice.

#### Forms of injustice committed against children today

* Children today are handled with cruelty by burning, beating, shouted at act
* Violence in times of war like in the recent past in Uganda.
* Sex abuse, rape and forced prostitution and defilement.
* Isolation, loneliness in case of destitute/street child
* Segregation along classes and religious differences
* They are made hungry and started by step mothers/parents
* Exploitation by relatives and employers
* Forced labor and hard work by guardians
* Kidnap and child sacrifice
* Denial of education by their parents and guardians
* Forced marriages
* Denied love and end up as street children

#### Forms of injustice in schools today

* There is serious bullying and teasing in many schools especially secondary schools. For example, in Namilyango College on 7th august 1992 a senior one student was bullied and killed.
* In some schools, corporal punishments are still administered to students leading to body harm. Such punishments include caning, lifting heavy loads and kneeling for a long time.
* Children are made to over study with less time for leisure. For instance, nursery and primary children are taken to school very early in the morning at 5:00 am and sent back home late in the evening.
* In some schools, children are given poor quality food in spite of the huge fees paid and they are forced to eat it. For example, in 2015 students of Jinja.s. s strike due to poor feeding.
* Discrimination against teachers and students based on tribal, religious and family backgrounds leading to insecurity.
* In some schools, teachers and students are forced to dress and pray according to certain religious doctrine where they don’t belong. For instance, in some Islamic schools all girls are forced to put on veils.
* Sometimes children are kidnapped from schools. This is more common in nursery and primary schools.
* Some students are victims of examination malpractice where their results are withheld by UNEB less their participation in rigging.
* Cheating in examination; some students and teachers participate in cheating of examinations at the expense of other students and this compromise the quality of education.
* In government schools forced transfers take place as a result of the Head Teacher grudging with the staff.
* Students sometimes escape out of school there by breaking the rules and regulations and put the school security on panic.
* Stealing of other people’s property; this is common in schools with boarding sections where students lose their clothes and beddings through theft.
* Many schools today levy exorbitant fees with less quality services. Thus, parents fail to realize value for money paid.

#### Ways of overcoming injustices today

(Activity 2;16 fountain)

***Qn. Mention the causes of injustices today.***

* Racism.
* Economic inequality.
* Class discriminations.
* Racial segregation i.e. religious wise.
* Societal norms and traditions.
* High levels of ignorance of the laws or what to do.
* Drug addiction with its associated outcomes.
* Greed for money. i.e. high corruption rates.
* Peer influence among people. i.e. being led by others.
* Incompetency.
* Alcoholism with its associated outcomes.
* Tribalism. i.e. in countries with different tribe races.

###### Propose ways of overcoming injustices in the society today

* Working hard to eliminate poverty. i.e. through education, participating in business and also farming to earn a living.
* Preaching the gospel of love and fairness to one another.
* Enforcing strict laws and reporting cases of injustices to responsible authorities like police.
* Establishment of anti- corruption units to fight against corruption.
* Can also be done through mediation. i.e. this is when the press is given the freedom to sensitize the masses on the cases of injustices to people.
* Preaching against moral decay and encouraging people to follow the Christian principles of humanity so as to promote equality in races.
* Encouraging dialogues between conflicting parties so as to create proper agreements and reconciliations.
* Promoting equality of all races and sex i.e. on the children, women hence condemning all forms of discrimination in the society.
* Outright resistances against dictatorial leadership. i.e. by reforming with one another and also removing those who act in dictatorial rules.
* Starting many programs and organizations like the human rights organizations that try to fight for people’s rights also tends to reduce the cases of injustices today.
* Employment of people through built up projects so as to avoid redundancy and reduce on the high poverty levels.

**Sub- Topic 2:3**

### TRADITIONAL AFRICAN UNDERSTANDING OF JUSTICE

(Activity 2;17 fountain)

***Qn. Discuss the African Traditional Understanding of justice.***

In both centralized and decentralized societies, justice was maintained and was administered almost in the same way as below.

* Use of customs and traditions; in ATS there was written laws so leaders based on the cultural norms as well as customs to bring about justice. This was common in societies like Acholi, Langi, Buganda, etc.
* Family courts; simple problems within the home were discussed and solved by the family head i.e. the father.
* Clan courts; heavy and complicated problems in homes and between different homes were discussed under the clan head in both centralized and decentralized societies.
* Use of age sets/ elders as judges; elders and members of age sets who had wisdom of judgment would help to establish justice. This was mainly in decentralized societies e.g. Karamojong.
* Use of local chiefs; chiefs especially village chiefs were responsible for solving disputes or quarrels but their judgment respected the opinion of all the people.
* Court of appeal; in centralized societies, there was a court of appeal headed by king where the discontented members would go for justice.
* Punishments; punishments were given in accordance to the culprit’s (criminal’s) status

i.e. in terms of his wealth and the crime committed.

* The aim of punishment was to reconcile the conflicting parties so that peace and harmony would be maintained in society e.g. among the Baganda, after judgment, the conflicting parties would be requested to bring food and beer fest together.
* Compensations; when one committed a crime, he/she was asked to compensate the one who suffered the crime.
* Elders advise; elders would advise the criminals and there after followed by strong warning e.g. among the Baganda, if there was any marriage conflict, the aunt and the uncle would talk to the concerned and warn them not to offend each other again.
* In African justice, every suspect was taken to be guilty and until proved to be innocent. However, one would be punished before proving his guilt.
* Mutual cooperation was encouraged and promoted by all members of the society and in every activity (you are because I am and I am because you are).
* Family respect; children respected their elders in the family and would listen to orders from all elders.
* The whole community was concerned with the proper upbringing of children. Children would be put right by any elder in the society.
* All people in the community were provided with their special needs such as food and shelter.
* People lived according to their cultural norms and values so as to be in good relationship with the ancestors.
* Different taboos were put in place to regulate behavior among members of the community. For example, among the Baganda of central Uganda married women were restricted from shaking hands with their male in laws to avoid incest.
* In some societies law abiding citizens were rewarded as a motivation to maintain their loyalty to the leaders. For example, in Buganda the king rewarded his loyal chiefs with land.
* Perpetual criminals were excommunicated from the society as a measure to reduce crimes. In southern Nigeria among the Igbo Okonkwo one of the chiefs was exiled for having killed his son Ikemefuna.
* Rituals were always performed to normalize the relationship between people and their ancestors in case the ancestors were offended.
* Leadership was hereditary in some societies to avoid succession disputes.
* Boundaries on land were clearly defined and marked by planting special species of trees or plants. This was common in Buganda.

Qn. Identify the injustices that existed in the Traditional African Society.

In African traditional society, there were social, political and economic injustices as discussed below.

###### Social injustices

* Women were taken as property of men hence unequal to men in all African societies.
* Witchcraft. People would bewitch others because of envy.
* Inheritance of widows; at the death of a man, the wife would be inherited by the brother of the dead man and this woman had no right to refuse it was common among the Itesot, Bagishu, Basoga etc.
* Forced marriages were arranged. In most of the African communities, parents/elders would arrange marriage for their daughters and sons without consulting them.
* Women were denied to talk in public and they were expected to be humble at all times that’s why kneeling was compulsory among the Baganda.
* Child sacrifice was common in African tradition in the process of appeasing their gods and this was against the right to life.
* Children’s views were ignored and were denied the chance to advise or question the elders’ authority e.g. among the Baganda, a child who would question the parents’ authority would be chased from the family and sometimes from the clan.
* In some societies, twins would be taken as a bad omen and therefore, would be killed e.g. among the Ibo of southern Nigeria, twins would be taken to the evil forest where they died from.
* In some societies like Buganda, the king had a right to take men’s wives if admired.

###### Politically

* In most cases leadership was through inheritance less democracy and this led to the oppression of people.
* Dictatorship; chiefs and kings were dictators, they had absolute powers and, in most cases**,** Africans suffered the rough of these leaders.
* External conflicts were common in African society due to the need to expand

###### Economically

* Women were denied the chance of inheriting their husband’s property while girls were also denied a share of the father’s property.
* Women were beasts of burden; most of the agricultural and domestic work were left for women for women in many societies e.g. among the Sabin, it was the work of the women to cultivate food, build a hut, harvest food and men were only to enjoy.
* There was raiding i.e. societies would raid others for wealth e.g. the Baganda would raid Bunyoro, Banyoro raided the Batooro while the Karamojong disturbed the Iteso.
* Sometimes parents exchanged their girls for riches e.g. cows and sometimes, the exchange were as a result of maintaining good friendship.
* There was unequal distribution of wealth among the people e.g. in centralized societies; most of the wealth was in the hands of the royal family.

#### How justice was upheld in the African Traditional Societies

(Activity 2;19 fountain)

***Qn. How was justice aimed at meeting human needs in African Traditional Societies.***

* Human needs were a supreme criterion for example the hungry stranger could enter the village gate and take what was to satisfy his hunger without being called a thief
* Social harmony was very important, where almost all activities was done as a group
* The basic unit of the life was the community and individualism were discouraged.
* Decisions about social order were based on customs and particular cases.
* The local court played an important role in reconciling persons, settling quarrels and disputes.
* The tribal elders had an important judicial and reconciliatory role they adjudicated between conflicting parties, condemn the quarrel some in order to strengthen the social fabric of life.
* Justice was concern of everyone in the community for example the local chiefs might be responsible for a final decision, but the people were allowed to voice their opinions in a free discussion.
* All people acted together for the good of the community.
* Being at peace with the community and self was very important.
* There was communal ownership of property for example land, cattle.
* Reconciliation was the purpose of justice which was concluded with a religious ritual e.g. sacrifice.
* Peace with the gods and ancestral spirits was promoted to bring blessing for the community.
* Criminals could be brought to public to punish lessons to them.
* Wrong doers were ex-communicated from the society.
* Parents were concerned with looking for marriage partners.

###### Weakness in the African Traditional Understanding of Justice

* Rights of an individual were ignored while fulfilling the rights of the community yet Christ is against oppression.
* The insane and the crippled were isolated as part of justice yet Jesus is against discrimination.
* There was a big gap between men and women yet Christianity encourages unity.
* Women and children would be undermined in trying to promote justice and this abused the abused the Christian value of equality.
* Any reformist was taken as a threat to the society and sometimes would be exiled.
* Children’s ideas were ignored yet Jesus called them to be near him.
* Some times their punishments were against humanity e.g. punishing by death.
* Their system of justice encouraged dictatorship as it gave elders a lot of powers.
* Some cultural norms and values were oppressive and against God’s order of creation e.g. female genital mutilation among the Sabin.
* Respect of elders led to forced marriage which is contrary to the ideal marriage.
* Minority groups were ignored because in African traditional system of justice, they respected the majority.
* Some practices were symbols of anti-social activities e.g. witch hunting among the Zulu people, murder of twins among the Ibo society etc.

**Sub- Topic 2:4**

### CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS ABOUT JUSTICE

#### The Old Testament Understanding of Justices

* The Old Testament advocates for justice as the only way to promote peace and harmony and to make man comfortable.
* It teaches that companionship is part of justice e.g. when God was creating, he saw that it was not good for man to be alone and so, He created a helper for man. ***(Gen 2:18-23).***
* The Old Testament teaches that justice is promoted by following instructions e.g. God gave man the instruction not to eat the forbidden fruit.
* Sin is unfair to God and punishable e.g. God punished man and woman for having sinned against Him by eating the fruit.
* The Old Testament supports preservation of life for instance Cain was punished for having killed his brother Abel. ***(Genesis 4:1ff)*** and among the Ten Commandments, God refused Israelites from killing each other.
* It teaches that God liberates (saves) those who are unfairly treated because He is a just God e.g. in the book of exodus Moses is called by God to go and save the Israelites who were suffering in Egypt as slaves ***(Exodus 3:7).***
* The Old Testament teaches that it is fair for workers to rest and it condemns those who use workers without giving them time to rest e.g. when God was creating, he set for man time to rest.
* Justice is maintained by restoring relationship with the offended e.g. as a way of restoring justice, God clothed man. ***(Genesis 3:21).*** He called Abraham, ***(Genesis 12)*** etc. therefore, Christians should reconcile with each other and God.
* The Old Testament shows that law is given as an instrument for justice and peace therefore, should be respected e.g. God through Moses gave the Israelites the ten commandments to maintain peace and justice in their society. ***(Exodus 20)***
* The Old Testament advocates for restoration/payment of the victim who suffered any injustice***. (Exodus 22:1ff).***
* The Old Testament advocates for forgiveness ***(Leviticus 19:18).***
* In the Old Testament, God gave laws of justice and mercy and gives a detailed explanation of how justice should be restored. ***(Exodus 23:1-8)***
* The Old Testament calls for fair judgment e.g. Prophet Elijah condemned King Ahab for having judged Naboth unfairly ***(1 Kings 21:1-22).***
* The Old Testament encourages faithfulness e.g. Prophet Nathan passed judgment over King David for having committed adultery with Uriah’s wife. ***(2 Samuel 12:7)***
* If someone repents, all the injustices he has done are forgiven e.g. God forgave King David when he repented. (***Ezekiel 18)***. A repentant sinner will live.

***(Activity 2;20 fountain)***

###### Importance of Justice according to Exodus 20:1 and 1 Kings 3:16-28

In the above books, justice was prevailed in that;

* The children of Israel received justice when God delivered them from slavery. This was from the Egyptian Pharaoh.
* God executed justice to his people.
* God also gave Solomon wisdom to give justice to the rightful mother of the child who was a live as seen in ***1 Kings 3:16-28*.**

###### Note;

Both teachings reveal the importance of justice in that;

* Justice frees people from suffering and bondage.
* It gives people freedom.
* Justice gives people happiness.
* Justices gives people fair treatment and satisfaction.
* Justice saves people’s lives as seen in ***Exodus 20: ff*** and ***1 Kings 3;16-28.***
* God uses people to avail others justice.

#### The book of Amos and the injustices of his time

A summary on the injustices faced by Amos.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Text*** | ***Kind of injustice*** |
| Amos 2;7-12 | >Trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed.  >Father and son use the same girl.  >They take wine taken as fines. |
| Amos 4;1 | >Women who oppress the poor, crush the needy and say to their husbands bring us same drinks. |
| Amos 5;7,11,24 | >There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground. |
| Amos 8;4-6 | >Trampling the needy and do away with the poor of the land.   * Selling and working on the sabbath. * Buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals. |

The injustices that are indicated in the book of Amos prevailed in Israel and her neighbors include;

* Idolatry.
* Slavery and slave trade.
* Mistreatment and cheating of the poor.
* Accumulated luxuries through violence and dishonest gains.

* They hated those who challenged injustices.
* Persecuted the poor.
* Did a lot of bribery and denied the poor justice in courts of law.
* They tempered with weighing scales to cheat in measurements.
* Sold worthless wheat at a very high price.
* They despised the Sabbath.
* Took justice as poison and right as wrong.

###### Why did God constantly send prophets to the Israelites?

* Prophets were sent to re-introduce God’s voice among his own people who for long had stayed without hearing from him.
* They had to remind the Israelites to remain faithful to the covenant promises made with their God.
* Prophets had to stress paying loyalty to one true God.
* Prophets were sent to lead Israel in worship sessions, offering sacrifices, thanks giving and prayer meetings.
* Prophets had to remind Israelites to obey the ten commandments.
* Prophets helped Israel to experience God’s heart of compassion though performance of miracles.
* Prophets had to remind the Israelites to trust and depend on God for his provision, protection and wise counsel.
* Prophets had to introduce Israel to a kind of worship which would gain a reward from God.
* They had to settle disputes that had emerged among the Israelites e.g. Moses and Prophet Samuel.
* They had to help in guiding Israel in reaching important decisions such as choosing a king.
* Prophets were important in influencing the moral uprightness in the community of Israel.
* They helped to bring to the notice of the Israelites of God’s awaiting judgment.

#### The New Testament Teaching on Justice

* The New Testament encourages people to be perfect as their father in heaven is. Therefore, to promote justice, it encourages people to help, forgive and pray for others. The following are the New Testament teaching on justice.
* The New Testament encourages those who are persecuted and accused falsely to remain happy e.g. in Beatitudes, Jesus encourages the persecuted to be happy. He does this to maintain good relationship between people.
* Jesus encourages people to be at peace with others and not to be angry with their friends. Whoever is angry with his brother will be brought to trial. ***(Mathew 5;21)***
* The New Testament encourages approves observance of the law as the only way to maintain justice in the society e.g. Jesus said I have not come to destroy the law but to perfect it. ***(Mathew 5:17)***
* The New Testament encourages the change of unjust laws as a way of promoting fairness in society e.g. Jesus tried to change the parts of the Mosaic laws which were unjust to

people e.g. the law of Sabbath, ***(Mark 3:23)*** it talks about the ceremonial washing of hands fasting. ***(Mark 7).***

* The New Testament encourages forgiveness and discourages revenge. ***(Mathew 5:38-39)***
* Jesus also encourages us to love our enemies too and pray for them. ***(Mathew 5:43)***
* The New Testament gives us the greatest commandment which is love of God and the love of your neighbor. ***(Mark 12:30)***
* According to the New Testament, justice is by associating with all categories of people and discrimination is condemned e.g. Jesus associated with the tax collectors, women rappers etc.
* The New Testament calls for faithfulness among married couples and condemns those who commit adultery. ***(Mathew 5:27)***
* The New Testament calls for permanence of marriage and discourages divorce as unjust.

(Mark 10:1ff).

* In ***(Luke 12:1-7),*** Jesus warns us against the injustices we do because all of them are known by God and will be disclosed on the judgment day.
* ***(1 Peter 3:8-9)*** encourages us to live in harmony with one another and to be sympathetic.

#### Challenges Jesus faced in Promoting Justice

* He was accused of forgiving sins Pharisees and scribes.
* Betrayed by Judas Iscariot.
* Tempted by the devil.
* Blamed of being blasphemous.
* Arrested, tried and crucified on the cross.
* Was regarded as a sinner because he associated with sinners.
* Was called prince of demons.
* Died a shameful death of a criminal hanging him.
* He was overtaken by anger when he chased people who were trading in the temple.
* He was accused of eating with tax collectors Zacchaeus.

#### Christian teaching that helps to restore justice in society today

* Christianity emphasizes love for one another, for example showing concern for the needy.
* Christianity teaches about forgiveness and Jesus forgave the adulterous woman.
* The Christian teaching encourages equality for all Jesus welcomed children, women, tax collectors and sinners.
* Encouraging reconciliation instead of revenge just like Jesus reconciles men to God.
* Through prayers the Christians can work towards bringing about justice.
* Christianity condemns injustices being committed today like corruption, child sacrifice.
* By showing them God’s forgiving power, which heals all relationships and calling them to God in repentance of their sins.
* Christianity emphasizes charity work for example caring for the sick, caring for the poor.
* Christianity condemns judging others.
* It emphasizes serving others, for example Jesus served his disciples.
* It calls for peace and unity.
* Having a spirit of servanthood for one another.

***SAMPLE ACTIVITIES OF INTEGRATION***

**Sample 1**

Mweru and Kataike are siblings. They have been your friends since their primary school. They are now completing senior four. However, Mweru’s parents do not want Mweru to continue with school because she is a girl. They say, they can only pay school fees for a girl up to senior four, but a boy can go even up to university. They think that educating a girl up to a higher level is a wastage of time. They have arranged for a man to marry Mweru immediately. Mweru like many other girls in their community would love to continue with school but they are denied this chance.

##### Task

*You are invited to talk to people in the community who think exactly like Mweru’s parents. Write a speech that will help Mweru and the rest of the girls in their community to attain their justice.*

**Sample 2**

At the end of April, teacher Rinah, returned from work to find her house covered in blood. She first saw the mutilated bodies of her elderly father Madugu and her mother. But it was not the crime, it was the punishment as a result of revenge that shocked the rest of Kakoni village.

Hours after the murder, police arrested a suspect, Rana’s neighbor, Katwa, 38, already had a criminal record and according to the police, after a night in custody he confessed to killing the family.

The next morning, as thousands of villagers gathered for the funerals, a police car carrying the suspect and several policemen appeared in the streets. Police would later explain that as part of the investigation they wanted Mr. Katwa to reenact the murder at the crime scene.

The crowd stopped the car and dragged Mr. Katwa out. He was severely beaten, the crowd chanted, as they watched a group of young men stab the Mr. Katwa to death.

His body, stripped down to his underpants, was tied to the front of a car and paraded through the streets. Once they reached the centre of the village, the young men raised the body and hanged it from a meat hook attached to a post.

##### Task

*If you are invited as a pastor to speak to the gathering, write a speech that you will present to the gathering about social justice using the bible teaching.*

### END OF CHAPTER

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