**Civic Responsibilities**

Civic responsibilities involve actions that citizens take to support and improve their community and country, such as voting, volunteering, and staying informed about social issues.

**Aristotle**: Civic responsibility is part of "civic virtue," where citizens participate in civic life to promote the common good. He believed humans are naturally political and must engage in public life to achieve virtue.

**John Locke**: Civic responsibility comes from the social contract, where people agree to form a society and government. This creates an obligation to follow laws and contribute to the common good.

**Jean-Jacques Rousseau**: Civic responsibility means prioritizing public interest over personal interest by participating in the "general will," where acting for the collective benefit brings true freedom.

**Responsibilities (What We Should Do)**

* Save water and plant more trees.
* Follow traffic rules, even when not being watched.
* Park in the correct designated areas.
* Report or stop water leaks.
* Show respect to one another.
* Help others in times of difficulty.
* Give special respect to elders, especially in public places like buses and banks.
* Respect the rights of minorities.
* Use public facilities with care.
* Keep the environment clean.
* Switch off electrical appliances when not in use.

**What We Should Not Do**

* No smoking in public places.
* Do not spit on roads.
* Avoid playing loud music.
* Do not use pressure horns.
* Do not throw garbage on the road.
* No wall chalking.

**Important Terms**

* **Civics**: The study of the rights, responsibilities, and duties of citizens, focusing on how they engage with society and government.
* **Civic**: Relating to a city, citizenship, or civil society, encompassing anything connected to being a member of a community or municipality.
* **Citizen**: A person who belongs to a country and is loyal to its government, enjoying rights and fulfilling responsibilities.
* **Responsibility**: An action or duty that citizens are expected to perform as part of their role in society.
* **Tax**: The money that citizens are required to pay to the government to support public services and infrastructure.

**Related Concepts**

* **Moral and Legal Responsibilities**: Moral responsibilities are guided by personal or societal ethics, while legal responsibilities are obligations enforced by law.
* **Service Learning**: A form of learning that teaches civic responsibilities through problem-solving, community engagement, and addressing societal issues.
* **Volunteering**: Offering time and skills freely to help others or improve the community, often fulfilling civic duties without monetary gain.
* **Civic Sense**: Awareness of and respect for the rights and duties of citizens, including proper behavior in public spaces and regard for the well-being of the community.
* **Civic Education**: Education that informs individuals about their rights, responsibilities, and role as citizens in a democratic society.

**Historic Roots of Civic Responsibility**

* **Ancient Rome**: Civic responsibility traces back to ancient Rome, where citizens actively contributed to the betterment of Roman society.
* **Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus**: One of the early examples of civic responsibility, in 519 BC, when Cincinnatus left his farm to serve as a leader in Rome, then returned to his simple life once his duty was fulfilled.
* **U.S. Constitution (1787)**: Civic responsibility was formally recognized as essential for democracy with the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, aiming to establish justice, ensure peace, provide defense, promote welfare, and secure liberty for future generations.

**Significance of Civic Responsibility**

* **Voting Matters**: Ensures that citizens have a voice in decision-making.
* **Community Meetings**: Encourages active involvement in local governance.
* **Keeping Officials Honest**: Holds leaders accountable for their actions.
* **Helping Each Other**: Fosters unity and social support within communities.
* **Respecting Differences**: Promotes harmony and understanding among diverse groups.
* **Improving Schools and Hospitals**: Enhances public services for all.
* **Paying Taxes**: Supports government operations and public goods.
* **Protecting Nature**: Preserves the environment for future generations.
* **Following Laws**: Ensures peace, order, and justice in society.
* **Reporting Problems**: Helps address issues like crime and public safety.
* **Supporting Fair Rules**: Promotes equality and justice.
* **Helping in Emergencies**: Provides critical support during crises.
* **Respecting Rights**: Upholds the fundamental freedoms of all individuals.
* **Fighting Poverty**: Reduces inequality and improves livelihoods.
* **Building a Better Future**: Contributes to long-term societal progress.
* **Strengthening Democracy**: Ensures the continuity of a healthy, functioning democracy.
* **Accountability**: Encourages responsible behavior from both citizens and officials.

**Civic Responsibilities of Pakistanis**

* **Respect Others' Rights**: Acknowledge and uphold the rights of fellow citizens.
* **Pay Taxes**: Contribute to the nation's development through tax payments.
* **Readiness to Defend the Country**: Be prepared to protect and defend the nation when necessary.
* **Protect National Resources**: Safeguard and conserve Pakistan’s natural and cultural resources.
* **Promotion of Goodness**: Encourage positive actions and behaviors in the community.
* **Participation in Constructive Activities**: Engage in initiatives that benefit society.
* **Preserve National Values**: Uphold and promote the cultural and ethical values of Pakistan.
* **Keep a Clean Environment**: Maintain cleanliness in public and private spaces.
* **Avoid Mischief**: Refrain from actions that disrupt peace or harm others.

**Civic Duties**

* **Loyalty to the State**: Show loyalty and commitment to the nation.
* **Obey the Laws**: Follow the legal framework established by the government.
* **Pay Taxes**: Fulfill the obligation of tax payment for national development.
* **Use the Right to Vote Properly**: Participate responsibly in elections.
* **Engage in Social Services**: Contribute to community welfare and support those in need.
* **Pursue Education**: Value and seek knowledge for personal and societal growth.
* **Prioritize National Interest**: Act in ways that benefit the country.
* **Work Diligently**: Contribute to the economy and society through productive employment.

**Community Engagement**

* **Definition**: Active community engagement is the involvement of individuals and groups in activities that aim to improve the community, it recognizes the connection between rights and responsibilities.

**Examples:**

* **Right to Clean Environment**: Every community member has the right to a healthy and clean environment, which requires collective responsibility to maintain and protect natural resources.
* **Social Welfare**: Community members have the right to social welfare services, which entails the responsibility of individuals and organizations to contribute to programs that support the well-being of all members, especially the vulnerable.