

# CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

## STUDENT TEXTBOOK

### GRADE 9

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THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION STUDENT TEXTBOOK GRADE 9



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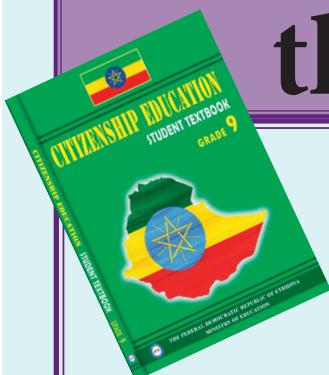
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# CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

## STUDENT TEXTBOOK

### Grade 9

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FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



HAWASSA UNIVERSITY



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# UNIT

# 1

## ETHICAL VALUES

### Introduction

In this unit, you will learn about the ethical values of citizens. As citizens we can make our society and country better and civilized only when we have the commitment to demonstrate meaningfully those ethical values expected from us in our daily life. This is because a society without ethical values can be a miserable place for everyone. Unit one is hoped to enable you to learn about the major ethical values, the importance of ethical values and aspects of applied ethics such as professional ethics and environmental ethics.

***Key Words and Concept:*** *Abiding by the law, Commitment to excellence, Environmental Ethics, Ethics, Helping others, Integrity, Keeping promise, Loyalty, Morality, Professional Ethics, Respecting others , Values*

### \* Learning outcomes:

*At the end of this unit, you will be able to:*

- Understand the ethical values of citizens
- Appreciate the major ethical values of citizens
- Demonstrate ethical values expected to form good citizens
- Recognize the importance and characteristics of applied ethics

### \* Lessons

1. *The Meaning of Ethics*
2. *Major Ethical Values*
3. *The importance of ethical values of citizens*
4. *Aspects of applied ethics*



# LESSON 1

## 1.1. The meaning of ethics

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Define ethics*
- Explain why being ethical is important in your daily life*



### Brainstorming

- *What does ethical or unethical mean?*
- *Have you ever heard when someone says, “Mr./Ms. X is ethical or unethical person?”*

In everyday language, the distinction between the terms ‘ethics’ and ‘morality’ is not always clear. Historically, the term ‘ethics’ comes from Greek ‘ethos’ which means the customs, habits and mores of people. Ethics is a discipline that deals with morality or it is a set of moral principles. From a theoretical or purely descriptive point of view, ethics is interested in the nature and origin of moral judgments. From a practical or prescriptive point of view, however, ethics is concerned with the particular norms, values or principles that ought to be used to arrive at proper moral judgments. Habitually all ethical questions involve a decision about what one should



do in a specific instance. Judgments about such decisions are generally expressed with words like right, and wrong, should and ought, and obligation and duty.

Morality refers to the standards and principles used to determine the behaviors, decisions or actions of individuals as right or wrong, good or bad, acceptable or unacceptable. On the other hand, ethics is concerned with what is right or wrong, what is good or bad, or what is acceptable or not acceptable. Ethics is a human conduct and is applied in daily life to determine acceptable human behavior. It is concerned with what is good for individuals and society. Ethics impacts the behavior and demands an individual to take the right options. Managing life and acting responsibly is very hard without ethics.

Ethics also refers to those values and principles that oblige someone to refrain from unethical acts such as rape, stealing, murder, assault, slander, and fraud. It includes the virtues of honesty, compassion, and loyalty and standards relating to rights, such as the right to life, the right to freedom from injury, and the right to privacy. Generally, ethics is a discipline that teaches us to follow the right way, to do the right thing and to refrain from bad or wrong doings.

### **Case Study**

There are three students called X, Y and Z who attend Grade 9, section ‘A’. Student ‘X’ is very clever and ranks first from all sections. Student X and Z are sitting on the same bench in the class. From three of them, student Y and Z are best friends. Accordingly, student Z asks student Y to help him by coping the answers from student X during the final examination and to text him on mobile phone. But, student Y got angry and disappointed with the act of student Z. He told to student Z that he could never help him in this way, even if they are best friends. .....



### .....Case Study

Student Y believes that cheating in the exam is unethical act and serious academic dishonesty. Then, he advised student Z not to attempt cheating in the exams after this, and to work hard just like student X. Otherwise, he expressed that their friendship will come to an end. Then, student Z highly regretted with unethical act he did. Finally, he apologized his friend and promised him not to repeat the same act in his future academic life.

Based on the above case study, attempt the following questions:

1. What do you learn from the above case study in relation to the concept of ethics?
2. From the acts of student Y and Z, whose act do you appreciate or deprecate? Why?

### Remember

- ❖ *Ethics enables us to understand and distinguish what is moral and immoral or right and wrong, good and bad, acceptable and unacceptable.*
- ❖ *Managing life and acting responsibly is very hard without ethics.*
- ❖ *Ethics teaches us to follow the right way or do the right thing.*



# LESSON

# 2

## 1.2. Major ethical values

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Explain the major ethical values*
- Advocate attributes of a person who has true integrity*
- Demonstrate ethical values expected of good citizens*



### Brainstorming

→ *What are the major ethical values you exhibit in your daily life?*

Ethics deals with those values that impose obligations on human beings to do the right thing and refrain from bad or wrong doings. Values are specific principles, beliefs, and standards, ideals that one holds as important and right. Values are the rules by which one makes decisions about right and wrong. It gives us a moral compass or direction. The major ethical values are discussed below in detail.



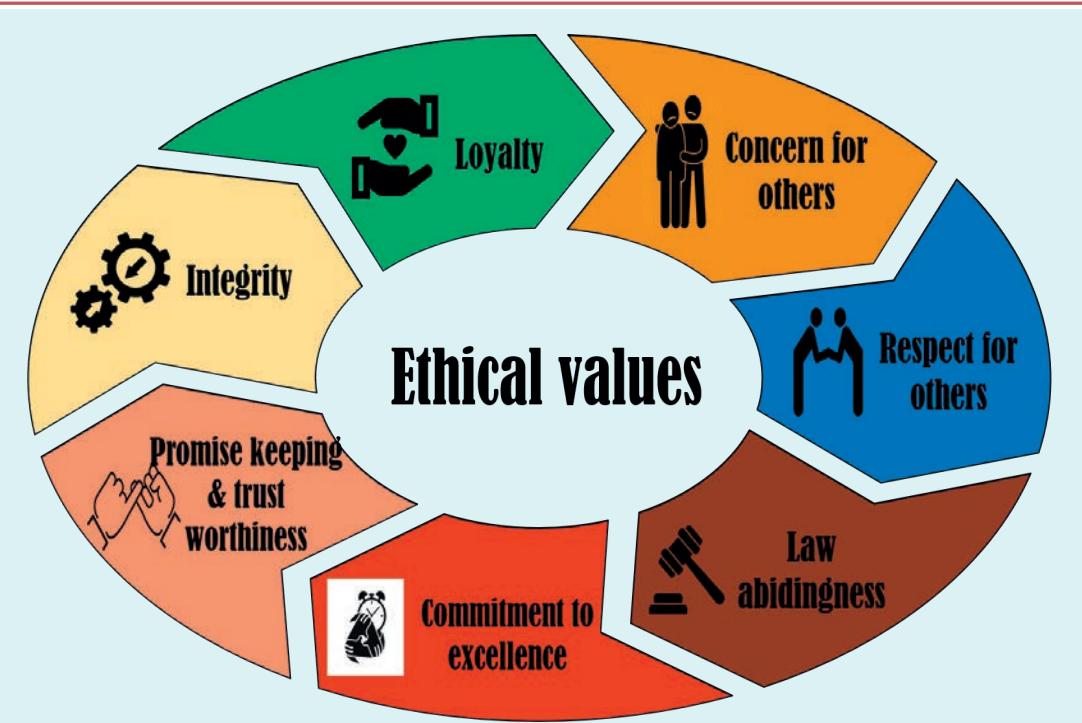


Figure 1.1: Major Ethical Values

## Integrity



### Brainstorming

→ *Do you always do the right things? If your answer is 'Yes', why do you do the right thing? If, 'No', why do you fail to do the right things?*

Integrity refers to devotion to moral and ethical principles regarding our decisions and actions in our daily life. It also implies the quality of being honest or having strong moral principles. Integrity is when our behavior matches our beliefs. It's when what we say and what we do match. We say an individual has integrity when



his/her private and public life aligns. People with integrity are generally known to be trustworthy, honest, and kind. This is a quality that everyone should strive for. In today's Ethiopia, developing and preserving all necessary moral integrity as citizens is not a matter of choice, rather it is the responsibility of all of us. For instance, a person who has integrity has different responsibilities such as responsibility to humanity, responsibility to him/her self, responsibility to his/her family, responsibility to his/her society, responsibility to his/her religion and responsibility to his/her country. So, integrity is about thinking critically and deciding on your behaviors and actions based on the moral values and principles rather than simply attending your personal interest.

### Case Study

Ms. 'X' is a resident of Addis Ababa City. She has a building which is rented at a high rate per-month. However, due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in Ethiopia in 2019, she donated her building for the treatment of peoples infected with the pandemic. Ms. 'X' says that the money she get from renting the building is not more than the lives of patients at this difficult time to the country and the whole world. She also says that humanity can be measured by our kindness to others, not by our self-indulgence to fulfil only our personal desires.

Based on the above case study, attempt the following questions:

1. What do you learn from Ms. 'X' from the point of integrity?
2. What is the advantage of being a person like Ms. 'X' oneself, one's community and one's country?



## Attributes of a person who has true integrity

Peoples with integrity have important qualities which we all should possess. Such people:

- A. **Respect humanity:** People with integrity believe that everyone deserves respect for the mere reason that he/she is a human being regardless of any considerations such as race, ethnicity, language, religion, place of birth, etc.
- B. **Walk their talk:** Persons with integrity are characterized by suiting their actions with their words. They have the moral courage and determination to do what they say. Such people have a good understanding about their moral obligations in the community and are committed enough in discharging those obligations.
- C. **Are honest:** persons of integrity are characterized by devotion to the facts. Such kind of persons do not have unethical behaviors such as lying, stealing, cheating, corruption, etc. For example, one of the manifestations of an individual's integrity is honestly paying one's taxes. Individuals who possess the ethical values of integrity are honest to themselves and don't engage in activities that cheat and harm the public for the satisfaction of their self-interest.
- D. **Take responsibility for their actions:** Taking responsibility for any action that we do in our daily life is a great moral excellence which is expected from us. Taking responsibility is not a loss, rather it is a kind of ladder to success.
- E. **Are kind:** people with integrity are benevolent or kind hearted. They are also happy with the change and success of others. Such peoples are free from abnormal jealousy that can harm others and also they do not take the advantages of others.
- F. **Know well their strengths and weaknesses:** People with integrity appreciates their strengths and learn from their shortcomings for further self-improvements.
- G. **Are hard workers:** persons of integrity believe that a relief from poverty and hardships can be achieved only through the culture of working hard.
- H. **Free from addiction:** Addiction is misuse of substance (alcohol, smoking cigarette, chewing khat and drugs) and non-substance (gambling, etc) things that can affect one's health, socio-economic and work performance. So, persons of integrity are free from those addictions.



## *Case Study*

Ato Alemu and Ato Bulcha are owners of an infant formula milk importing company. Ato Alemu knowingly has been involving in contraband activities by importing infant formula milk products which are out of their expiry dates with the assistance of a friend of him working at customs duty offices that resulted in the loss of the life of many children. Ato Alemu shares some of the money he gets out of selling the products to his friend. Finally, Ato Alemu has been arrested for his illegal business activities and sentenced for 20 years. On the other hand, Ato Bulcha has been undertaking his business with integrity by distancing himself from illegal trade practices. He paid his due taxes honestly. He has been tempted to engage in contraband trade practices that would result in a huge personal advantage, though he resisted by upholding his integrity and public trust.

Attempt the following questions based on the above case study?

1. Evaluate the business practices of Ato Alemu and Ato Bulcha with regard to ethical values of citizens?
2. How do you see the practices of the custom's duty officer? And why does he involves in such practices?



## How to enhance your integrity?

You can enhance your integrity in the following ways.

- Make and keep commitments to yourself
- Stand for something – know your values and stick to them
- Be open – open your mind, heart and ears

### Activity 1.1



*Do the following questions in groups and reflect your discussion results to the class.*

1. *Which traits of a person with true integrity do you possess and which ones you don't?*
2. *What are the advantages of having qualities of a person with true integrity for yourself and your community?*
3. *Can you mention the effects of loss of integrity on yourself, your community or your country?*

## Promise keeping



### *Brainstorming*

- *What is a promise?*

Promise refers to keeping a verbal commitment to do something to someone else. Keeping promise demand you to limit or sacrifice your wants in order to fulfill something for other people. Promises are actions that can create love, strong



friendships and smooth relationships with others. Promise is not something you do only for others. One can make promise for himself or herself to improve his/her life. For instance, a person who smokes cigarette can promise to himself to stop smoking. On the other hand, although we believe that promising something for someone is very important, we have to be careful that we should not promise something out of our boundary, because, we don't make promises we can't keep.

### ***Case Study***

Lemlem is grade 9 student in one of the schools in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, she is in a difficult situation to continue her education because there is no body to help her financially. One day she told some of her intimate classmates that she was going to stop her education due to the problem she was experiencing. After hearing this, her classmates felt sorry and started discussing how to help her. One of her classmates called Abdi, who is from a rich family, took the responsibility of convincing his family to help Lemlem so that she could continue her education. As a result, he presented Lemlem's case to his family. Abdi's family appreciated him for his noble idea and immediately decided to help Lemlem. Then, they met her in person and promised to help her with all possible means until she completes her education. Accordingly, Lemlem completed her education successfully without any problem by the help of Abdi's family.

**Based on the above case study, attempt the following questions:**

1. What do you learn from the action of Abdi's family about promise keeping?
2. What are the advantages of keeping promise?



## Activity 1.2



*Do the following questions in groups and reflect your discussion results to the class.*

1. *Can you remember something you promised to someone else?  
Did you keep your promise or not?*
2. *What are the consequences of breaking one's promises?*

## Loyalty



### *Brainstorming*

- ➡ *Are you faithful to others?*

Loyalty is the attribute of being truthful/honest to an individual, a society, an institution or a country. It refers to the qualities and values of a person who is honest. Loyalty is primarily a matter of conscience, and it is also vital for many other matters. Loyalty is needed at work place, between friends, between a husband and a wife, between a lender and a debtor. It is a very essential ethical value in the socio-economic and political activities of a country. The issue of loyalty is of great social and national value.

Individuals who are in charge of leading the people and the country should be honest and trustworthy. Public leaders or administrators should be loyal to their people and use the public property under their control in a fair and just manner. They should serve everyone equally regardless his/her ethnicity, place of birth, religion, language, sex,



etc. In the same way, employees or professionals working in a particular institution or organization should be loyal to their employer and the societies who seek their services. For example, professionals such as teachers, medical doctors, accountants, soldiers, engineers, etc. should serve their people and their country with loyalty. So, as good citizens, we need to be faithful in our family, in our neighborhood, community, friendship, school, work place, and faithful to the country at large.

### Activity 1.3



*Do the following questions in groups and reflect your discussion results to the class.*

- 1. What are the consequences of the absence of loyalty in the family, friendship, relationships and workplace?*
- 2. Go to government institutions nearby your school. Observe and ask employees of the institutions about the extent to which they are loyal to their institution and the peoples who seek their services. Ask them also about the advantages of being loyal. Then, reflect to the class what you found out.*



## Concern for others

Concern for others refers to the habits of having a place for, listening to or consider the needs and feelings of others. Concern for others means enabling or allowing others to participate in the decision making process that can affect them regarding the political, economic and social life. Concern for others is also about supporting others in times of difficulty or hardship.

As citizens, it is our moral responsibility to be concerned for different sections of our societies who seek our support and care like peoples with disabilities, children, elders, women and peoples with HIV/AIDS. In our society there are good cultures of helping each other in different situations of their social life. For example, it is common to help each other in time of wedding ceremony, traditional cooperative systems (Debo/Jigi), when someone gets birth, mourning, during natural and man-made disasters, when a person is seriously sick, when someone is in a difficult economic problems, etc.

### Activity 1.4



*Go to your community and identify whether there are concerns or special supports or not given to peoples with disabilities, street children, elders, women and peoples with HIV/AIDS by the communities, government or NGOs. Then, present your findings to the class with the facilitation of your teacher. Your activity work shall focus on the following questions:*

- 1. What kinds of concerns or support given to them and what do you learn from that?*
- 2. If there is not any concern for these peoples from concerned bodies, what kinds of possible solutions do you suggest?*



## Respect for others

Respecting is not something new or unfamiliar for us. It is a well-known moral value in our families, communities and the school. For instance, we have the culture of showing respect to our parents, elders, teachers, friends, neighbors and significant others. Respect is having positive feelings toward a person or treating a person with dignity regardless of ethnicity, religion, language, color, sex, economic background, disability and age (being a child or an adult). Thus, we have to respect each other for the mere reason that we are being human not for any other reason.



Figure 1.2: Respecting each other

We can be respectful to the people, things and places in the following ways.

- Using kind or polite words even when we are upset;
- Using manners like sharing, waiting our turn, saying please and thank you;
- Accepting difference or at least disagreeing with kind words;
- Being careful not to damage places or things;



- Using a quiet voice or calm behavior in public places;
- Sharing resources, only taking what we really need.

On the other hand, a person who may not respect others may:

- Face exclusion from other people
- Not get respect from other people
- Not have love of other people and good friendship
- Not get support in time of hardship

### Activity 1.5



*Do the following questions in groups and reflect your discussion results to the class.*

1. *Why is being respectful important in our life?*
2. *What are the impacts of not respecting others?*

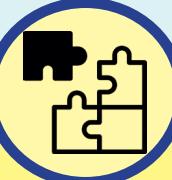
### Abiding by the law

Abiding by the law refers to our willingness, commitment and responsibility to obey or follow the rules and regulations. Rules are prescribed standards, or guides, for our conduct in a society or in an organization, like school. Rules are principles and they help us to follow basic values and principles. For instance, we have the duty not to steal, not to cheat exams, not to commit corruption, and to respect the well-being of fellow citizens in our society. If we violate these rules, we will be punished, face condemnations and exclusion from the society.

Laws and regulations, on the other hand, are written standards of action endorsed by authority. They are binding and you will be punished if you break them. For example, your school has its own rules and regulations which are considered the laws of the school. As a result, wearing school uniform, respecting teachers, being punctual, not cheating exams, etc. are some of the standards we need to respect. So, if you fail to respect these rules, you will be punished.



## Activity 1.6



***Do the following questions in groups and reflect your discussion results to the class.***

- 1. Why do we need to abide by the law?***
- 2. What are the consequences of not abiding by the laws?***

## **Commitment to excellence**

Commitment refers to one's dedication to do something, whereas excellence refers to continuously building our inner strength and to face challenges. The journey of our life is not always smooth and luxurious. Rather it is full of ups and downs or hardships. However, our commitment to continuously face challenges or hardships that we face in our daily life can make us excellent and resilient citizens. The path that takes us to excellence is not short and easy. It is challenging and painful. Thus, commitment to excellence refers to taking full responsibility for our behaviors, decisions and actions or endeavors in every single situation in order to do great things or being excellent and resilient person in our life. For example, as a student you have to take full responsibility to engage in all of our academic endeavors in every single situation and place in order to score wonderful results at the end.



## Activity 1.7



*Do the following questions in groups and reflect your discussion results to the class.*

- 1. What do you want to be in the future? teacher, doctor, pilot, engineer or accountant, etc?*
- 2. What should you do in order to be what you want to be in the future?*
- 3. How do you see what you will be from the perspective of commitment to excellence?*

## *Case Study*

Omod was a student from a very poor family. No one did help him from the time he had started his education until he completed it. He was working as a shoe-shiner in his time out of school. In addition to this, sometimes he served as a daily laborer. He supported himself with the income he earned this way and continued his education without support from anyone else. Surprisingly, Omod was a clever student in his education and he always ranked 1st from all sections until he completed his education. He never felt frustration and hopelessness by the lack of support. ....



### .....*Case Study*

..... Rather, he was happy with all the hardships and he faced them continuously with great dedication to accomplish his vision. Finally, Omod scored straight ‘A’ in all subjects in grade 12 national examination. As a matter of chance, a scholarship opportunity was announced by the Government of Japan in the field of engineering for only two students from East African Countries. Omod won this scholarship after a very tough competition. Then, he completed his study in Japan with a great distinction. He was a gold medalist of the year in engineering. Finally, Omod studied his MSC and PhD degrees in Germany. Now he is among the well-known engineers in Ethiopia and is making significant contributions in different mega projects being run by the government.

Do the questions based on the case study presented above as homework. Present your answer for one of the questions to the class. You will be given a maximum of two minutes.

1. What do you learn from the story of Omod ?
2. How do you compare yourself with Omod ?
3. Briefly explain Omod ’s commitment to excellence.



## Remember

- ❖ Integrity refers to devotion to moral and ethical principles regarding our decisions and actions in our daily life.
- ❖ People with integrity are generally known to be trustworthy, honest, and kind.
- ❖ Promise keeping is a verbal commitment to do something to someone else.
- ❖ Concern for others refers to the habits of having a place for, listening to or consider the needs and feelings of others.
- ❖ Respect for others is about having positive feelings toward a person or treating a person with dignity.
- ❖ Abiding by the law refers to the willingness, commitment and responsibility to obey or follow the rules and regulations.
- ❖ Commitment to excellence refers to taking full responsibility for our behaviors, decisions and actions or endeavors in every single situation in order to be successful.



# LESSON

# 3

## 1.3. The importance of ethical values of citizens

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Explain the importance of ethical values of citizens*
- Identify the consequences of lack of possessing ethical values*
- Demonstrate your ethical values*



### Brainstorming

→ *What are the importance of ethical values of citizens?*

As citizens, we need to possess ethical values to save ourselves and generations from several problems. In today's life, it is clear that there is a great failure and erosions of moral integrity and values of citizens in our country. Ethics is the single factor that determines our real value in this world. Ethics is character builder. For citizens, even for those of us with no aspirations in a career in law enforcement, morality and integrity are important characteristics to demonstrate. Being ethical in life is an important quality that human beings should possess.

Ethics makes a society peaceful, harmonious and to live better by guiding the behavior of the people. Ethics and ethical behavior play a very critical role for the existence of a democratic, stable and prosperous society. Ethical values strengthen mutual



trust and reduce social conflicts. No society can survive without an ethical code of conduct. It is even more important where laws do not reach, for example, taking care of older parents. Ethics also helps persons to look at their own life critically and to evaluate the morality of their actions/choices/decisions. It helps people to keep their words, fight injustices and corruption, prevent crimes and lawlessness and other unethical behaviors.

In general, if a country possesses highly ethical citizens, there is sustainable peace, strong social harmony, rapid socio-economic transformations, absence of corruption, prevalence of rule of law, justice, equality, strong national unity, respect for others, etc. So, as citizens it is a must to develop and practice those important traits of ethical person in order to curb the current serious crises we are facing as a country.

### Activity 1.8



***Do the following questions in groups and reflect your discussion results to the class.***

- 1. What are the traits of ethics you display in your family, community and school?***
- 2. Why is possessing ethical values important for citizens?***
- 3. What kinds of problems or crises can occur in your family, community and school due to people who do not possess ethical values?***



## Remember

- ❖ *Ethics is the single factor that determines our real value in this world.*
- ❖ *Ethics is a character builder*
- ❖ *Ethics makes a society peaceful, harmonious and to live better by guiding the behavior of the people.*
- ❖ *Ethical values strengthen mutual trust and reduce social conflicts.*
- ❖ *No society can survive without an ethical code of conduct.*
- ❖ *Ethics helps people to fight injustices and corruption, prevent crimes and lawlessness and other unethical behaviors.*

## **LESSON**

**4**

### 1.4. Aspects of applied ethics

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Define professional ethics*
- Describe environmental ethics*
- Identify traits of professional ethics*
- Display environment friendly behaviors*





## Brainstorming

- *What is applied ethics?*
- *What does professional ethics and environmental ethics mean to you?*

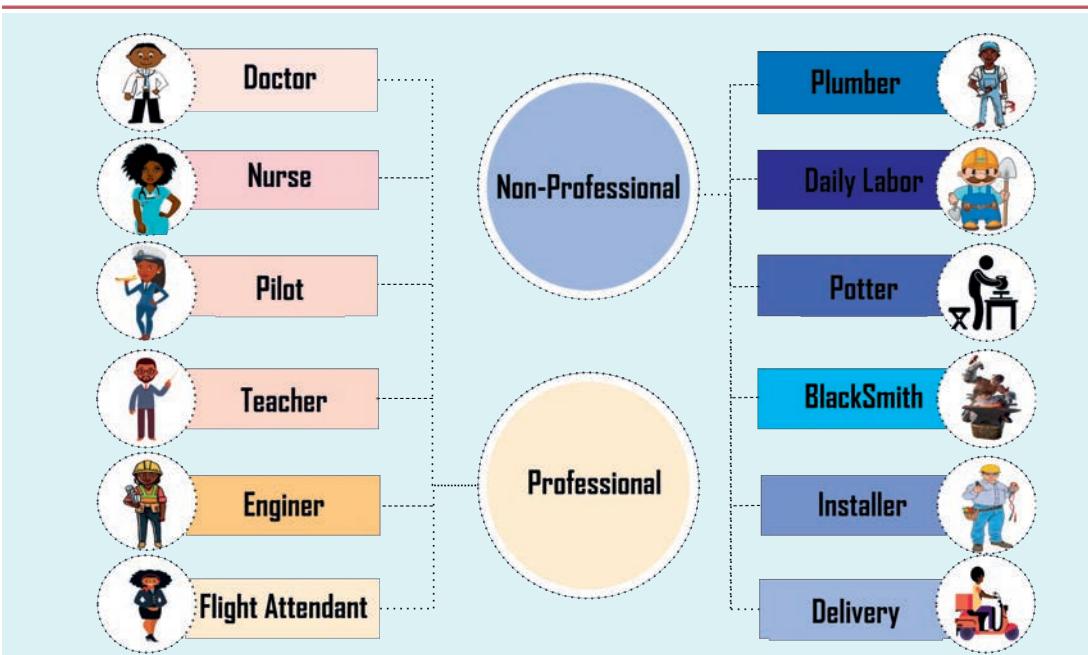
### 1.4.1. The meaning of applied ethics

Applied ethics is the art or science of reflecting on moral dilemmas and moral problems in different social contexts. Applied ethics is a growing, interdisciplinary field dealing with ethical problems in different areas of society. It includes for instance social and political ethics, computer ethics, medical ethics, bioethics, environmental ethics, business ethics, and it also relates to different forms of professional ethics. From the perspective of ethics, applied ethics is a specialization in one area of ethics. From the perspective of social practice applying ethics is to focus on ethical aspects and implications of that particular practice.

### 1.4.2. Professional ethics

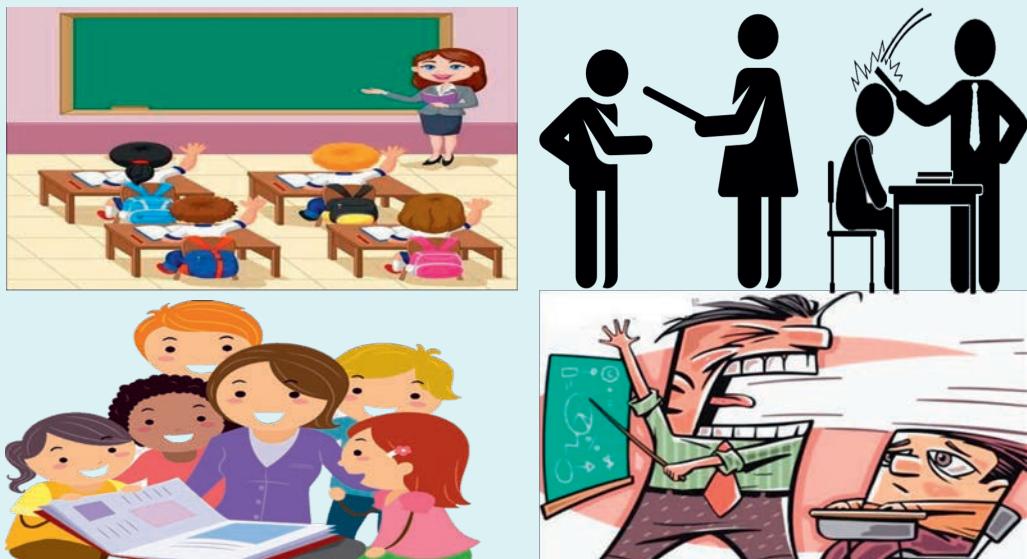
Profession is defined as any occupation/job/vocation that requires advanced expertise (skills and knowledge), self-regulation, and concerned service to the public good. It brings a high status, socially and economically. Professionals are governed by codes of ethics and profess a commitment to competence, integrity, altruism, and the promotion of the public good within their domain. These commitments form the basis of a social contract between a profession and society. Thus, professions and their members are accountable to those served and to society.





*Figure 1.3: professionals and non-professionals*

Professional ethics is concerned with one's behaviour, responsibility and commitment needed during the provision of professional services. It refers to the ethical norms, values and principles that guide a profession.



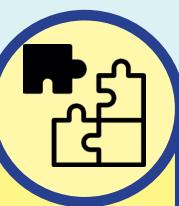
*Figure 1.4: A teacher on the left has smooth relationships and well treating her students, but a teacher on the right side is punishing student.*



Professional ethics is about the moral obligations, rules and principles that professionals should employ to achieve the main objective of their profession. For example, one of the professional ethics of teaching profession implies teacher's smooth relationships with their students, colleagues, employers and students' parents who are relevant stake holders in the professional life of teachers. These principles guide teachers in their daily activities while working with their stake holders.

Professional ethics includes the important attributes such as honesty, integrity, transparency, confidentiality, impartiality, punctuality, respectfulness and obedience to the law.

### Activity 1.9



- Being in group and ask three teachers from your school to explain for you their professional ethics as per the principles of professional ethics discussed above. Then, present what you get to the class.*

## Environmental ethics

Environment is the surrounding natural world which contains both living and nonliving things such as land, animals, plants, water, air, etc. Environment is the foundation and the source of the survival of all living things. It can be understood as the overall economic, social and cultural conditions that influence the life of an individual or community.

Environmental ethics refers to the moral obligations expected from human beings to protect and maintain the well-being of their environment. Environmental ethics is the discipline that studies about the established values, principles and set of beliefs between human beings and the surrounding environment. There is a direct relationship between the life of human beings and the environment. This means that



when the environment is safe and healthy, we are leading good and healthy life. When the environment is damaged, our life is also directly affected.

Currently our world is found under a serious threat of climate change and environmental degradation. This problem is changing from worse to the worst level from time to time. So, giving a great focus to the well-being of the environment is not a matter of choice, rather it is a matter of survival. This is because, our life fully depends on the environment and the earth's resources that are finite. Thus, all of us have the duty to play our part in maintaining and protecting the well-being of our environment for the sake our survival.



*Figure 1.5: Damaged environment and well protected environment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*



## Activity 1.10



*Do the following questions in groups and reflect your discussion results to the class.*

- 1. What environmental obligations do we need to keep for future generations?*
- 2. School Cleaning: Set a schedule at your free time and observe a dirty place in your school. Take a picture of this dirty place via your group or class representatives before cleaning it. Then, clean this dirty place and take its picture again. Compare and contrast the place before cleaning it and after cleaning. Reflect your opinion to each other about what you do from the perspective of environmental ethics.*

## Remember

- ☞ Profession is any occupation/job/vocation that requires advanced expertise.*
- ☞ Professional ethics is concerned with one's behavior, responsibility and commitment needed during the provision of professional services.*
- ☞ Environmental ethics is the moral obligations expected from human beings to protect and maintain the well-being of their environment.*



## Unit Summary

In this unit, you have learned that ethics is a discipline that deals with what humans ought to do and what they ought not to do in their daily life. It is concerned with the standards, values and principles that enable to differentiate right from wrong, good from bad, and moral from immoral acts. Ethical values are those principles, traits, rules and beliefs that one need to possess and practice as citizens. These are, integrity, loyalty, promise keeping, respecting others, helping others, commitment to excellence and abiding by the law. You have also learned that possessing ethical values and practicing them is the responsibility of every one as a citizen. This can have significant contributions to have peaceful and corruption free, harmonious, united society, and citizens being responsible in every aspect of human life.

You have also learned that professional ethics refers to the moral obligations of professionals that need to be discharged along with their professional services. A particular profession cannot fulfill the criteria of a profession in the absence of professional codes of conduct. On the other hand, environmental ethics implies the obligations of citizens, government and organizations to protect and maintain the well-being of their environment from damage, because, survival of human being depends on the safe and healthy environment.

## Glossary

- ***Abiding by the law:*** the willingness, commitment and responsibility to obey or follow the rules and regulations.
- ***Commitment to excellence:*** taking full responsibility for our behaviors, decisions and actions or endeavors in every single situation in order to do great things or being excellent and resilient person in our life.
- ***Concern for others:*** the habits of having a place for, listening to or consider the needs and feelings of others.
- ***Environmental Ethics:*** the moral obligations expected from human beings to protect and maintain the well-being of their environment
- ***Ethics:*** moral principles that control or influence a person's behavior. The rules or standards governing the conduct of a person or the members of a profession.



- **Integrity:** uncompromising devotion to moral and ethical principles regarding our decisions and actions in our daily life. The quality of being honest or having strong moral principles.
- **Keeping promise:** fulfilling or be faithful to a promise one has made or keeping a verbal commitment to do something to someone else.
- **Loyalty:** the attribute of being truthful/honest to someone else.
- **Morality:** the standards and principles used to determine the behaviors, decisions or actions of individuals as right or wrong, good or bad, acceptable or unacceptable.
- **Professional Ethics:** the moral obligations, rules and principles that professionals should employ to achieve the main objective of their profession
- **Respecting others:** having positive feelings toward a person or treating a person with dignity
- **Values:** specific principles, beliefs, and standards, ideals that one holds as important and right.

## Unit Review Exercises

### **Part I- True/False questions**

1. Ethics is a discipline that is concerned with what is good for individuals and society.
2. People with integrity are generally known to be trustworthy, honest, and kind.
3. One can keep promise without sacrificing any of his/her interest.
4. A society can survive without an ethical code of conduct of what is acceptable and what is not.
5. Professional ethics is concerned with one's behavior and conduct when carrying out his/her professional work.
6. Environmental ethics refers to the reckless acts of individuals towards their environment.



## **Part II- Multiple choice questions**

1. All of the followings are traits of a person with true integrity, except one.
  - A. Respecting humanity
  - C. Being responsible
  - B. Walking her/his talk
  - D. Being selfish
2. Our willingness and commitments to obey or follow the rules and regulations is called,
  - A. Helping others
  - C. Abiding by the law
  - B. Keeping promises
  - D. Respecting others
3. One of the following is not true about commitment to excellence.
  - A. Facing challenges continuously
  - B. Being frustrated by challenges
  - C. Building inner strength
  - D. Taking full responsibility
4. Which one of the following is the importance of ethical values?
  - A. Making a society peaceful and harmonious
  - B. Strengthening mutual trust
  - C. Enhancing self-discipline
  - D. Ensuring equality and justice
  - E. All of the above.

## **Part III- Short answer questions**

1. How do you enhance your integrity?
2. What are the ways of being respectful to others?
3. List the traits of professional ethics.



# UNIT

# 2

## **THE CULTURE OF USING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY**

### **Introduction**

In Unit 1, you learnt about the ethical values expected of ideal citizens and the importance of ethical values and principles in society. In unit 2, you are going to learn about the culture of using digital technology and their challenges. This unit deals with the importance of using digital media and the codes of conduct that need to be followed while using these digital technologies. Thus, this unit is relevant and interesting to understand the need for digital technology for your day to day activities.

#### ***Key Words and Concept:***

*Digital culture, Digital media, Digital technology, Digital world, Social media*

#### **\* Learning outcomes:**

*At the end of this unit, you will be able to:*

- Recognize the need of digital technology in your daily life activities
- Know the relation between culture and digital technology
- Demonstrate effective communications through digital medias
- Demonstrate ethical code of conduct while using digital technology
- Understand the challenges of using digital technology.

#### **\* Lessons**

1. *The concept of digital technology*
2. *Culture and digital technology*
3. *The purpose of digital technology*
4. *Codes of conducts for using digital technology*
5. *Effective communication through digital media*
6. *Challenges of using digital media*



# LESSON 1

## 2.1. The concept of digital technology

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Explain the concept of digital technology*
- Describe the need of digital technology in your daily life activities*



### Brainstorming

- ➡ *What is digital technology?*
- ➡ *Do you use digital technology at your home and at school?*

Digital technology refers to the use of computers, tablets, mobile phones and digital and social media that are accessed on those devices through internet. The concept of digital technology may also involve new communication technologies that could have significant effects on the political, economic, social and cultural life of the societies. Digital technology plays significant roles in transferring information and data quickly from one section of the world to another and among individuals as well. This can be taken place through the use of mobile application, social media platforms and digital marketing websites.

Today we live in the age of digital technology in which our life heavily relies



on different types of technologies. Technology touches every aspect our life, making it easier, better and life changing. For instance, due to digital technology application through available social network and social media platform there is high interconnection between individuals and global societies. Many peoples use electronic devices such as computers and mobile phones and internet in their daily life.

Digital technology was started in the mid-20th century and now it has become the most significant modern technology not only in developed countries but also in developing countries including Ethiopia. The use and application of digital technology is crucially important in our day to day life, especially for communication speed, learning opportunities, social relation and money exchange in the finance sector. Accordingly, the most common digital technologies being used in present day includes; Computer, Smartwatch, Automated Teller Machine (ATM), Digital Camera, Automated vehicles, Drone, Bitcoin, GPS and etc..



*Figure 2.1: Some of Modern Digital Technologies*

In the contemporary Ethiopia easy and fast communications among individuals, money transfer, banking and access to education are impossible without digital technology. As digital citizens, our individual life is highly dependent on modern digital media technologies in our daily life. This may involve the use of mobile



phone for communication with our family members, online service through internet, money transfer through mobile banking at any time. These technologies are making our life easier and better by saving our time and physical contact to get different kinds of services.

### Activity 2.1



*Currently, there are students and teachers who are using different electronic devices and social media networks for various purposes in your school even if not all. Accordingly, be in group and discuss the following questions and present what you find to the class:*

- 1. Do you have a mobile phone, laptop computer or tablets?*
- 2. For what purposes you have been using it? (for communication, education, mobile banking, etc)*
- 3. How you are using social medias?*

### Remember

- ❖ *Digital technology is type of technology used to transfer information to move data quickly. They include all electronic tools, automatic systems, technological devices and resources that generate and process or store information.*
- ❖ *Digital technologies are so ever-present around the world that encompasses all aspects of everyday life, and is not limited to the internet or modern communication technologies.*



# LESSON

# 2

## 2.2. Culture and digital technology

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Describe the relationship between culture and digital technology*
- Examine the effects of digital technology on society's cultures*



### Brainstorming

→ *Do you think digital technology have positive role in promoting one's own cultures? If yes, how?*

Culture and technology is the major factors that can shape our world outlooks. They are two equal forces that greatly influence our attitudes, beliefs, behaviors and our understanding of good and bad in different ways. Society's cultures are the bases of human civilization and technological advancement. This implies that cultural values of the society and modern technologies are very interdependent. When new technologies are introduced into a society, the culture reacts in either positive or negative way.

Cultural development and digital technologies are directly interlinked in terms of making accessible one's cultures to others. The essential way to live in societies



and to maintain one's culture is to communicate through which cultural elements are shared. Communication technologies used to share ideas and feelings through which culture is learned, transmitted and preserved. This enables us to promote our own cultural values and also to know the cultures of other societies. Therefore, it is difficult to promote and preserve one's own culture effectively without communication media in this digital world.

Digital technologies are very crucial in highlighting the bright aspects of our country to the rest of the world. Ethiopia is a country of multicultural societies where different nations and nationalities have been living together for a long period of time. Thus, all nations and nationalities need to promote and preserve their cultures through different means. Accordingly, in this digital age it is very important to use different digital communication technologies such as you tube, face book, twitter, telegram, imo, etc to promote one's own cultures in responsible and ethical way. For instance, we can promote the untold facts of our culture such as language, way of life, cultural dressing, cultural food, arts, historical tourism sites, holiday celebrities, etc to other societies and across the world through social media platforms.

However, digital technologies have not only positive impacts on one's own culture. It has serious negative impacts against one's own culture if they are not used appropriately and in responsible manner. Accordingly, using such technologies in a way deviated from our norms or moral values and principles can lead to the cultural diffusion and destruction of indigenous values and norms of a particular society. For example, as you can understand from *figure 2.2.* below, inappropriate use of digital technology can affect family relationships. Both husband and wife are too busy in using their social media on their food and by ignoring their child.

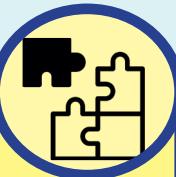
Thus, our digital culture must be in line with the existing moral, social, and cultural values of the society in contemporary digital age.





Figure 2.2: Negative relationship between culture digital media

### Activity 2.2



As mentioned above using digital media has both positive and negative impacts on the cultural values of a particular society. Thus, discuss being in group both the positive and negative effects of digital media on the cultures of your community

### Remember

- ❖ Cultural values of the society and modern technologies are very interdependent to each other's. Digital technologies may have its own advantages and disadvantages on our culture.
- ❖ Therefore, use and application of digital technology and media in day-to-day life must be line with the existing moral, social and cultural values of the society in digital age.



# LESSON

# 3

## 2.3. The Purpose of digital technology

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Explain the major purpose of using digital technology*
- Exhibit the major benefits of digital technology in 21st century*



### Brainstorming

→ *What are the main purposes of social media?*

Now-a-days, digital technologies are part of our daily life activities. Many of us are using digital technology like laptops, tablets, mobile phones and internet to easily, quickly and cost effectively get different services. Using the digital technology for the right purpose helps us to undertake our work more efficiently and effectively. The major purposes of digital technology in 21st century are discussed below:



## 1) Social connection

Information is the indispensable factors in all aspects of our life. Connecting families, relatives and members of the societies at all levels is very crucial for healthy social life. Digital technology has simplified the process of socialization by enabling people to communicate with families, friends and team-workers when working remotely. This has made it possible to communicate via words, video (video calls, virtual conferences) and exchange media. Without the use of digital devices and information communication technology, leading life is becoming very difficult these days.



Figure 2.3: Video chatting.

## 2) Communication speed

Digital technology helps a large amount of information to be compressed on small storage devices that can be transported. The speed of internet is constantly improving, thereby, enabling us to transfer tons of information instantly and access data virtually anywhere in the world. It also improves the speed of transmission and ultimately transformed the way that people communicate, work and learn. Thus, communication through digital technology enables the global communities conduct



speedy communication and information exchange in fraction of micro seconds and this makes life on this earth better. For instance, without the use of Email communication between senders and receivers it is very difficult for individuals and organizations.

### **3) Online learning opportunities**

In modern society, people use digital media daily and seamlessly, and educators need to consider the integration of digital media today and for the future. By having access to the internet, nowadays we can all access different information within seconds just by searching online. Digital technology has made it possible for everyone to have access to things like online courses, training, books, journals, publications and other important information. The facilities of online education and the availability of interactive media have made the process of learning so interesting. Therefore, using digital technology and digital media helps to get access to education through online learning without going to learning center using these digital technologies.

### **4) Digital marketing**

Digital marketing is also another essential purpose of using digital media in business activities. Digital marketing is the promotion of your business using online resources and tools. Tools used in digital marketing include websites, micro-sites, mobile application and social media platforms. Using online selling, businesses allow customers to buy whenever they want, even when your shop doors are closed. Selling online typically helps reduce processing times internally, enabling you to focus staff elsewhere in the business. This is used to give customers access to your business through whatever means they prefer – a mobile device, desktop computer, phone call or social media to find the information, service or product they are looking for.





*Figure 2.4: Digital device and social media used for social connection, information communication, online learning and digital marketing.*

### Activity 2.3



*Some people believe that it is difficult in to lead modern life without use of social media network like Facebook, Telegram, Instagram, and etc. But, at the same time others belief that use of social media technology have negative effect in many aspects of human life. Which argument you agree with or which argument you disagree? What is your reason for why you ‘agree for’ and what is your reason for ‘agree against’?*

- Debate on the above-mentioned ideas or arguments and share your understanding to each other’s on the advantages and disadvantages of social media on individual and social life.*



## Remember

- ❖ In today's world, technology serves varieties of purposes and it means different things to different people and the importance of digital technology has become integral in daily lives.
- ❖ As a result of this, without the use and application of digital technology, life on this digital world is difficult. Therefore, to make our day-to-day life easier, we must use digital technology effectively and efficiently.

# LESSON

# 4

## 2.4. Codes of conduct for using digital technology

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Identify ethical codes of conduct while using digital technology
- Explain the importance of ethical codes of conduct of using digital media.



### Brainstorming

- What ethical problems have you observed when people use digital technology?



Using the right digital technology for the right purpose efficiently and effectively is the burning issues in the current digital world. Using digital media in our day-to-day life must be governed by set of ethical codes of conduct. This involves the objective of using digital media and proper identification of their advantages and disadvantages while using it. Therefore, before using available social media and other digital technologies, we have to identify their benefits and potential challenges to our daily life.

The information or contents of social media is broad and uncensored, there must be the ethics and code of conduct to be followed for effective and efficient utilization of social media. Each social media platform, serves a purpose that is unique and our social media use strategy, content and ethics must be adapted accordingly.

They are a general rules and policies that are consistent with the high standard ethics we uphold and emphasize the value we place on trust and treating all members of our community with respect. Accordingly, the most common codes of conduct to be considered while using digital media for communication, education, entertainment and etc, are:

- Use digital media for the good things such as solving community problems through awareness creation on important issues.
- Use the information you got from using digital media as an input to improve your knowledge, experiences and skills needed to improve your life.
- Ignore contents provoking political, religious, and sexual violence
- Treat others as you want to be treated
- Respect privacy and maintain confidentiality
- Avoid posting, sharing and following fake news
- Fighting fake news using digital media by exposing the facts
- Avoid remarks that may constitute defamation.
- Avoid posts degrading individual dignity.
- Acknowledge and correct mistakes promptly.



- Avoid spending much more time on using digital media unnecessarily.
- Use digital media in a way it cannot affect relationships among families and friends.
- Don't use digital media in a way it affects our study and working times.
- Free yourself from being addictive of using digital media.

### Activity 2.4



*Being in group and discuss on the codes of conduct you implement and not implement while using digital media. Then, present the results of your group discussion to the class.*

### Remember

- ❖ Using the right digital technology for the right purpose effectively is the challenging issues in the current digital world.
- ❖ Using digital media in our day-to-day life must be governed by set of ethical codes of conduct and the rules for the proper use of these technologies have direct effect on our behavior.
- ❖ Therefore, the current digital technologies use and application needs proper identify of their benefits and potential challenges for effective utilization of digital media.



# LESSON

# 5

## 2.5. Effective communication through digital media

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Evaluate the role of digital media for effective communication



*Brainstorming*

► *What makes communication effective?*

Communication is one of the most important ways to transfer and exchange messages and information in our relation with others. It is the art and technique of informing, and influencing, individuals, and the large audience about important issues in scientific and ethical methods. Effectiveness of communication determines the success and failure for individual and collective goal achievement. Digital media becomes the key strategy for effective communication. Today, organizations and individuals have some type of online or digital presence through, social media accounts, online networks and databases and emails to communicate with the public. There are various digital technologies which make use of the fastest growing information communication technology that we use to make communication effective. This has improved businesses and personal communication. Successful modern



organizations also use digital media to their advantage and to achieve effective communication. The contribution of digital media to effective communication has improved because:

- Cellular technology and satellite communication have increased communication speeds and made ‘connection’ easier.
- Internet has enabled easy exchange of information over long distances and accessing a web page server in some far-off country.
- Computers have enabled better storage and presentation of information, and have made the process of teaching easier and more effective.
- Mobile phones have enabled e-commerce by giving customers the option to transact via their Mobile phones or Tablets and to perform specific tasks.

### Case Study

Megarsa Tullu is a farmer living in small village called Dimtu in rural area.

Using his mobile cell phone, he easily gets information about the market prices of some agricultural products. He used to get updated information about the price of locally produced agricultural commodities and inform it for other farmers. In addition, he is a well-informed person about what is going on the country as a whole by effectively using important application on his mobile cell phone.

**Do the questions based on the case study presented above. Present your answers to the class.**

1. What do you understand from the above case?
2. How we can use digital media for getting information about the market prices of the product?



## Remember

- ⦿ In today's digital world use and application of digital technology and social media networks has become integral in our daily lives, for better. However, digital media may not only used for better, but also for worse.
- ⦿ For instance, social media like Facebook have many drawbacks such as decreasing academic performance, negatively affecting performance in the workplace, and causing problems in personal relationships.

# LESSON 6

## 2.6. Challenges of using digital media

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Identify the major challenges facing while using of digital media technologies



### Brainstorming

- ➔ What are the disadvantages of using digital technology and social media in present world?



Currently, using digital technologies and social media platform is becoming challenging. Many of these challenges are related to social media because social media is an internet-based platform. Social media like Facebook have many drawbacks such as decreasing academic performance, negatively affecting performance in the workplace, and causing problems in personal relationships.

However, this digital technology and social media platforms may not only used for better or good by individuals and groups in different parts of the world. Thus, the main challenges that are involved in using this internet-based platform include:

- 1. Disregard for Ethical Values:** Ethics in digital media involves the moral problem that is associated with the adoption of new communication technologies in daily activities. The major concern in the ethics of digital media is the effect of information that is transmitted through these channels. The big challenge is that, the accuracy of the information is not controlled, and at times it can cause various impacts to the society. Therefore, to use social media effectively in our day-to-day life we have to use digital technology ethically in appropriate manner.
- 2. Fabrication of Fake News:** In times of digital information exchange, fake news has become more of an online phenomenon that is difficult to control and sharing of fabricated news to shape public opinion becomes common phenomenon. Fake news can reach high levels of visibility in a short amount of time because it's easy to share via social media. They involves reports, images, and videos that are shared to purposefully spread misinformation i.e. information that is factually incorrect. Fake news is mostly used to manipulate public opinion for political or commercial gain to attract people to click through to linked websites and generate advertising income. Therefore, fake news and misinformation is common problem through all social media platforms.
- 3. Personal Privacy and Security Issues:** The most challenging aspects of using social media is privacy and security issues about which, users very much worried. It is very difficult to maintain privacy in social media since they are public platforms anyone can easily access the personal information of others. As a result of this, protecting individual privacy and keeping information confidentially is at risk in the age of digital technologies. For example, when individual posted and uploaded about his/her private life on Facebook and YouTube someone could share it for public so that anyone can see it. In present



day, the security issues becomes challenges to the state national security.

### Activity 2.5



*Fill the below table on the following activity*

- List advantages and disadvantages of using social media for students' learning*

No.	Advantages	No.	Disadvantages
1	Social media help to prepare students for their learning	1	The presence of social media can be distracting to students.
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	

### Remember

- ❖ In present day digital technologies are becomes indispensable tools to give users quick and fastest communication.
- ❖ However, using these digital devices and social media platform are hindered by different challenges.
- ❖ Digital and social media technologies are not only used for better or good by individuals and groups, but also for worst things.
- ❖ Inappropriate use of social media may lead to ethical violations which disregard for ethical values is one of the challenges to using digital media.



## Unit Summary

The use and application of digital technology is critically important in our day to day life especially in terms of communication speed, learning opportunities, social relationships and money exchange in the finance sectors. Technology and culture are two equal forces that greatly influence one another. When a new technology is introduced into a society, the culture reacts in both positive and negative ways. Digital technologies may have their own advantages and disadvantages on cultures. Our digital culture must align with the existing moral, social, and cultural values of a society. Nowadays, digital technologies and digital applications are greatly influencing and shaping the contemporary society, threatening culture and cultural values. Due to the application of digital societies' cultures, norms and values are highly affected.

Thus, using the right digital technology for the right purpose efficiently and effectively is the burning issues in the current digital world. Using digital media ethically and examining our digital culture in the day to day life and manage this challenge are the agenda of discussion at national and international levels. Using digital media in our day-to-day life must be governed by a set of ethical codes of conduct since our rules of conduct for proper way of using these technologies have direct effect on our behavior.

Therefore, for the effective utilization digital media we have to identify their benefits and potential challenges before using the currently available social media and other digital technologies.

## Glossary

- **Digital culture:** The whole of the lifestyle and habits created by the innovations brought by the age in which human beings live, technology taking more place in daily life. It is a comprehensive concept that describes the idea that technology and the Internet significantly shape the way we interact, behave, think, and communicate as human beings in a societal setting.
- **Digital media:** They are platform sites or spaces of multidirectional, instantaneous communication that operate with the use of any of various encoded machine-readable data formats. It is any form of media that uses electronic devices for distribution via electronic devices.



- **Digital technology:** A type of technology that is used to transfer information to move data quickly using digitalized internet based social network and media. Digital technology enables immense amounts of information to be compressed on small storage devices that can be easily preserved and transported. Without the use and application of digital technology, life on this digital world is difficult.
- **Digital world:** The existing, emerging and probable human world dominance of the use of technology in the modern-day being driven and transformed by technology, and by digitized ICTs. This involves application of digital technology and media through social networks and social media platform. Due to this speedy interaction has become possible than ever through social media platforms.
- **Social media:** A computer-based technology that facilitates the sharing of ideas, thoughts, and information through building virtual networks and communities. Social networks are types of social media that help for exchanging thoughts, ideas, and contents with other users- often with users who share tastes and interests

## Unit Review Exercises

### **Part I- True/False questions**

1. A digital culture is described by how technology and the internet are shaping the way we interact as humans.
2. Without the use of digital devices and information communication technologies, life is becoming difficult to lead.
3. The facilities of online education and the availability of interactive media have made the process of learning so difficult.
4. Social media has so many positive sides that change people's lives positively and it has no drawbacks.
5. The use and importance of technology has become integral in our daily lives, for better or may be for worse.



## **Part II- Multiple choice questions**

1. All of the following includes digital technology, **except** one.

A. Facebook	C. Instagram
B. YouTube	D. Postal service
  2. Using online selling business allows customers to buy whenever they want, even when shop doors are closed. This technology is called,

A. Banking	C. Online communication
B. Digital marketing	D. Cloud computing
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a platform sites or spaces of multi-directional, instantaneous communication.

A. Communication	C. Digital media
B. Social media	D. Internet website
  4. Which of the following is the challenges of using social media technologies?

A. Fake news	C. Privacy and Security
B. Defamation	D. All of the above.
  5. Which one of the following code of conduct one has to follow while using digital technology in day to day lives?

A. Respect the diversity of users	C. Avoid remarks that may constitute defamation
B. Treat others as you want to be treated	D. Acknowledge and correct mistakes promptly
E. All of the above	



# UNIT

# 3

## CONSTITUTION AND CONSTITUTIONALISM

### Introduction

This unit acquaints you with the notion of constitution, constitutionalism and constitutional experiences in Ethiopian context.

#### **Key Words and Concept:**

*Accountability, Constitution, Constitutionalism, Federal constitution, Flexible constitution, Limited, government, Popular sovereignty, Respect for human rights, Rigid constitution, Rule of law, Separation of power, Transparency, Unitary constitution, Unwritten constitution, Written constitution*

#### \* Learning outcomes:

*At the end of this unit, you will be able to:*

- Understand the concept of the constitution
- Appreciate the principles of constitutions
- Know the constitutional experience of Ethiopia
- Recognize constitutionalism in their communities.

#### \* Lessons

1. *Understanding Constitution*
2. *Understanding constitutionalism*
3. *Constitutional experiences of Ethiopia*



# LESSON

# 1

## 3.1. Understanding constitution

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Define constitution*
- List types of constitution*
- Identify the advantages and disadvantages of written and unwritten constitutions*
- Describe constitutional principles*



### Brainstorming

- *In unit four of grade eight citizenship education you learned about the concept of constitution.*
- *What do you remember about that? Being in pair and share ideas on the concept of constitution?*

Constitution is a fundamental document that contains the basic laws of a country. It is the most fundamental or supreme law of a state that underlines the existence of the state. Constitution is the aggregate of laws, customs, conventions, principles, rules and regulations by which a particular government of a country implements its administrative activities. It is a fundamental document that defines the nature of government and its functions, the rights and duties of citizens.



## Classifications of constitution



### Brainstorming

→ There are different types or classifications of constitution.  
Can you mention some of them?

#### A. Written and Unwritten Constitution

##### 1. Written constitution:

Written constitutions are constitutions that exist in a single document or in a codified form. A written constitution refers to a collection of documents in which the fundamental rules regarding the nature of the government and the rights and duties of citizens are clearly laid down. It is precise, definite and systematic. The majority of states have written constitutions, for example, Ethiopia, South Africa, Nigeria, India, United States of America, France, Brazil, etc..

##### Advantages of written constitution

Written constitution has different advantages. It is easily accessible to citizens. Citizens can get written constitutions in different ways, for instance, from the library, from other individuals, from online, or buy from bookshops. Written constitution also enables citizens to easily learn about their rights and duties. One of the main purposes of the constitution is to define the rights and duties of citizens. So, in the case of written constitution citizens can have the chance to refer the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution.

##### Disadvantages of written constitution

Written constitutions have limitations mainly in terms of its rigidity. Compared to the unwritten constitution, it is not as such easy to improve in the changing circumstances.

##### 2. Unwritten constitution:

Unwritten constitution is a constitution that is not found in a single written document.



Instead, it exists in terms of customs and conventions. It is unsystematic, indefinite, and imprecise. Few countries have unwritten constitution, for instance, United Kingdom and Israel.

### Advantages of unwritten constitution

Unwritten constitution has also its own advantages. For instance, it is simple or easy to make amendments or changing some constitutional provisions. Since it is undocumented or uncodified constitution, it is suitable for improving or amendment.

### Disadvantages of unwritten constitution

Unwritten constitution is not easily accessible to citizens. Citizens can also have not the chance to easily learn about their rights and duties from constitutional document unlike the case with the written constitution.

#### Activity 3.1



- One of the advantages of written constitution is that it enables citizens to easily learn about their rights and duties. Thus, find the 1995 FDRE constitution and read chapter three of the constitution which talks about human rights. Then, tell the class some of the rights of citizens stated in the constitution.*

## B. Rigid and Flexible Constitutions

Based on the amendment procedure or changing situation, constitution can be classified as rigid or flexible. Amendment procedures refers to the modifications of the constitution or it is about adding some important issues to the constitution or removing unimportant ones. Rigid constitution cannot be amended, in a manner in which ordinary laws are passed amended or repealed. Thus, rigid constitution requires special or difficult procedures for the amendment process, for example, the constitutions of Ethiopia and USA. On the other hand, flexible constitution is a constitution which is simple for amendment. A flexible constitution is one which



can easily be amended by perhaps an ordinary legislative process or by the ordinary resolution. It doesn't require special procedure for amendment, for example, the Constitutions of Britain and Israel.

## C. Federal and Unitary Constitutions

A federal constitution is one which distributes power between the federal and regional governments, for example, the 1995 FDRE constitution. It distributes powers to the federal and the regional governments. On the other hand, a constitution that centralizes all state power at the central government is called unitary constitution, for example, the Constitution of Britain.

### 3.1.1. Fundamental Principles of Constitution

Constitution consists of certain fundamental principles in the form of constitutional principles. Constitution can be realized as per the important principles stated in it.

- III. Popular Sovereignty:** refers to the ultimate or supreme power of the people. The people are the ultimate source of power. The government must be based on the consent of the people.
- IV. Limited government:** the power of government must be limited by the constitution. This means that it should act according to the power and functions given to it by the constitution.
- V. Separation of powers:** constitution assigns specific responsibilities and powers to each branch of the government such as legislative, executive and judiciary organs for the purpose of check and balance system.
- VI. Rule of law:** refers to every one acts according to the rule of law. The law applies to everyone, even to those who are on power.
- VII. Respect for human rights:** the human rights of individuals or groups must be respected by both government and ordinary citizens.
- VIII. Transparency and accountability:** Transparency refers to the condition of making the conducts and actions of government officials shall be open or transparent to the public, whereas accountability refers to the condition in which government officials are held responsible for any failure in their official duties.



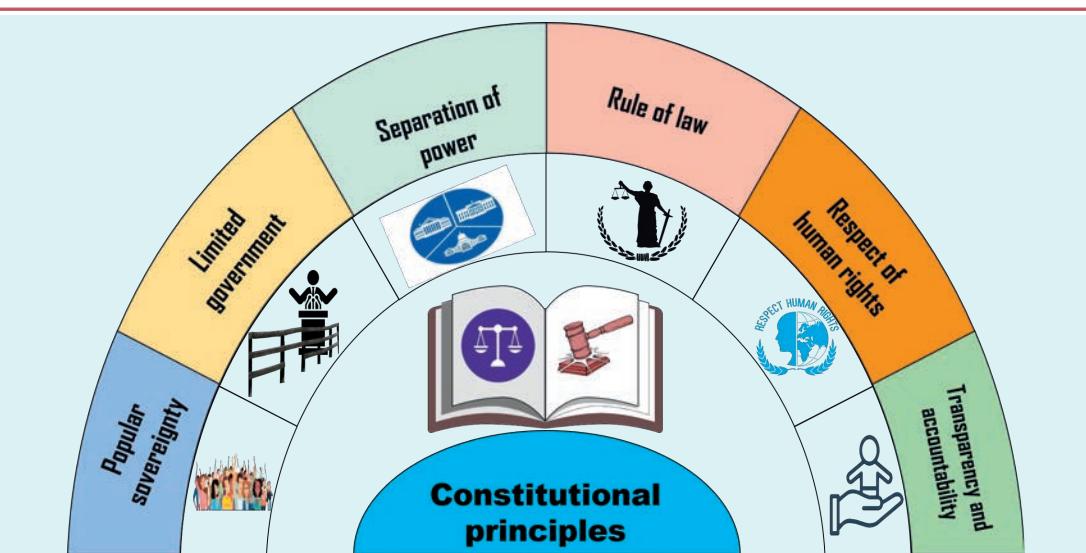


Figure 3.1: Fundamental Constitutional Principles

### Activity 3.2



- Discuss in groups the importance of incorporating these basic principles in the constitution.**

### Remember

- ❖ Constitution is the highest and fundamental law of a state.
- ❖ Constitution is very important to ensure rule of law and to put the government within its limit.
- ❖ The constitution of a country can be in written or unwritten forms.
- ❖ Classifications of constitution consists of written and unwritten constitution, rigid and flexible constitution, federal and unitary constitution.
- ❖ Constitution can be realized as per the fundamental principles stated in it.



# LESSON 2

## 3.2. Understanding constitutionalism

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Explain constitutionalism
- Describe the importance of constitutionalism
- Identify the features of limited government by law



### Brainstorming

→ What is constitutionalism? Being in pair and share ideas on the concept of constitutionalism?

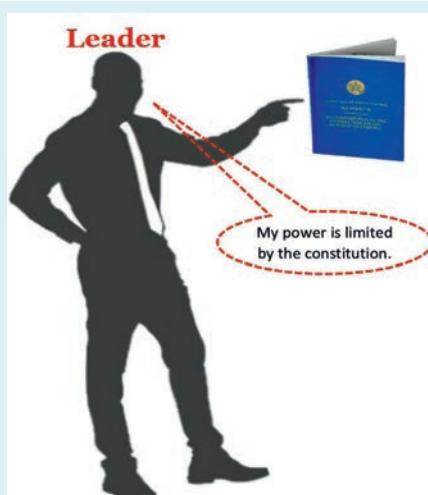


Figure 3.2: Limitation of power by law



Constitutionalism refers to a government system that is based on and acts according to the supreme law. Constitutionalism implies a limited system of government by law in which there is actual or real realizations of the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, a real practice of good governance, rule of law and separations of powers. According to the notion of constitutionalism, the behavior and actions of the government as well as its agents should be founded on the fundamental principles of the constitution.

### Activity 3.3



*Do the following questions as a homework*

- 1. Do you think that the existence of constitution alone implies the existence of constitutionalism?*
- 2. Discuss the characteristics of a limited form of government vis-à-vis unlimited form of government*

### **Importance of Constitutionalism**

A real practice of constitutionalism in a given country has a very remarkable contribution and is usually at the forefront in insuring peace and stability and human well-being. Some of the major contributions of constitutionalism are discussed as follows:

**Realizations of human rights of citizens:** Human rights are inviolable and inalienable rights. Constitutionalism prevents tyranny and guarantees the liberty and rights of individuals or groups of individuals. Respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is the responsibility of every citizen and the government in particular. This can become real only when there is a government which acts according to the supreme law.



**Controlling the abuse and misuse of powers of government:** constitutionalism checks whether the acts of a government are legitimate, and whether officials conduct their public duties in accordance with laws. It provides institutional safeguards against abuse and misuse of powers by authorities.

**Prevalence of rule of law:** Constitutionalism is a foundation for rule of law. Constitutionalism proclaims the necessity of the rule of law in contrast to rule by the arbitrary judgment. Everyone must be law abiding citizen. Citizens must accept the limits on their freedom, and officials must also observe the limits on their power.

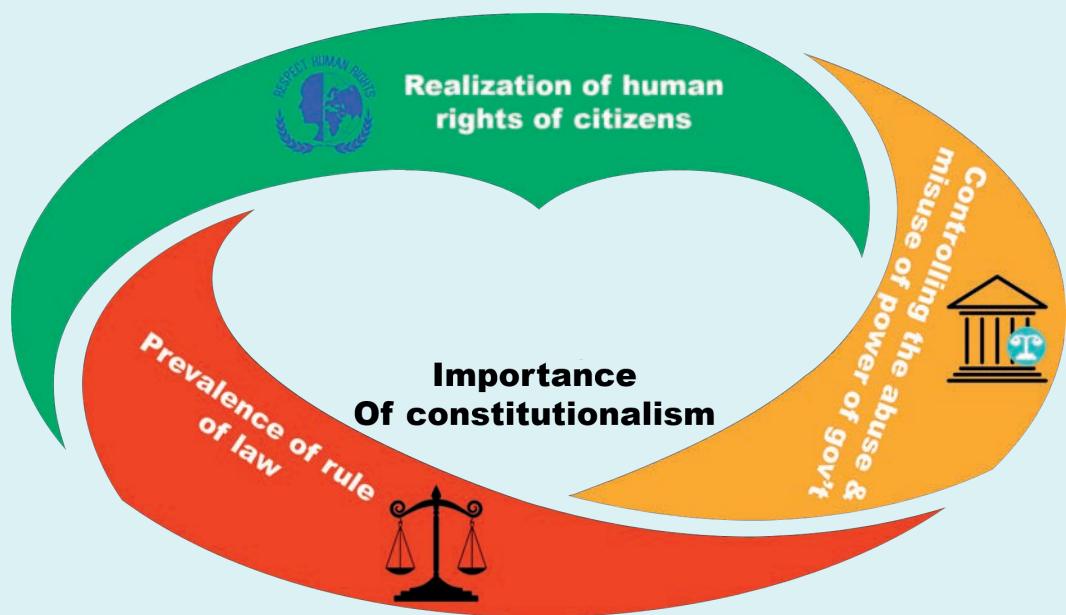


Figure 3.3: Importance of constitutionalism



### Activity 3.4



- ✓ Discuss in group and present to the class the consequences of absence of practicing constitutionalism in terms of the rights and duties of citizens, prevalence of rule of law, ensuring peace and good governance.

### Remember

- ❖ Constitutionalism refers to a government system that is based on and acts according to the supreme law.
- ❖ Constitutionalism prevents tyranny and guarantees the liberty and rights of individuals or groups of individuals.



# LESSON 3

## 3.3. Constitutional experiences of Ethiopia

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Describe the constitutional experiences of Ethiopia under different regimes.*
- Differentiate the similarities and differences between the different constitutions.*
- Identify the fundamental constitutional principles under the 1995 FDRE constitution*



### Brainstorming

- ➔ *Have you ever heard of the different constitutions of Ethiopia, maybe in your grade eight lessons, or from media, teachers or other individuals? Please, share what you know to the class.*



Ethiopia is a country that has a long history of constitutional experiences. It used traditional or unwritten constitutions until the introduction of the first written constitution by Emperor Haile Selassie I in 1931.

### 3.3.1. Traditional constitutional experiences of Ethiopia

Until the early 1930s, the rule of the Ethiopian Emperors was based on traditional constitutions such as Kibre Negest, Fetha Negest and Sirate Mengist. The traditional constitutional experience was characterized by the dominance of myths and legends that were used to provide legitimacy to the monarchs rather than ensuring the basic rights and freedoms of citizens. The Kibre Negest (Glory of kings), justifies that the Ethiopian monarchs derived their power to rule from God. The Fetha Negest (Law of Kings) justifies the authority of kings and their officials. According to Fetha Negest, challenging the authority of the king is considered as challenging or rebelling against one's creator - God. Sirate Mengist is the other important document that emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup>c that proved to be administrative and protocol directive of the government.

### 3.3.2. Written constitutional experiences in Ethiopia

#### i. The 1931 written constitution

In Ethiopia the first written constitution was introduced in 1931. On July 16 1931 a few months after his coronation, Emperor Haile Selassie I granted to the people of Ethiopia the first written constitution in the history of Ethiopia. The Emperor was motivated to introduce his first written constitution mainly for two reasons. The first one was the Emperor's high aspiration to show Ethiopia as a modern or civilized state to the external world. The second reason was, to consolidate emperor's absolute power over local nobilities through a formal constitutional framework. This constitution has 7 chapters and 55 articles. Thus, the principal aim of the constitution was to consolidate the power of the king, not to lay foundations for the fundamental rights and dignity of citizens.

#### ii. The Revised Constitution of 1955

Twenty years later after the adoption of the first constitution, the imperial regime revised its constitution in 1955 mainly for two reasons: internal and external. The internal reason was the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in 1935. Accordingly, the 1931



constitution was interrupted, and the Emperor was also forced to flee to Britain. The second and the most basic reason was external one, which was the federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia in 1952. The 1955 revised constitution has 8 chapters and 131 articles.

Similar to previous constitutions, the power of the Emperor and the prominent officials was not limited by this constitution. The democratic and human rights of citizens were not guaranteed.

### Activity 3.5



- Evaluate the traditional constitutions and the written imperial constitutions discussed above in light of the basic idea of constitutionalism? Discuss this question in groups and present the results to the class.*

### **iii. The 1987 Constitution of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (PDRE)**

In 1974, the feudal monarchy or the Imperial Regime was removed from power by the Derg military regime. The Derg regime introduced different decrees and proclamations which had no constitutional status until the adoption of the 1987 constitution. Thus, the period from 1974 up to 1987 was known as constitutional vacuum or lacuna in Ethiopian political history.

In 1987 the government adopted its own constitution. This constitution has 7 chapters and 119 articles. The constitution changed the system of government from the monarchy system to a republican form of government. The 1987 PDRE constitution also introduced the idea of secularism or the separation of state and religion for the first time in Ethiopia. Similar to its predecessors, this constitution had no legacy of democratic constitutional order. Finally, after staying on power for 17 years, the Derg regime led by Colonel Mengistu Hailemariam was overthrown



by the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) in May 1991.

#### **iv. The Transitional Charter of the 1991**

The 1991 Transitional Charter was introduced in May 1991 by EPRDF after the demise of the Derg regime. The charter served as law of the land for the transitional period from 1991 up to 1995. It is a very short document that addressed only some fundamental issues. It contains only 20 articles. The charter recognized freedom, equal right and self-determination of all nationalities. It also puts high premium on human rights.

#### **v. The 1995 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopian (FDRE) Constitution**

The period of Transitional Charter was culminated by the adoption of FDRE constitution in December 1995. The 1995 FDRE constitution introduced different changes as compared to its predecessors. It introduced a federal state structure for the first time, parliamentary democracy, and the establishment of the two houses of parliament: House of Federation and House of People Representatives. It also guarantees the rights and freedoms of citizens as well as describes the duties of the citizens. The 1995 constitution has a preamble and 11 chapters with 106 articles.

#### **The fundamental Constitutional Principles of the 1995 FDRE Constitution**

The 1995 FDRE constitution has the following fundamental constitutional principles. These are:

- A. Popular sovereignty (Article 8)
- B. Supremacy of the Constitution (Article 9)
- C. Respecting Human and Democratic Rights (Article 10)
- D. Secularism or separation of state and religion (Article 11)
- E. Transparency and Accountability of Government (Article-12)



### Activity 3.6



*Find the 1995 FDRE constitution and read in detail those fundamental constitutional principles mentioned above. Then, reflect what you understand about those fundamental constitutional principles to the class.*

#### **Role Play Activity on accountability and transparency**

Do role play activity on accountability and transparency as per the direction given to you by your teacher.

#### **Remember**

- ☞ Ethiopia has a long history of constitutional experience.
- ☞ Ethiopia got its first written constitution in 1931 during the reign of Emperor Haile Sellassie I.
- ☞ The goal of the 1931 and 1955 written constitutions were to entrench the absolute power of the emperor.
- ☞ The Derg regime promulgated its own constitution in 1987 (PDRE Constitution).
- ☞ The 1995 constitution introduced a federal state structure for the first time, parliamentary democracy, and the establishment of the two houses of parliament.



## Unit Summary

In this unit you have learned about the notion of constitution and constitutionalism. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It is classified as written and unwritten, rigid and flexible, unitary and federal constitution. Constitution also consists of fundamental constitutional principles such as popular sovereignty, rule of law, respecting human rights, separation of power, limited government, and transparency and accountability. On the other hand, constitutionalism refers to the limitation of government power by supreme law. Constitutionalism is beyond having a constitution. It is against the arbitrary or undemocratic system of government. Constitutionalism is all about the real implementation of those fundamental constitutional principles.

You have also learned Ethiopian constitutional experiences. Ethiopia has a long history of using different constitutions starting from pre-1931 traditional constitutions up to the 1995 FDRE constitution. Although the country has a long time constitutional experiences, it does not have good history and culture of constitutionalism.

## Glossary

- **Accountability:** refers to the condition in which government officials are held responsible for any failure in their official duties
- **Constitution:** constitution is a fundamental document that contains the basic laws of a country.
- **Constitutionalism:** refers to a government system that is based on and acts according to the supreme law. The behavior and actions of the government as well as its agents should be founded on the fundamental principles of the constitution
- **Federal constitution:** It is a constitution which distributes power between the federal and regional governments
- **Flexible constitution:** It is a constitution which is simple for amendment.
- **Limited government:** Refers to a government that should act according to the power and functions given to it by the constitution.



- **Popular sovereignty:** the ultimate or supreme power of the people
- **Respect for human rights:** the human rights of individuals or groups must be respected by both government and ordinary citizens
- **Rigid constitution:** A constitution that requires special or difficult procedures for the amendment process
- **Rule of law:** refers to every one acts according to the rule of law and no one is above the law.
- **Separation of power:** distributions of power among the three branches of government such as legislative, executive and judiciary organs for check and balance of power.
- **Transparency:** the condition in which the conducts and actions of government officials shall be open or transparent to the public.
- **Unitary constitution:** A constitution that centralizes all state power at the central government.
- **Unwritten constitution:** unwritten constitution is a constitution that is not found in a single written document.
- **Written constitution:** A written constitution is a constitutions that exists in a single document or in a codified form.

## Unit Review Exercises

### Part I- True/False questions

1. The majority of the states of the world have written constitutions.
2. If there is constitution, then there is constitutionalism.
3. The main aim of both the 1931 and 1955 revised constitutions was consolidating the power of the king.
4. Ethiopia was under highly centralized system of government until the adoption of the 1995 FDRE constitution.
5. Ethiopia has a long history of constitutionalism along with its long time constitutional experiences.



## **Part II-Multiple choice questions**

1. Which one of the following is true about constitution?
    - A. It is a fundamental law of the land.
    - B. It defines the rights and duties of citizens.
    - C. It determines the scope of government power
    - D. All
  2. One of the following is not the principle of constitution.
    - A. Popular sovereignty
    - B. Concentration of power
    - C. Rule of law
    - D. Respecting human rights
  3. Constitutionalism entails \_\_\_\_\_
    - A. Limited government
    - B. Preventing tyranny
    - C. Avoiding abuse of power
    - D. Prevalence of rule of law
    - E. All
  4. Both pre-1931 traditional and written imperial constitutions are characterized by
    - A. Devine authority of the king
    - B. Secularism
    - C. Constitutionalism
    - D. Federalism
  5. Identify the wrong match from the given alternatives.
    - A. The 1955 revised Constitution- Italian aggression of Ethiopia
    - B. The 1987 PDRE Constitution- secularism
    - C. The 1991 Transitional Charter- Constitutional vacuum
    - D. The 1995 FDRE Constitution- Federal state structure



# UNIT

# 4

## UNDERSTANDING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

### Introduction

In this unit, you are going to learn about indigenous knowledge. The unit has three lessons. The first lesson discusses the concepts of indigenous knowledge. The second lesson deals with the roles of indigenous knowledge's in producing responsible citizens. In the last lesson you will learn about roles of indigenous social institutions in solving problems of communities.

#### ***Key Words and Concept:***

*Iddir, Indigenous conflict resolution, Indigenous environmental conservation, Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous social institutions, Iqqub, Responsible citizens, Siinkee*

#### \* **Learning outcomes:**

*At the end of this unit, you will be able to:*

- Understand the concept of indigenous knowledge
- Know the roles of indigenous knowledge in producing responsible citizens
- Appreciate the roles of indigenous social institutions in solving the problems of the community

#### \* **Lessons**

1. *The concept of indigenous knowledge*
2. *The roles of indigenous knowledge in producing responsible citizens*
3. *The roles of indigenous social institutions in solving the problems of the community*



# LESSON

# 1

## 4.1. The concept of indigenous knowledge

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Define indigenous knowledge*
- List different types of indigenous knowledge practiced in your Communities*
- Describe the practices of indigenous knowledge in your community*



### Brainstorming

- ➡ *Have you ever seen local elders in your community when they resolve conflicts that occur between individuals?*
- ➡ *Have you ever seen when sick persons or domestic animals are treated with folk medicine?*
- ➡ *Can you tell the class some proverbs people in your community use to promote resolving conflicts, cooperation and mutual support, work ethics, etc.?*



Indigenous knowledge is a knowledge that has been developed by a local people as a result of long histories of their social life and interaction with their environment. Indigenous knowledge is a knowledge which is based on the culture, traditions, social interactions, and ritual, values and beliefs systems of particular community or society. This indicates that indigenous knowledges are not the same from society to society.



*Figure 4.1: Artisan women engaged in pottery making*

Ethiopia is a country with rich indigenous knowledge systems in areas such as architecture, pottery, medicine, agriculture, cottage industry, conflict resolution and environmental conservations. For instance, most of the time when a husband and a wife get into conflict, they do not take their case immediately to a court. Rather, they take their case to the local elders to resolve their disagreement through a win-win approach. This is a popular indigenous conflict resolution mechanism in most parts of Ethiopia.

### Activity 4.1



- Go to your community and identify which kinds of indigenous knowledge have been practiced from those listed above and others. Then, discuss the practices of these indigenous knowledge in your community in groups containing four students each.*



## Remember

- ☞ Indigenous knowledge is a knowledge that has been developed by a local people as a result of long histories of their social life and interaction with their environment.
- ☞ Ethiopia is a country with rich indigenous knowledge systems.

# LESSON 2

## 4.2. The role of indigenous knowledge in producing responsible citizens

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Describe the roles of indigenous knowledge in producing responsible citizens*
- Explain the roles of indigenous knowledge in creating responsible citizens for peace building*
- Demonstrate the roles of indigenous knowledge practiced in your community*





## Brainstorming

→ *What do you think about the roles of indigenous knowledge in producing responsible citizens?*

Responsible citizen is a person who has the knowledge and commitment regarding his/her contributions for the betterment of his/her livelihood, the community and the country. Responsible citizens have vital roles as change agents in ensuring sustainable peace and the socio-economic transformations in their community and their country.

Indigenous knowledges have significant contributions in producing responsible citizens who can contribute a lot for peace, socio-economic development, health, agriculture, arts and environmental conservations.

### Indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms and peace building.

Indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms can play a great role in ensuring sustainable peace in a given community using peaceful resolution to conflicts with a very low cost. In every community this culture of resolving conflicts has been widely practiced. To call some of them as examples, Jaarsummaa of the Oromo, Shimglina and Erq of the Amhara , Yejoka of the Gurage, Mada'a and Mablo of the Afar , Gedana of the Sidama, Guurt system of the Somali,etc.

In Ethiopia, indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms have paramount significances than modern conflict resolution institutions (e.g. court) in ensuring sustainable peace. In indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms elders take the lion shares in safeguarding the political, social, cultural, economic and religious life of their people. Although elders discharge this moral responsibility as members of their community and citizens of the country, it doesn't mean that this role is left only to them. Young



people inherit this tradition from elders because, they are tomorrow's elders.

### Activity 4.2



- Being in groups containing five students each and ask local elders about the practices and the roles of those indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms mentioned above and others found in your community in resolving conflicts and ensuring sustainable peace. Then, present your findings to the class.***

### **Role Play**

Role play an indigenous conflict resolution mechanism which is commonly practiced in your community. Then, demonstrate it in the class.

### **Making active participation in socio-economic activities**

Making active participations in the socio-economic activities of a society is one of the responsibilities expected of citizens.

One of the ways by which citizens can contribute their part in socio-economic transformations of their societies is by introducing and using indigenous technologies. Indigenous technologies and practices are very important for Ethiopia which highly depends on outside supplies.

Indigenous technologies and practices enable citizens to use local products with reasonable costs and better accessibility as compared to the pricey and scarce imported products. Indigenous technologies also provide valuable options for local



people than the western technologies.

There are different indigenous technologies that have been in use for a long period of time in different parts of Ethiopia. For example, pottery, iron smiths, jewelry, weaving, wood carving, leather works are the major ones. The peoples who are engaged in these works maintained these indigenous knowledges from endangerment or disappearance with great dedications and resisting the deep rooted negative societal attitudes towards them. This clearly indicates their real determination, hard work valuing and respecting their own indigenous wisdoms which are the true attributes of responsible or good citizens.



Figure 4.2: Some of indigenous technologies: weaving, iron smith and wood carving.



### Activity 4.3



Do question no. 1 as a group work and question no. 2 as an individual assignment.

1. *Everyone likes and uses different products produced by indigenous technologies in our community. For instance, you can take pottery products and weaving products. But, there is a serious negative attitude towards those who produce them. How do you see this contradictory assertion of loving the products without loving the producers?*
2. *On the weekend (Saturday and Sunday) observe one indigenous technology, for example pottery, weaving, or stannery, or wood carving that is practiced in your area and present to the class what you learned from your observations.*

### **Indigenous environmental conservation mechanisms**

Environmental conservation refers to the wise use of resources available in the natural environment. Environmental conservation and preservation is one of the most contemporary global issues that seeks the attention of everyone. Because, the life of both human beings and animals depend on the well conserved and preserved environment.

Indigenous knowledge plays a significant role in promoting environmental conservation. In Ethiopia, although many people do not give it attention, indigenous knowledge has valuable contributions in environmental conservations in different communities. Konso people's indigenous knowledge of water and soil conservation



or terracing and indigenous Agroforestry system of Gedeo community are taken as good examples. Thus, the nexus between the environment and culture that exists in the particular society imposes moral and social responsibility or prohibition mechanisms on its members to conserve their natural environment or not to damage it.



Figure 4.3: Konso people terracing system and Gedeo people agroforestry (source: UNESCO world heritage site)

#### Activity 4.4



**Do the following question being in a group and present the result to the class.**

- What are the indigenous environmental conservation mechanisms practiced in your community? What are the lessons you may learn from them?**



### **Remember**

- ⦿ Indigenous knowledges have significant contributions in producing responsible citizens who can contribute a lot in different aspects of a particular society.
- ⦿ In Ethiopia, indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms have paramount significances than modern conflict resolution institutions in ensuring sustainable peace.
- ⦿ Indigenous technologies and practices enable citizens to use local products with reasonable costs and better accessibility as compared to the pricey and scarce imported products.
- ⦿ Indigenous knowledge plays a significant role in promoting environmental conservation.



# LESSON 3

## 4.3. The role of indigenous social institutions in solving problems of communities

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- List different indigenous social institutions*
- Describe the roles of indigenous social institutions in solving the problems of the community*
- Explain the importance of different indigenous social institutions*



### Brainstorming

- ➡ *Do you know something about Iddir, Iqub, Debo/Jigie, Mahber/ Senbete, etc in your communities?*
- ➡ *What are the roles of these indigenous social institutions?*

Indigenous social institution refers to institutions established locally by voluntary cooperation or association of the members of a given community based on their own mutual trust. Indigenous social institution are established by local people mainly to support each other.





Figure 4.4: Some of indigenous social institutions in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia indigenous social institutions have significant contributions to the day to day life activities of the society. They provide different socio-economic services to the members and other needy peoples in the community. There are different types of social institutions in Ethiopia that have been practiced for a long period of time among different sections of the society. Some of them are, idir, iqub, Debo/Jigie, Mahber/Senbete, Siinkee, etc...

### **Siinkee**

Siinkee is, literally, a stick (Ulee) and symbolizes a socially endorsed set of rights exercised by women in the Oromoo society. It is a special stick that is used to signify legally married women and also to indicate women's respect and power in the society. In the Oromoo Gadaa system, Siinkee is a symbolic representation of married women's participation in the political, economic, social, cultural and religious activities.

Siinkee culture plays significant roles in protecting women's rights and ensuring gender equality through Siinkee solidarity. If a woman has a Siinkee, she has to be respected, and nobody should fight with her. Furthermore, Siinkee plays important roles in ensuring peace and resolving conflicts in the society. For instance, Siinkee women raise their Siinkee and ask conflicting parties to stop fighting immediately and mediate between them to prevent the adverse consequences of the conflict.

### **Idir**

Idir is an indigenous social institution voluntarily established by the local people mainly for self-help and other social activities. Idir is established primarily to provide mutual aid in burial matters and also to address other community concerns. Idir is a social institution which is widely practiced and well known among both



rural and urban peoples.

The primary objective of idir is helping people in funeral activities. Members of the institution contribute money and other goods in kind on regular basis that can be used during mourning time. In addition to this, idir plays significant roles in coping sudden risks its members face such as death of livestock like oxen, asset losses due to fire accident or theft and health problems. It also serves the members during different ceremonial events like weeding by providing necessary materials. Idir has also a great roles in serving as a credit institution by providing members with loans without interest.

### Iqub

Similar to idir, iqqub is indigenous social institution voluntarily established by people based on mutual trust. The primary objective of iqub is providing financial services to the members. In iqqub members agreed to collect specific amount of money on regular basis by setting specific date (may be per week or per month) on which money can be paid to members through lottery method. Thus, iqub has crucial roles in solving financial problems of the members which cannot be accessible from formal financial institutions like banks and microfinance.

### Mahber or Senbete

Mahber or Senbete are voluntary associations of individuals to help each other when a member may face some serious problems like death, burning down of properties, enjoy together and for other social activities. The members of mahber/senbete gather together at one common place per week or per month to discuss on different issues related to their common interests. In some cases the members prepare foods and drinks at their home and serve the members, or bring the foods and drinks to their particular religious place and enjoy it together as well as feed the poor gathered over there. This social institution is so vital for individuals to get together to help each other and to deal with the concerns of their community.

### Debo/Jigie (Labor Sharing)

Debo or Jigie refers to the culture of helping each other among local peoples during ploughing, weeding or other events like; harvesting, and building houses and in



any other social activities. Debo/Jigie has been widely known and practiced in different areas of Ethiopia for long time. For example, in agricultural activities when unexpected rain comes during harvesting time, the farmers harvest their crops being in Debo/ Jigie to save their crops from damage.

Generally, the indigenous social institutions discussed above are not the only ones practiced by all sections of societies in Ethiopia. There are many other similar social institutions that need to be promoted and given great emphasis by all concerned bodies.

### Activity 4.5



*Do the following questions as group assignment and then present to the class.*

- 1. What do you learn from the indigenous social institutions discussed above?*
- 2. Identify any social institution practiced in your community, but not discussed above and present it to the class.*

### Remember

- “ Indigenous social institution refers to institutions established locally by voluntary cooperation or association of the members of a given community.”
- “ Indigenous social institutions play significant roles in promoting mutual cooperation and resolving different problems of a given community.”
- “ In Ethiopia there are different types of indigenous social institutions such as Idir, Iqub, Debo/Jigie, Mahber/Senbete, Siinqee, etc.”



## Unit Summary

In this unit you have learned about the basic notions of indigenous knowledge. Indigenous knowledge is a knowledge which is based on the culture, traditions, social interactions, and ritual, values and beliefs systems of particular community or society. Ethiopia is a country with rich of indigenous knowledge systems in areas such as architecture, pottery, medicine, agriculture, cottage industry, conflict resolutions and environmental conservations.

You have also learned about the roles of indigenous knowledges in producing responsible citizens in Ethiopia. Indigenous knowledges play pivotal roles in producing responsible citizens who would actively participate in ensuring sustainable peace, socio-economic development, environmental conservations and others. In addition to this, there are indigenous social institutions that have significant contributions in addressing different community problems. Some of them are, idir, Eqqub, Siinqee, Mahber/Senbete, Debe/jigi,etc.

## Glossary

- ***Idir:*** an indigenous social institution voluntarily established by the local people to provide mutual aid in burial matters and also to address other community concerns.
- ***Indigenous conflict resolution:*** locally organized institutions working according to the custom and norms of given society and works according to the specific culture of particular community.
- ***Indigenous environmental conservation:*** Refers to the local knowledge and social taboos used for protecting environment and natural resources.
- ***Indigenous knowledge:*** a knowledge that has been developed by a local people as a result of long histories of their social life and interaction with their environment.
- ***Indigenous social institutions:*** are voluntarily- established by local people mainly to support each other in time of difficulty (mourning), to resolve conflict, to serve as financial sources, for information exchange and to cope different problems of the members and the community in general.



- **Iqub:** indigenous social institution voluntarily established by people based on mutual trust to provide financial services to the members.
- **Knowledge:** the information, understanding and skills that you gain through education or experience.
- **Responsible citizen:** a person who has the knowledge and commitment regarding his/her contributions for the betterment of his/her livelihood, the community and the country.
- **Süngee:** a stick (Ulee) and symbolizes a socially endorsed set of rights exercised by women in the Oromoo society. It is a special stick that is used to signify legally married women and also to indicate women's respect and power in the society

## Unit Review Exercises

### **Part I. Write 'True' if the statement is correct, or 'False' if it is incorrect.**

1. Ethiopia as a home of nations and nationalities, it is very rich in indigenous knowledges.
2. It is possible to say that, indigenous knowledges are given high emphasis by the communities and government in Ethiopia.
3. In Ethiopia, indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms have high values than the modern court in terms of peaceful resolution of conflict.
4. Indigenous technologies and practices enable citizens to use local products with reasonable costs and better accessibility.

### **Part II- Multiple choice questions**

1. Which one of the following is false about the importance of indigenous knowledges?
  - A. They enhance social cohesion
  - B. They promote socio-economic development
  - C. They give peaceful resolution to conflicts
  - D. They may take the members dependent on outside supplies



### ***Part III- Short answer questions***

1. What are the negative attitudes of the society towards indigenous technologies?
  2. How can we prevent the negative attitudes of the society towards indigenous technologies?



# UNIT

# 5

## MULTICULTURALISM IN ETHIOPIA

### Introduction

In unit 4 you learnt about the concept and roles of indigenous knowledge and social capital in solving community problems. In this unit, you are going to learn about the concept and importance of multiculturalism and diversity demonstrating multiculturalism in diversified society. This unit mainly deals with understanding the concept of multiculturalism and pillars of multicultural societies.

**Key Words and Concept:** *Culture, Cultural diversity, Forms of Diversity, Multiculturalism, Tolerance of diversity*

### \* Learning outcomes:

*At the end of this unit, you will be able to:*

- Understand the concept of multiculturalism
- Know pillars of multicultural societies
- Appreciate the existence of cultural diversities
- Demonstrate the culture of accommodating cultural diversity

### \* Lessons

1. *Understanding culture*
2. *Concept of multiculturalism*
3. *Pillars of multicultural societies*
4. *Major forms of diversity demonstrating Multiculturalism*



# LESSON

# 1

## 5.1. Understanding culture

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Define culture*
- Display the values of cultural diversity in a country*

### The meaning of culture



#### Brainstorming

→ *How do you define the word 'culture'?*

Culture refers to a shared language, beliefs, values, norms, behaviors, and material objects that are passed from one generation to the next generation. It includes rituals, customs, celebrations, dress styles, mode of relationships between and among the people, etc. There is no society without culture and cultural values that differentiate one society from others. It is a mirror or a lens with which we evaluate everything around us; we evaluate what is proper or improper, normal or abnormal using our culture. Therefore, culture is a multifaceted concept that includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, and habits acquired by humans as members of a society.



Culture of a society embodies different cultural elements like people's languages, myths, rituals, symbols, collective memories, customs and traditions, arts, music, etc. These elements of cultures are also used to shape our identity and influence our behaviors in our daily lives. Thus, culture and cultural practices in human lives constitute different sets of beliefs and views about human being. Proper understanding of what constitutes society helps us to respect and value the cultural diversity in a multicultural society.

In Ethiopia, there are various peoples, with varieties of cultures and cultural practices, and this gives beauty and attraction to our society. For instance, if we see the Ethiopian coffee drinking cultures and ceremonies in different parts of the country, it is what we have to be proud of and make it maintained by the new generation.

Therefore, learning about cultures helps us to recognize cultural differences and avoid negative stereotypes and personal biases toward other societies' cultures. In addition, cultural diversity helps us to recognize and respect "ways of being" that are not necessarily our own so that we can interact with others, build bridges to trust, respect, and understand other cultures



**Brainstorming**

→ *Do you think there is a uniform culture and cultural practices within one country? If your answer is 'No' why?*

The prevalence of cultural diversity in the forms of different cultural and ethnic identity in multicultural society needs to be properly understood and treated in an appropriate manner. Hence, the cultural diversity issues in heterogeneous society must be accepted, respected, tolerated and appreciated to effectively manage diversity issue in diversified societies.





Figure 5.1: Diverse culture of Ethiopian societies

### Activity 5.1



*Answer the following questions in cross-over group with the facilitation of the teacher.*

- 1. What are the elements and major forms of cultural diversity in diversified societies?*
- 2. Why is recognition and accommodation of cultural diversity being important to our country?*



## Remember

- ❖ Culture is the lens in which we evaluate our environment, so it can be tough to see a culture that's either different or contradictory to ours. This refers to the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time.
- ❖ There is no society without culture and cultural values that differentiate one society from the others. And it is the mirrors using which the members of the cultural groups identify themselves in the society.
- ❖ People naturally use their own culture as the standard to judge other cultures because culture is the lens with which we evaluate what is proper or improper, normal or abnormal.



# LESSON

# 2

## 5.2. The concept of multiculturalism

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Define multiculturalism*
- Explain the importance of multiculturalism in diverse society*
- Practice multiculturalism as a viable policy for peaceful co-existence in a culturally diverse society*

### The meaning of multiculturalism



#### *Brainstorming*

- *Have you ever heard the term ‘multiculturalism’? If yes what is the meaning of the word multiculturalism?*

In modern societies the management of cultural diversity within state has become an increasingly prominent issue in countries like Ethiopia. In those states employing an appropriate diversity management policy approaches are the burning issues of political and national agenda. Multiculturalism is the best strategy to deal with diversity accommodation to maintain and preserve a country’s national unity out of diverse identities.



Multiculturalism is therefore, used to maintain unity within diversity in multi-ethnic or multicultural states. It is appropriate ways and means to accommodate diversity issue in culturally diverse society.



### ***Brainstorming***

► ***How multiculturalism is used to promote unity in diversity?***

Multiculturalism is a body of thought about the proper way to respond to cultural and religious diversity. It is a system of belief and behavior used to recognize and respect the presence of all diverse groups in a society. It acknowledges and values the socio-cultural differences in a society. If we find different beliefs, values, customs and traditions and life styles dissimilar with that of ours can get awareness of the differences that among individuals relating to their sex, religion, and ethnicity.

Thus, multiculturalism in today's Ethiopia has been adopted to reconcile the imbalance between upholding ethnic and national identity by maintaining unity within diversity. Multiculturalism is used to maintain a balance between national unity and cultural diversity is worthwhile for a stable multicultural society. Therefore, multiculturalism is about cultural and ethnic difference, set within a framework of shared fundamental values which enable them to coexist together.



## Project Work

*Be in pair and gather information about different cultures in your community and features of multiculturalism and present to the class about:*

- 1. Society's elements of culture and their cultural practices*
- 2. How different community cultural values and practices have been live together?*
- 3. How society's cultures and other forms of diversity are our beauty or sources of disagreements?*

## Remember

- ⦿ *Multiculturalism in contemporary political discourse and in political philosophy reflects a debate about how to understand and respond to the challenges associated with cultural diversity based on ethnic, national, and religious differences.*
- ⦿ *In a multicultural society, every culture is unique in itself in a specific society and cultural uniformity is uncommon in diversified societies.*
- ⦿ *The prevalence of cultural diversity in the forms of different cultural and ethnic identity in multicultural society needs to be properly understood and treated in an appropriate manner.*



# LESSON 3

## 5.3. Pillars of multicultural societies

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Identify the basic pillars of multiculturalism*
- Explain forms of diversity demonstrating multiculturalism*
- Evaluate how differences are being accepted, respected and tolerated in your society*

### Basic pillars of multiculturalism



#### Brainstorming

- ➡ *Can you name some of the basic principles used to manage diversity issues in multicultural societies?*

Pillars of multicultural societies refer to the proper ways to respond to diversity issues in the society. They are basic principles that are used to treat or deal with diversity as pillars of multicultural societies as appropriate means and ways to accommodate diversity. Therefore, diversity management in multicultural society



involves proper response and appropriate ways to accommodate cultural diversity. To build the sense of national unity and solidarity among all diverse groups, there must be recognition and respect for society's diverse cultures, religion, languages, customs and traditions.

To this end, the pillars of multiculturalism or basic principles of multicultural societies' that must be respected are:

### **1. Accepting differences**

In multicultural society, differences in cultural values, belief system, and views or outlooks must be accepted. Accepting difference means understanding how we are alike, how we are different and treating everyone with respect and understanding regardless of the differences. When we come across differences in our community, we need to accept that difference positively and respect the differences rather than discrediting and devaluing them based on our own standards. If differences are accepted and respected, they help to create peaceful coexistence and harmonious relationships among the members of the society. Therefore, accepting difference is the right way of accommodating diversity.

### **2. Respecting differences**

Multicultural societies are characterized by existence of cultural, ethnic and religious diversities. Respect means different things to different people depending on the very things that make each person different, including culture, background or any other dimensions of diversity. There are distinctions among the peoples' in gender, culture, religion, ethnicity and socioeconomic background. To appreciate and recognize differences, we have to respect and support each other despite the differences in our cultural backgrounds. Acceptance of differences within the society; and respect for the consequences of these differences in social and cultural values, beliefs and ways of life.

### **3. Tolerance of differences**

Another pillar of multicultural society is tolerance and appreciation to differences in the society. Tolerance is the willingness to accept the existence of differences we dislike or disagree with. Tolerance is a sense of openness to difference and diversity,



and objective attitude of mind or way of thinking towards different genders, religions and nationalities. Tolerance is bedrock of multiculturalism in diverse societies like Ethiopia. Therefore, in multicultural society tolerance of diversity is used to accept different behaviors, practices, opinions, beliefs and standpoints in a diverse society. Multicultural societies are characterized by diverse people's socio-cultural, religious, ethnic and historical background. However, to treat these differences properly we have to tolerate indifferent values, belief and outlook.

#### 4. Appreciating differences

Appreciating diversity means being open and respectful of the differences that exist in all of us. Appreciation is when someone seeks to understand and learn about another culture in an effort to broaden their perspective and connect with others cross-culturally. Appreciation is simply taking one aspect of a culture that is not your own and using it for your own personal interest. Therefore, in multicultural society appreciating difference is used to acknowledge and respect each other's behaviors, opinions, beliefs and standpoints in a diverse society.



Figure 5.2: Religious solidarity in Ethiopian



### **Remember**

- ❖ *Diversity encompasses culture, gender, religion, age, disability and career status and we should take all these into account and simultaneously safeguard as well in all our interpersonal relations and communications.*
- ❖ *In multicultural society, accepting and respecting diversity and tolerating and appreciating differences are the basic pillars used to deal with diversity issue*
- ❖ *Accepting and appreciating differences is the right way of accommodating diversity.*
- ❖ *If differences are accepted and respected, they help to create peaceful coexistence and harmonious relationships among the members of the society.*



# LESSON

# 4

## 5.4. Major forms of diversity demonstrating multiculturalism

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Identify the basic elements of diversity in multiculturalism*
- Explain forms of diversity demonstrating multiculturalism*
- Seek to develop multicultural behaviors amidst major forms of diversity*

### Major forms of diversity demonstrating multiculturalism



#### Brainstorming

- *What makes Ethiopia multicultural society and multinational state?*

Multicultural societies are characterized by existence of cultural, ethnic and religious diversities to be recognized, accepted, respected and celebrated. There is diversity and distinctions among the peoples' in gender, culture, religion, ethnicity and socioeconomic background. Considering this diversity and multiculturalism is important in the context of nation building. Ethiopia is a country of diversity and the major forms of diversity demonstrated includes; ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious.



## 1. Ethnicity

Ethnicity and ethnic identity is one of the major forms of diversity demonstrated in multicultural societies like Ethiopia. Ethnic groups are people that identify themselves with a social grouping on cultural grounds, including language and origins. The basis of ethnicity is, therefore, often a tradition of common descent or intermarriage and shared culture or history.



*Figure 5.3: Photos of some Ethiopian ethnic group*

In multicultural society ethnicity and identifying oneself is natural phenomena as there are diverse ethnic groups within one society and it cannot be a challenge to multiculturalism. But if ethnicity and ethnic identity develops to ‘ethnocentrism,’ it could be a potential threat to multiculturalism and multicultural issue understanding.

## 2. Religion

Religion is a set of organized beliefs, practices, and systems that most often relate to the belief and worship of God/Allah. Religion plays a major role in human lives. In societies with religious diversity, religious tolerance dictates that different religions



should live in harmony with each other, accepting and allowing for religious diversity. Ethiopia is a country of diverse religions living together for a long period of time. For instance, Christians and Muslims have been living together for a long period of time peacefully based on mutual respect and tolerance.

### **3. Gender**

Gender diversity is an umbrella term that is used to describe gender identities that demonstrate a diversity of expression. Gender refers to the array of socially constructed roles and relationships, personality traits, attitudes, behaviors, values, relative power and influence that society ascribes to the two sexes on a differential basis. It refers to the attitudes, feelings, and behaviors that a given culture associates with a person's biological sex. Gender is a social construct that defines and differentiates the roles, rights, responsibilities, and what is appropriate behavior and obligation for women and men.

### **4. Disability**

Disability is a fundamental aspect of human diversity in present day world. It refers to a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more major human activities. Disability diversity refers to understanding of peoples who have unique differences and recognizing people's individual differences. It is about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual. By embracing disability as a natural part of diversity, we enhance our own self-awareness and knowledge of the world around us.



## Remember

- ❖ Multicultural societies are characterized by existence of cultural, ethnic and religious diversities to be recognized, accepted, respected and celebrated
- ❖ There is diversity and distinctions among the peoples' socio-cultural differences and their historical backgrounds.
- ❖ Ethiopia is a country, of diversity and the major forms of diversity demonstrated includes; ethnic diversity, cultural diversity, linguistic diversity, and religious diversity
- ❖ As a result of this we have diverse in cultural values and practices, language, ethnic or historical backgrounds, religious belief, life styles, etc.

## Unit Summary

Culture is a mirror which the members of cultural groups used to identify themselves in the society. Culture of a society include a collection of beliefs, values, behaviors, customs, and attitudes that distinguish the people of one society from those of others. Cultural diversity is the common feature of diversified societies. In a multicultural society, every culture is unique in itself and cultural uniformity is uncommon in diversified societies. The prevalence of cultural diversity in the forms of different cultural and ethnic identity in multicultural society needs to be properly understood and treated in appropriate manner.

Multiculturalism is therefore, policy and strategy to maintain a country's national unity within diversity in multi-ethnic or multicultural states. There are basic principles that are used to treat or deal with diversity as pillars of multicultural societies. To understand and properly respond to cultural diversity in the society, these basic principles must be observed.

Multicultural societies are characterized by existence of cultural, ethnic and religious diversities to be recognized, accepted, respected and celebrated. There is diversity and distinctions among the peoples' in gender, culture, religion, ethnicity



and socioeconomic background. Considering this diversity and multiculturalism is important in the context of nation building. Ethiopia is a country of diversity and the major forms of diversity demonstrated includes; ethnic diversity, cultural diversity, linguistic diversity, and religious diversity.

## Glossary

- **Accepting differences:** Accepting difference means understanding how we are alike, how we are different and treating everyone with respect and understanding regardless of the differences.
- **Appreciating differences:** Appreciation is when someone seeks to understand and learn about another culture in an effort to broaden their perspective and connect with others cross-culturally. Appropriation on the other hand, is simply taking one aspect of a culture that is not your own and using it for your own personal interest.
- **Cultural Diversity:** Cultural diversity, or sometimes referred to as multiculturalism, is a quality of diverse and many different cultures. Cultural Diversity a system that recognizes and respects the existence and presence of diverse groups of people within a society.
- **Culture:** It is the beliefs, customs, arts, ways of life etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time. Culture is the mirror through which the members of the cultural groups identify themselves in the society used as a lens with which we evaluate what is proper or improper, normal or abnormal.
- **Ethnicity or ethnic group:** An ethnic group; a social group that shares a common and distinctive culture, religion, language. In other words, it is a large group of people who have the same national, or cultural origins, or the state of belonging to such a group.
- **Gender:** The socially constructed roles that defines and differentiates the roles, rights, responsibilities, and what is appropriate behavior and obligation for women and men.
- **Linguistic diversity:** It is presence of variety of language spoken and ability to communicate with different language within a community. If the people of a particular society interact with others by making use of a variety of languages, the society can be said to have linguistic diversity.



- **Multiculturalism:** The term “multicultural” is often used as a descriptive term to characterize the fact of diversity in a society. Multiculturalism endorse an ideal in which members of minority groups can maintain their distinctive collective identities and practices.
  - **Respecting differences:** Respect means different things to different people depending on the very things that make each person different, including culture, background or any other dimensions of diversity.
  - **Tolerance of difference:** Tolerance is the willingness to tolerate the existence of opinions or behaviour we dislike or disagree with. In other words, it refers to showing a neutral or objective attitude towards those who are different from you. These differences may include religion, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, education, etc.

## Unit Review Exercises

## **Part I- True/False questions**

1. There is a society without its own culture, cultural values and cultural practices.
  2. Cultural diversity is the common feature of contemporary societies.
  3. Multiculturalism is the best strategy to accommodate diversity and maintain national unity within diversity.

## **Part II- Multiple choice questions**



3. Multiculturalism and federalism in today's Ethiopia has been adopted to;
  - A. reconcile the imbalance between upholding ethnic and national identity
  - B. build national unity and maintaining diversity
  - C. eliminate cultural diversity and ethnic identity
  - D. A and B
4. Which one of the following is not basic pillar of multicultural societies?
  - A. Ignoring differences
  - B. Respecting diversity
  - C. Recognizing Ethnicity
  - D. Tolerance of cultural diversity

### ***Part III- Short answer questions***

1. What makes Ethiopia multicultural societies?
2. What is the difference between multiculturalism and mono-culturalism?
3. Why do societies need multiculturalism and diversity accommodation?



# UNIT

# 6

## **NATIONAL UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY**

### **Introduction**

In unit 5 you learnt about the importance and roles of multiculturalism and multicultural issue, understanding diversity accommodation in diversified societies.

In unit 6, you are going to learn about the nature and importance of national unity through diversity as nation building approach. This unit mainly deals with the importance of national unity within diversity and appropriate for diversity management policy in multicultural society. Thus, this unit is very interesting to create and uphold our county's national unity and national identity within the current diverse Ethiopian societies.

***Key Words and Concept:***  
*Accommodation of diversity, Beauty in diversity, National unity, Unity in diversity*

### **\* Learning outcomes:**

*At the end of this unit, you will be able to:*

- Know the concept of unity in diversity
- Appreciate the beauty of unity in diversity
- Recognize the balance between diversity and unity
- Develop the habits of accommodating diversity

### **\* Lessons**

1. *Elements of diversity*
2. *Accommodation of Diversity*
3. *The importance of diversity management in Ethiopia*
4. *The need to have a balance between unity through diversity*



# LESSON

# 1

## 6.1. Unity in diversity

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Define unity in diversity*
- Explain the importance of unity in diversity*
- Uphold unity in diversity to forge common identity in Ethiopia*

### The meaning of unity in diversity



#### *Brainstorming*

- ➡ *Have you heard that when someone says “our diversity is our beauty”? What does it mean by unity within diversity?*

Unity in diversity refers to the feeling of being one over common destinies among a member of a group. On the other hands, diversity refers to the existence of variations of different characteristics in a group of people. This involves mutual understanding



and harmony among groups of individuals with a multitude of differences in terms of culture, religion, ethnicity, language etc. In this regard, unity in diversity means oneness in a variety of peoples living together by acknowledging and respecting the rich diversity that exists in the society.

In short, ‘unity in diversity’ is about accepting different groups of people background as members of one nation who agreed to live together in harmony. In other words, it is a situation where people from different religions, tribes, and cultures living as undivided nation. This needs proper understanding of diversity issues and designing right policy for diversity accommodation.



*Figure 6.1: Photos of Diverse Ethiopian Nations with their beautiful dressing cultures*



## Activity 6.1



- Identify issues that need unity and differences in current Ethiopia to forge unity within diversity or to maintain a balance between unity and diversity.*

No.	Unity	No.	Diversity
1	National unity	1	Speaking different languages
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	



## Remember

- ❖ Unity in diversity is not about uniformity; rather, an expression of harmony between dissimilar individuals or groups
- ❖ Unity in diversity involves commonality without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation
- ❖ Unity in diversity is the acceptance of different groups of people from different angle of one nation to live together in harmony.
- ❖ National Unity is a feeling of oneness across the entire country.
- ❖ Unity in diversity is common issue in culturally diverse society and there must be the balance between diversity and unity.



# LESSON

# 2

## 6.2. Elements of diversity

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- List the basic elements of diversity within a society*
- Describe the importance of diversity accommodation*

### Elements of diversity



#### Brainstorming

→ *Can you list some elements of diversity in your community?*

Diversified societies are characterized by multiculturalism, political pluralism, religious diversity as elements of diversity. In Ethiopia, people of diverse customary institutions, religions, cultures, historical backgrounds, etc. have been living together.

The major element of diversity characterizing culturally diverse society includes presence of diverse cultural, religious, ethnic, linguistic and etc... groups.

#### 1) Cultural diversity

In this sense, cultural diversity refers to occurrence of different cultures, religions, languages and ethnic backgrounds. Therefore, cultural diversity is about bringing



people together from a diverse set of backgrounds and cultures that recognizes the differences between them. Due to this, in the true cultural diversity, no culture which is superior to other cultures and no culture is inferior to any other culture and all cultures should be seen equally.

## **2) Religious diversity**

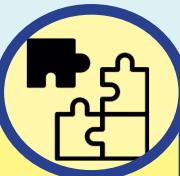
Religion is a cultural manifestation which we have to respect. When we respect the religions of others, it means that we respect their culture. This enables us to live in harmony as citizens of one country. Religious diversity is one of the common features indicating existence of diverse religions and belief systems in the society. Religious diversity is the fact that there are significant differences in religious beliefs and practices. Ethiopia is a country of religious diversity known as the land of peace and religious tolerance. Therefore, in Ethiopia there is tolerance and respect of religious diversity in general. In the country both Christians and Muslims, churches and mosques are often situated within close proximity and relationships are peaceful. In addition to this, there are indigenous religions and belief systems practiced in some parts of the country.

## **3) Linguistic diversity**

Language diversity, or linguistic diversity, is the existence of different languages in a given country. If the people of a particular society interact with others by making use of a variety of languages, the society can be said to have linguistic diversity. Linguistic diversity gives extra attraction to such societies; as such societies possess different kinds of literary writings and linguistic symbols. More over language is one of the most important aspects of culture and a society in which people speaks different languages can promote different cultural entities.



## Activity 6.2



*Answer the following questions in cross-over group with the facilitation of the teacher.*

- 1. What are the advantages of respecting the equality of peoples from different backgrounds?*
- 2. If we do not respect and promote cultural and religious diversities in Ethiopia, what will happen to tolerance of differences and peaceful coexistence?*

## Remember

- ❖ Diversity is used to signify unity among individuals who have differences on the basis of culture, language, ideology, religion, ethnicity, etc.
- ❖ Celebrating unity through diversity used to achieve unity by acknowledging and respecting diversity in society
- ❖ Unity in diversity is useful for a diverse country. It allows people of different religions, cultures to live together peacefully.
- ❖ Diversified societies are characterized by cultural diversity, religious diversity, language diversity, etc, as elements of diversity
- ❖ Cultural diversity is used to describe societies of different cultures, religions and languages. In the true cultural diverse there is no culture which is superior to other cultures.



# LESSON 3

3

## 6.3. Accommodation of diversity

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Identify appropriate means to accommodate diversity*
- Explain the importance of diversity accommodation*
- Exhibit behaviors of accommodating cultural diversity*

### The meaning of diversity accommodation



#### Brainstorming

→ *What exactly does mean accommodating diversity in contemporary Ethiopia?*

In contemporary multicultural societies, accommodation of diversity has been adopted as opposed to national integration as distinct strategy to deal with cultural diversity. It is assumed to be an appropriate way of responding to diversity and realizing national integration in multiethnic and multicultural nations. In accommodation of diversity differences are accepted, accommodation implies to the right way to



diversity management. Diversity management is a process intended to create and maintain a positive work environment where the similarities and differences of individuals are valued. It is the policy approach deals diversity issues aimed at cultural accommodation and national integration in nation building process.

**Brainstorming**

→ *Is 'accommodation' implying 'integration'?*

While accommodation requires the recognition of more than one ethnic, linguistic, national, religious community in the state and aims to secure the coexistence of different communities within the state, integration aims at equal citizenship and at privatization of differences. Therefore, accommodation of diversity can be achieved when the society's components demonstrate mutual acceptance of differences within the society; and respect for the consequences of these differences.



*Figure 6.2: Unity in diversity.*

Management of cultural diversity within a state has become an increasingly prominent issue in recent times not only in developed countries but also in developing countries like Ethiopia. In modern times, although members of society share broadly common



culture, they entertain different beliefs and practices concerning certain significant areas of human life. Cultural diversity and multiculturalism are the terms very commonly used to describe societies of different cultures, religions and languages.

### ***Individual Assignment***

Find historian or lawyers in your locality and ask question on the following topics and present to student in the class.

- 1. What is Ethiopian national unity and how we can promote it?***
- 2. How can we maintain the balance between cultural identity and national unity?***
- 3. The difference between ‘national identity and ethnic identity in Ethiopia?***

### **Remember**

- ❖ Diversity accommodation is a step taken to ensure that everyone, regardless of physical ability, religion, gender, etc... is able to participate fully.***
- ❖ Accommodation of diversity is the distinct strategy to deal with cultural diversity.***
- ❖ In accommodation of diversity, differences are accepted, and accommodation implies to the right way to diversity management***
- ❖ Diversity accommodation is the policy approach deals diversity issues aimed at cultural accommodation and national integration in nation building process.***



# LESSON

# 4

## 6.4. The importance of diversity management in Ethiopia

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Describe ways of diversity management in Ethiopia*
- Explain the importance of diversity management in Ethiopia*

### Diversity management in Ethiopia



*Brainstorming*

→ *Why diversity management matters in Ethiopia?*

Ethiopia contains over 80 different ethnic groups and each ethnic group has tribes and sub-tribes. Each ethnic group has distinct cultural practices and speaks a language specific to the ethnic group. The question of building unity in diversity from a multicultural state and federal system has been adopted as a solution for incorporating both unity and diversity. Therefore, managing diversity through accommodating diversity while maintaining unity and avoiding fragmentation are highly needed in the current Ethiopian nation-building process. Thus, to effectively make a balance between maintaining national unity and accommodating diversity,



in appropriate manner in contemporary Ethiopia, it is very important to consider several historical, political, and socio-cultural factors.

### Case Study

Abdella is a new graduate teacher who was assigned to work in a community where Christians are dominant. He is from a society in which the majority are Muslims. Upon hearing his assignment, some of his close relatives advise him not to go to this work place. They just thought that Abdella will not be welcomed by that community simply because of his religion. However, Abdella rejected their advice and went to the work place. When he arrived there, he was surprised with the warm welcome of the community and their respect for cultural and religious diversity. The community always celebrates the holidays of both Christians and Muslims together and they are always proud of having a diverse society.

**Do the questions based on the case study presented above. Present your answers to the class.**

1. What do you understand from the above case?
2. Reflect the experience of your community in relation to this case study



## The need to have a balance between unity through diversity

A very crucial balance between unity and diversity within society is not an easy goal to achieve. In forging unity in diversity in multicultural societies the most important thing is the balance between diversity and unity within one country.

A balance between unity and diversity is used to create national integration and common national unity and identity among all nations, we have to recognize and respect differences in language, religious, identity, cultural values and historical background. This means to ensure the state national unity and common identity those differences must be respected and recognized.

Now-a-day appreciation and recognition of diversity is understood not only as a solution to challenges related to diversity but also used as an alternative means to achieve national integration in diversified societies. National unity involves awareness of common identity and national feeling among the citizens of the country for national unity and national integrity. Here, for effective national integration and unity in diversity, although they have different religions and speak different languages they must recognize and believe that they are all one. When feelings of unity and harmony are in the hearts of the peoples a sense of common citizenship or feeling of loyalty to the nation will be fostered among the citizens of the state.

Balancing national unity and diversity in Ethiopia is a very important task. Our population is characterized by a complex pattern of ethnic, linguistic and religious groups and these aspects of diversity are considered significant distinguishing features of the country.

Therefore, to effectively maintaining Ethiopian national unity out of diverse ethnic identities, religion, cultures, and socio-political differences, the need to balance between ‘unity and diversity’ is very critical issue. This means to make a ‘united Ethiopia’ and common national feeling among all Ethiopians, recognition and promotion for diverse ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious differences is equally important as the nations’ national unity.



## Remember

- ❖ *Diversity management is a process aimed to create and maintain a positive work environment where the similarities and differences of individuals are valued.*
- ❖ *In Ethiopian nation-building process, accommodating diversity issues and maintaining national unity are equally important, balancing national unity and diversity in Ethiopia is a very important task*
- ❖ *In forging unity in diversity in multicultural societies the most important thing is the balance between diversity and unity within one country.*
- ❖ *Maintaining a balance between promoting national unity and accommodating diversity is very essential for Ethiopian nation state*
- ❖ *In Ethiopia, to ensure the state national unity and common identity differences must be respected and recognized.*



## Unit Summary

Now-a-day, maintaining unity within diversity is the national agenda of many states with in different degrees. To effectively accommodate diversity and develop common national identity unity in diversity is believed to be the right approach. Unity in diversity means oneness in a variety of peoples of many religions, cultures and traditions living together.

Celebrating unity through diversity means we can achieve unity by acknowledging and respecting the rich diversity that exists in our society today. In Ethiopia, people of diverse customary institutions, religions, cultures, historical backgrounds, etc. have been living together. They have been living together for many centuries and this shows the intense tolerance and unity of the Ethiopian people. The major element of diversity characterizing culturally diverse society includes presence of diverse cultural, religious, ethnic, linguistic and etc... groups.

Diversity management is a process intended to create and maintain a positive work environment where the similarities and differences of individuals are valued. It is the policy approach deals diversity issues aimed at cultural accommodation and national integration in nation building process.



## Glossary

- **Accommodation:** It implies a normative decision about the right ways of diversity management.
- **Diversity:** is a natural phenomenon that helps to bring different views, experiences and acceptance among people.
- **Diversity accommodation:** is a process intended to create and maintain a positive work environment where the similarities and differences of individuals are valued.
- **National Unity:** is a feeling of oneness across the entire country. In other word is a situation where by people from different religion, tribe, and culture live as undivided nationhood.
- **Unity:** the state of being one; oneness of mind, feeling, etc., as among a number of persons; harmony or agreement.
- **Unity in Diversity:** is the mutual understanding and harmony among groups of individuals with a multitude of differences in terms of culture, religion, ethnicity, race, language etc. It is used as an expression of harmony and unity between dissimilar individuals or groups.

## Unit Review Exercises

### **Part I- True/False questions**

1. Unity in diversity is a concept of “unity without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation”.
2. National unity can be understood as the process of unifying a society to make it harmonious.
3. Religious diversity is the fact that there is significant uniformity in religious beliefs and practices.
4. Accommodation of diversity implies to the right way to diversity management.
5. A very crucial balance between unity and diversity within society is an easy goal to achieve.



## **Part II- Multiple choice questions**

1. Unity in diversity means oneness in a variety of peoples of many
  - A. Religion
  - C. Languages
  - B. Culture
  - D. All of the above
2. In nation building processes, national unity involves?
  - A. National cohesion
  - C. Social solidarity
  - B. National integration
  - D. All of the above
3. Which one of the following is not the elements of diversity?
  - A. Religious diversity
  - C. Language uniformity
  - B. Cultural diversity
  - D. Linguistic diversity

## **Part III- Short answer questions**

1. What is diversity accommodation?
2. What are elements of diversity?
3. Why diversity accommodation is highly valued in Ethiopia?



# UNIT

# 7

## PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

### Introduction

In unit 6 you learnt about national unity through diversity and the importance of diversity management in Ethiopia. In this unit, you are going to learn about the concept of problem-solving skills and its importance for successful individual and collective life. This unit deals with intellectual and practical skills that are used to solve practical problems in our day-to-day activities. Thus, this unit is very interesting and useful to resolve individual and social problems in our daily lives.

**Key Words and Concept:**  
*Characteristics of good problem solvers, Problem Solving, Problem Solving Skills, Steps in Problem solving*

### \* Learning outcomes:

*At the end of this unit, you will be able to:*

- Understand the Concept of Problem-Solving Skills
- Know the importance of problem-solving skills
- Appreciate the characteristics of good problem solvers
- Demonstrate the steps to problem-solving skills

### \* Lessons

1. *Meaning of Problem-Solving Skills*
2. *The importance of problem-solving skills*
3. *The characteristics of good problem solvers*
4. *The ways to improve one's problem solving skills*



# LESSON

# 1

## 7.1. Meaning of problem-solving skills

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Describe problem solving skills**
- Explain the abilities to solve problems**

### Meaning of problem-solving skills



**Brainstorming**

→ **How do you define the word problem-solving?**

The meaning of the word problem may be different for different people based on the difficulty and nature of the problem someone encounter. However, understanding what exactly is meant by problem is very important to find the solution for the problem we are talking about. Therefore, defining problems in appropriate manner is critically important to find the solution for our problems and get success in all aspects of life.

A problem is an unpleasant situation that prevents people from achieving what they want, to and the operation they undertake is called to solving a problem. We



may face problems in our everyday life and success in our life depends on ways of solving that problem. Some problems are so simple and others are difficult that cannot be addressed by our limited capacity and ability independently. However, some problems are understood as challenges we encounter in every day activities of our life and the value we have makes problem difficult or easy to overcome. Thus, to solve a problem easily we need to define and understand problem before finding the solution for it.



## ***Brainstorming***

→ ***What does it mean by problem solving skill?***

Problem-solving skills are valuable intellectual abilities and capacities for leading a successful life. Being able to effectively solve problems is essential for any person in his/her overall career development. In its' broader sense, problem solving is the act of defining a problem, determining the cause of the problem, identifying and selecting alternatives for the solution and implementing the solution. Thus, problem solving is a process that uses steps to solve problems. What is the difference between problem solving and decision making?

Problem solving and decision making are inter-linked and solving a problem tactfully involves making right decisions. Decision making is about selecting the right option from a number of available alternatives. On the other hand, problem solving is about finding answers to complicated issues and problems. As a result, in the problem-solving process, an individual must be able to combine the appropriate operations and apply them to the solution.

The ability to solve problems is a basic life skill and is essential to our day-to-day lives at home, at school, and at work. We solve problems every day without really thinking about how we solve them. For example, suppose that you lose your bag with mobile phone in a bus while going to visit your relatives living in a city for the first time. Because of that you could not call your relatives. Your pocket is also empty as



you have lost your money with the bag in the bus. This is a serious problem. The solution for this problem needs creative problem solving and critical thinking skill. Therefore, problem-solving skills are the most important skills that help us to become successful in achieving our personal and common goals in life. Being able to effectively solve problems is beneficial in nearly any position and can support a person's overall career advancement. Problem-solving skills help individuals to efficiently and effectively find solutions to issues. There is no right way to solve a given problem and different people will solve it differently. However, to become successful, the best problem solvers use various methods for solving problems.

### Case Study

Suppose you have long time close friends at your class. However, your two friends quarrel with each other because one of the students denied a reference book borrowed from another one. Due to this, your close friendship is disturbed and you stop studying and enjoying together. But you never feel good by what happened between your two friends and you always worry about their case.

Based on the above case study, attempt the following questions:

- 1. As the best friend of both students, how do you solve their conflict and resume to their previous intimate friendship?**
- 2. What is the specific methods you will employ to solve disagreement problem between your classmates?**





Figure 7.1: Discussion for problem solving

### **Remember**

- ❖ *Diversity accommodation are steps taken to ensure that everyone, regardless of physical ability, race, religion, gender, etc. is able to participate fully.*
- ❖ *Accommodation of diversity is the distinct strategy to deal with cultural diversity. It is alternative way to cultural assimilation and common culture.*
- ❖ *In accommodation of diversity, differences are accepted, and accommodation implies to the right way to diversity management.*
- ❖ *It is the policy approach deals diversity issues aimed at cultural accommodation and national integration in nation building process.*
- ❖ *Cultural assimilation policy is the diversity management strategy used to ignore, eliminate and exclude diversity in nation building process.*



# LESSON 2

## 7.2. The importance of problem-solving skills

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Apply problem-solving skills in your daily life*
- Explain the importance of problem-solving skills for successful life*
- Identify aspects of problem-solving skills*



*Brainstorming*

► *Why problem-solving skill is important in human life?*

Problem solving skills and the problem-solving process are a critical part of daily life both as individuals and organizations. Good problem-solving skill enables us to identify and define the problem, create alternative solutions, evaluate and select the best option, and apply the selected solution. Receiving a response and responding properly is also an essential aspect of problem-solving skills.



Generally, the importance of developing problem solving skills in human life is to;

- Making good decision
- Brainstorming ability
- Self-awareness and creativity
- Become analytical person
- Developing emotional intelligence
- Overcoming complex challenges.

### Activity 7.1



***Assume that one morning you find it raining, but you have to go to the school. The time to class is fast approaching. What will you do to overcome the difficult?***

The ability to solve problems is a basic life skill and is essential to our day-to-day lives, at home, at school, and at work. Effective problem-solving involves several skills within the problem-solving process, and each career may require specific problem-solving skills. We solve problems every day without really thinking about how we solve them using experience and indigenous knowledge and skills. This skill is considered to be a soft skill, or an individual strength, as opposed to a learned hard skill. This means everybody may have this skill without having formal education and training in different degrees of application.

There are various indigenous problem-solving skills in every society that are used to resolve different problems people face in their life. In this regard we have ample social skills that are used to resolve our social and individual problems in our individual and collective life. These problem-solving skills include negotiation skill, cooperative or collaborative skill, diversity tolerance skill and others. In addition to this, there are also many soft skills we have gained from our life experiences. Integrating these indigenous skills with scientific ones is very important in the problem-solving process.



# Problem solving



## Conflict resolution

The capacity to recognize and respond to important matters



A readiness to forgive and forget



The ability to seek compromise and avoid punishing



A belief that resolution can support the interests and needs of both parties



## Critical thinking

Open-minded



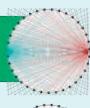
Logical or rational



Willing to reassess information



Considers a wide range of perspectives



Open to all reasonable possibilities



Figure 7.2: Importance of problem solving skill

## Project Work

**Find an elder person in community and ask them question as how to develop conflict resolution skill. Then, present to the class what you have learned from the interview you conducted.**



# LESSON 3

## 7.3. Characteristics of good problem solver

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Describe the characteristics of good problem solver*
- Identify the essential attributes of problem solver*
- Praise the qualities of good problem solver*

### 7.3.1. Qualities of good problem solver



#### *Brainstorming*

► *Are problem-solving abilities inborn, or are they learned?*

A problem-solving skill helps individuals to efficiently and effectively find solutions to problems. However, there is no single way to solve a problem and different people try to solve problems they face in different ways. Moreover, specific methods and techniques employed in different contexts can determine our problem-solving ability.



Therefore, good problem solvers are people who use a combination of intuition and logic to come up with the best solutions.

Most intelligent problem solvers recognize that there is almost always more than one solution, so they develop several alternatives from which to choose. Problem solving skills are as varied as the issues they are applied to and effective problem solvers share common characteristics.

**Some of the general characteristics of good problem solvers are:**

- They have clear definition of the problems at hand
- They are reasonably open minded but logically skeptical
- They look for opportunity within the problem
- They see problems as challenges and try to learn from them.
- They do prevention more than intervention
- They have reasonable expectations.

### *Group discussion*

**Be in group and discuss the following questions**

- 1. Do all problems need to be solved using the same problem-solving skill? Is problem solving skill based on the difficulty and nature of the problem?**
- 2. To be a good problem solver, how can someone develop or improve his/her problem-solving skills?**



### 7.3.2. Stages of problem-solving processes

Problem solving is the process of identifying a problem, developing possible solution paths, and taking the appropriate course of action. To solve any problem effectively and become good problem solver, we have to pass through certain steps in the problem-solving process. Good problem solvers are people who properly follow these steps and respond to the issue in each step accordingly. This is what we call stages of problem solving. They need to be considered in any problem-solving process. To solve or clarify any problem, there are many systematic methods and ways which we call as a process of problem-solving. Problem solving requires a methodical step-by-step approach to a challenge.

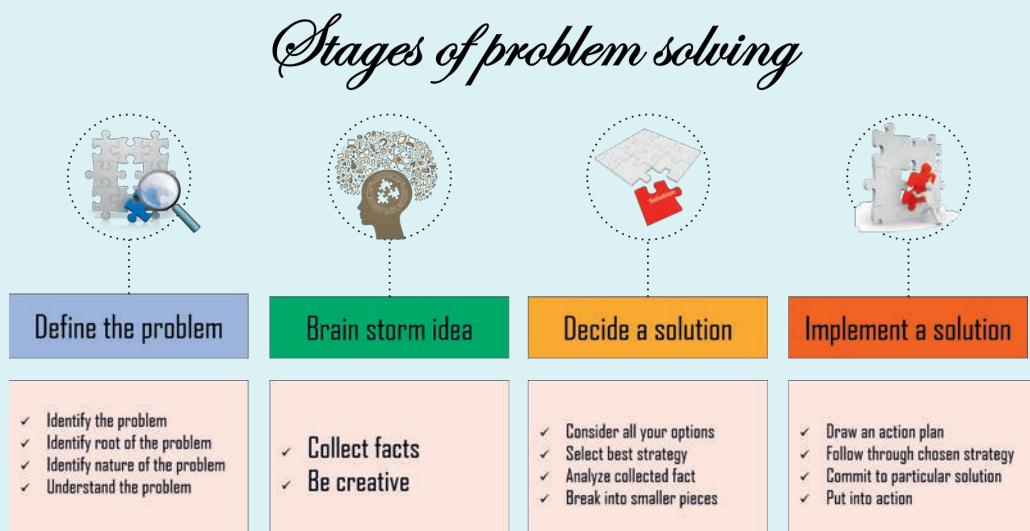


Figure 7.3: Stages of problem solving

Here are some basic stages of problem-solving we can follow when approaching a problem in our personal life.

#### Step 1: Define the Problem

- The first step for you will be to define the problem. Then try to identify the roots causes or sources of the problem and the nature of the problem by asking questions and looking at the problems from different angles. It is very important to understand the problems and the challenges you would face while addressing them. Once you clearly understand the problem, you find the right solutions for that problem by using your problem-solving skills.



## **Step 2: Brainstorm**

- Once you have a clear understanding of the problem, the next step is to dig a little deeper into the situation and collect as many facts as you can about the problem to get a clear picture of it. The best way to gather information is by asking questions to those who are connected or related to the problem or situation. This is one of the most important stages of problem-solving that requires a careful balance of creativity and logical thinking.

## **Step 3: Decide on the solution**

- Strong decision-making is essential at this stage. After carefully considering all options, you must select the best strategy for the problem and stick to your choice. After you have identified the problem and collected information, the next step for you is to organize all the collected information and then analyze it. While you do your analysis, try to build links and relationships in order of better understand the problem. Once you have done the proper analysis, breaking down the big problem into smaller pieces, it will help you find different solutions to it.

## **Step 4: Implement the Solution**

- Implementation is the critical peak of the problem-solving process. This is where you draw up an action plan, share it with the appropriate personnel, and follow through with chosen approach. When you have chosen the best solution according to your requirements, and you are committed to that particular solution, now it's time to put it into action. Implementation of the solution is a key to get the best possible outcome, and hence this process needs careful attention. Sometimes, even the best solution could fail because of ineffective implementation. So, it is necessary to implement the plan most efficiently in order to avoid unforeseen problems. After you have completed the above steps, you just need to use your critical thinking ability and analytical thinking ability to create logical links between different potential solutions.



## Activity 7.2



- Find one problem in your school or out of the school and try to address the problem using different problem-solving skills following the four stages of problem solving in collaboration with your classmates and your teacher as facilitator.*

### Remember

- ❖ *Problem solving is the process of identifying a problem, developing possible solution paths, and taking the appropriate course of action.*
- ❖ *Good problem solvers are people who use a combination of intuition and logic to come up with the best solutions*
- ❖ *Effective problem solvers invariably see problems as opportunities, a chance to learn something new*
- ❖ *Being a good problem-solver means thinking innovatively and that means thinking outside the box.*
- ❖ *Problem-solving requires a methodical step-by-step approach to a challenge*



# LESSON

# 4

## 7.4. Ways to improve one's problem solving skills

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Apply creative thinking to solve problems*
- Evaluate ways to improve one's problem solving skills*
- Apply critical thinking to solve problems*

### 7.4.1. Meaning of creative problem-solving



**Brainstorming**

► *What is creative problem-solving skill?*

Problem-solving involves diagnosing the possible causes of a problem and developing an action plan that solves that problem. Problem -solving skills are soft skills that help you analyze a problem or challenge to create an effective solution. People use problem -solving skills all the time, both in their personal and professional lives. The effectiveness of problem-solving process is mostly determined by the approach



and strategy we employ to solve the problem. As a result of this, developing the skill of creative problem -solving requires constant improvement to encourage an environment of consistent innovation. Therefore, problem -solving skills are an essential part of everyone's life as it enables him/her to take control of his/her surroundings.

Creative problem -solving is an approach that identifies unique solutions to issues through a process of problem identification and resolution planning. Creative problem-solving is considered a soft skill, or personal strength. It involves analyzing an issue, defining an approach and implementing a solution and it requires creative problem-solving activities. These exercises are techniques on how to improve problem solving skills and the art of problem solving. Effective problem-solving involves several skills within the problem-solving category, and each career may require specific problem-solving skills. Problem solving requires people to think critically and creatively. What is critical thinking? What is creative thinking?

## **1. Critical thinking for problem solving**

Critical thinking can be described as the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking. It is the ability to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas. Critical thinking skills enable you to analyze information and process it rationally to help you determine the value of that information or make a decision. Good critical thinkers focus on facts, and on the scientific evaluation of the information at hand.

Moral integrity, ethical consideration and action, and global citizenship practices are all symbols of effective critical thinkers. Critical thinking is important to be open-minded and critical analysis to be and being fair and reasonable. Critical thinking is the process to rationally analyze and attempt to solve a problem accurately and efficiently.

## **2. Creative thinking for problem solving**

Effective critical thinkers are also largely creative thinkers. Creative thinkers are one who think 'outside the box'. When solving problems, creativity can help to think of new methods, approaches and solutions for the problem. Creative problem-solving skill is the ability and capability to move to clarify the trouble in an impressive



and at the right time. Creativity can help to effectively and refine our designs to increase efficiency. The difference between critical thinkers and creative thinkers is that creativity is associated with generating ideas, while critical thinking is associated with analyzing and evaluating those ideas. Creative problem solving involves the ability to think critically and rationally to easily overcome the problem we encountered independently.

#### 7.4.2. Problem solving skill as attributes of good citizens

Problem solving involves using available information to identify and design solutions to problems. Our capacity to develop solutions to problems defines our ability to have good problem-solving skills. This involves our soft social skills that help us to become competent and responsible citizen for our actions and decisions in our day-to-day life. Thus, a good problem solver must have attributes of good citizen and a problem solver must show this disposition.

Good citizens are ones who display various social and problem solving skill. Problem solving skill is one of the most important qualities of good citizens. Problem solving skills are used to be applied to resolve different interpersonal problems in the conflict management and resolution processes. Moreover, good attributes of citizen involve social skills that helps to improve individuals' problem solving skills which good citizens are expected to exercise in their daily life. The primary attributes of good citizens that help to improve problem solving skills are conflict resolution and critical thinking skills.

##### I. Conflict resolution skills

Within relationships conflicts are inevitable, learning to deal with them in a healthy way is crucial. When conflict is mismanaged, it can harm the relationship. But when it is handled in a respectful and positive way, conflict provides an opportunity for growth, ultimately strengthening the bond between the parties. Successful conflict resolution depends on:

- The capacity to recognize and respond to important matters
- The readiness to forgive and forget
- The ability to seek compromise and avoid punishing
- The belief that resolution can support the interests and needs of both parties



## **II. Critical thinking skills**

Critical thinking is the process of rationally analyzing and attempting to solve a problem accurately and efficiently. It is a cognitive skill or a mental process or the ability to think rationally and clearly. A critical thinker is a person who possesses the following characteristics:

- Is open-minded
- Is logical or rational
- Is willing to reassess information
- Considers a wide range of perspectives

techniques employed in different contexts can determine our problem-solving ability.



*Figure 7.4: ways to improve problem solving*



## Remember

- ☞ *The effectiveness of problem-solving process effectiveness is determined by the approach and strategy employed to solve the problem.*
- ☞ *Creative problem-solving is considered a soft skill, or personal strength and it requires people to think critically and creatively.*
- ☞ *Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas.*
- ☞ *Critical thinking is the process to rationally analyze and attempt to solve a problem accurately and efficiently.*
- ☞ *Creative problem solving involves the ability to think critically and rationally to easily overcome the problem we encountered independently .*
- ☞ *Problem solving skill is one of the most important qualities of good citizens. Thus, a good problem solver must have attributes of good citizen.*



## Unit Summary

Effective problem-solving involves several skills within the problem-solving category, every problem may require specific problem-solving skills match with the problems encountered. Therefore, good problem solvers are people who use a combination of intuition and logic to come up with the solutions. To solve problems effectively, we have to pass through certain steps in any problem-solving process. Good problem solvers are those who properly follow the steps and response to the issue in each step accordingly. The effectiveness of problem-solving process is mostly determined by the approach and strategy we employ to address the problem.

Developing the skill of creative problem-solving requires constant improvement which encourages an environment of consistent innovation. Therefore, problem-solving skills are essential parts of everyone's life as they enable him/her to take control of his/her surroundings. Effective problem-solving involves several skills within the problem-solving category, and each career may require specific problem-solving skills. Creative problem solving involves the ability to think critically and rationally to easily overcome the problem we encounter independently.

In general, problem solving involves using available information to identify and design solutions to problems. Our capacity to develop solutions to problems defines our ability to have good problem-solving skills. This involves our soft social skills that help us to become competent and responsible citizens for our actions and decisions in our day-to-day life. Thus, good problem solver must have attributes of good citizens and he/she must show this disposition.



## Glossary

- **Collaboration:** means working together with one or more people to complete a project or task or develop ideas or processes.
- **Conflict resolution:** is the art of addressing those differences and finding common ground that enables everyone to work together peacefully.
- **Creative problem-solving skill:** is the ability and capability to move to clarify the trouble in an impressive and at the right time.
- **Creative thinking:** refers to using abilities and soft skills to come up with new solutions to problems. It is the ability to consider something in a new way.
- **Critical thinking:** is the process to rationally analyze and attempt to solve a problem accurately and efficiently.
- **Decision making:** is the process of making choices by identifying a decision, gathering information, and assessing alternative resolutions.
- **Negotiation skill:** is a method by which people settle differences. It is a process by which compromise or agreement is reached while avoiding argument and dispute.
- **Open mindedness:** the quality of being willing to consider ideas and opinions that are new or different to your own.
- **Problem-solving:** skills refer to the ability to tackle and resolve these problems when they occur. It is intellectual abilities and capacities for leading a successful life.
- **Problem solving skills:** refers to our ability to solve problems in an effective and timely manner without any impediments.
- **Rational thinking:** refers to content, and is a qualitative judgement as to whether the correct angles have been considered and taken into consideration.



## Unit Review Exercises

### **Part I- True/False questions**

1. Problem-solving skills are invalid intellectual abilities and capacities for leading a successful life.
2. Problem-solving skills help individuals to efficiently and effectively find solutions to issues.
3. Problem solving skill is considered to be a soft skill, or an individual strength, as opposed to a learned hard skill.
4. Good problem solvers are people who use a combination of intuition and logic to come up with best solutions
5. Problem solving requires a methodical step-by-step approach to a challenge.

### **Part II- Multiple choice questions**

1. Some of the most essential problem solving skills includes;
  - A. Making good decision
  - B. Brainstorming ability
  - C. Building trust and credibility
  - D. All of the above
2. Which one is the 1<sup>st</sup> steps in problem solving processes?

A. Decide on the solution	C. Implement the Solution
B. Define the Problem	D. Brainstorm
3. Which one of the following is not characteristics of good problem solvers?

A. Open mindedness	C. Rational thinking
B. Critical thinking	D. None of the above



4. Which one of the following is correct?
- A. Problem solving requires people to think critically and creatively.
  - B. Effective critical thinkers are also largely creative thinkers
  - C. Creative thinkers are one who thinks ‘outside the box’.
  - D. All of the above
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the process of identifying a problem, developing possible solution paths, and taking the appropriate course of action.
- A. Conflict resolution
  - B. Problem solving
  - C. Critical thinking
  - D. Decision making

## ***Part II- Short answer question***

1. How critical thinking skill helps to improve problem solving skill?



# UNIT

# 8

## **ETHIOPIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS IN EAST AFRICA**

### **Introduction**

This unit acquaints you with basic concepts of foreign relations and Ethiopia's foreign relations in East Africa. No state in the world can live alone in isolation from other states. The survival of one state depends on another state in order to secure its national interests. The first lesson of this unit deals with the concepts of foreign relations. It discusses the concept of foreign relations, national interests and foreign policy. Lesson two deals with instruments of foreign policy. Finally, lesson three of the unit discusses the roles of foreign policy in enhancing regional cooperation, peace and security and socio-economic development.

**Key Words and Concept:** Foreign relations, National interests, Foreign policy, Instruments of foreign policy, Diplomacy, Regional cooperation.

### \* **Learning outcomes:**

*At the end of this unit, you will be able to:*

- Understand the concept of foreign relations
- Know the instruments of foreign policy
- Comprehend the roles of foreign policy for the peace and socio-economic development of the country

### \* **Lessons**

1. *The concepts of foreign relations*
2. *Instruments of foreign policy*
3. *The roles of foreign policy in enhancing the regional cooperation, peace and security and socio-economic development*



# LESSON

# 1

## 8.1. The concepts of foreign relations

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Define foreign relations*
- Describe foreign policy*
- Explain principles of foreign policy*
- Identify principles for external relations of Ethiopia*



### *Brainstorming*

→ *Do you think that your family can live alone without having any relationships with their neighbors? Why is establishing a good neighborhood is important? Similarly, have you ever heard when Ethiopia establishes different relationships with its neighboring states such as Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, etc.? Can you explain why Ethiopia does this?*



The famous Greek Philosopher Aristotle, describes the natural behavior of human being as saying “man is a social animal”. Human beings cannot live in isolation from other fellow beings. Human beings fulfill and satisfy their basic needs in association with others because; no one is self-sufficient in himself /herself in life. Just as a human being cannot survive in isolation from others, no state can exist or sustain in isolation from others states. So, it is a must for a particular state to have strong relationships with other states in order to fulfill or ensure its national interests. This is called foreign relations.

Foreign relation is defined as the external relations of a country with countries of the world. Ethiopia has long history of foreign relations with other countries mainly to protect its national interests and respect for its sovereignty. Regarding this, country’s principles for external relations are sated under Article 86 of the 1995 FDRE constitution. According to this article of the constitution, Ethiopia’s foreign relations shall be based on the protection of the national interests of the country and ensuring its sovereignty. In addition to this, the constitution states that foreign relations of the country are based on mutual benefits and equality of the states, observance of international agreements and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. Furthermore, Ethiopia’s foreign policy emphasizes on promoting mutual economic development and peaceful co-existence and strong public relations with its neighbors and other African states.

### 8.1.1. National interest

National interest is a key concept in foreign relations. It refers to goals, claims, demands which states always seek to achieve, preserve and secure in relations with other nations. Every state attempts to achieve or secure its different national interests, for example, political, socio-economic, cultural and security interests. National interest can also be understood as survival of a state. It is the protection of the sovereignty of the state from external interventions or aggressions. Securing its national interest is all about a universally accepted right of each state. Thus, the behavior and activities of a state is always governed by its national interests.

All states devise and continuously search for national security, political independence and territorial integrity. Maintaining or preserving both domestic and external security is among the most priority issues of the national interest of a given state. The absence of peace and security in one state can be a threat to the security of another



state. For instance, in the Horn of Africa, the longtime security crises in neighboring state Somalia has been a case of concern for Ethiopia and the globe. On the other hand, the achievement or success of the socio-economic development of one state depends on that of another. A good example for this is Ethio-Djibouti relationships. Almost 90 per cent of Ethiopia's imports arrive via the port of Djibouti.

### 8.1.2. Foreign policy

States can realize their foreign relations through their foreign policies. Foreign policies are the agreements, strategies, methods and guidelines that states usually use to accomplish their actions in the international arena. Foreign policy is the most important element by which states are able to convert their broadly conceived goals and interest into concrete reality. A particular state needs to formulate its foreign policies mainly to protect its national security, core values and interest, ideological goals and economic development.

Generally, the main aim of foreign policy of a given state is to accomplish its national interest and maintain its national ideology. All states are subject to the influence of the decisions and actions of other nations. A state without a foreign policy, compared with a ship in the deep sea without any knowledge of directions. Thus, foreign policy leads a state in fulfilling its national interests and acquiring rightful place in the international arena.



## Activity 8.1



1. *What is the importance of foreign relation?*
2. *What are the major components of the national interests of Ethiopia?*
3. *Why foreign policy is needed for a particular state?*

## Remember

- ❖ *No state survives without some relationships with other states.*
- ❖ *Foreign relation is the external relations of a country with countries of the world.*
- ❖ *Ethiopia's principles for external relations are sated under Article 86 of the 1995 FDRE constitution.*
- ❖ *Ethiopia's foreign relations shall be based on the protection of the national interests of the country and ensuring its sovereignty.*
- ❖ *The main aim of foreign policy of a given state is to accomplish its national interest and maintain its national ideology.*



# LESSON

# 2

## 8.2. Instruments of foreign policy

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Describe different instruments of foreign policy*
- Identify the importance of instruments of foreign policy*



### Brainstorming

→ *What do you think about the instruments of foreign policy?  
Can you mention some of them?*

States employ different instruments to implement their foreign policy. Among these the major ones are, diplomacy, propaganda, economic tools and military methods.

#### Diplomacy

Diplomacy refers to the ways states manage their sovereign relations with other mutually recognized states. It is the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations. It is the skill of handling affairs without arousing hostility. Diplomacy is an instrument or process by which foreign policy is carried out. It is used to provide the machinery and the personnel by which foreign policy is executed.



Diplomacy is not an end but a means, not a purpose but a method. It seeks, by the use of reason, conciliation and the exchange of interests, to prevent major conflicts arising between sovereign states.

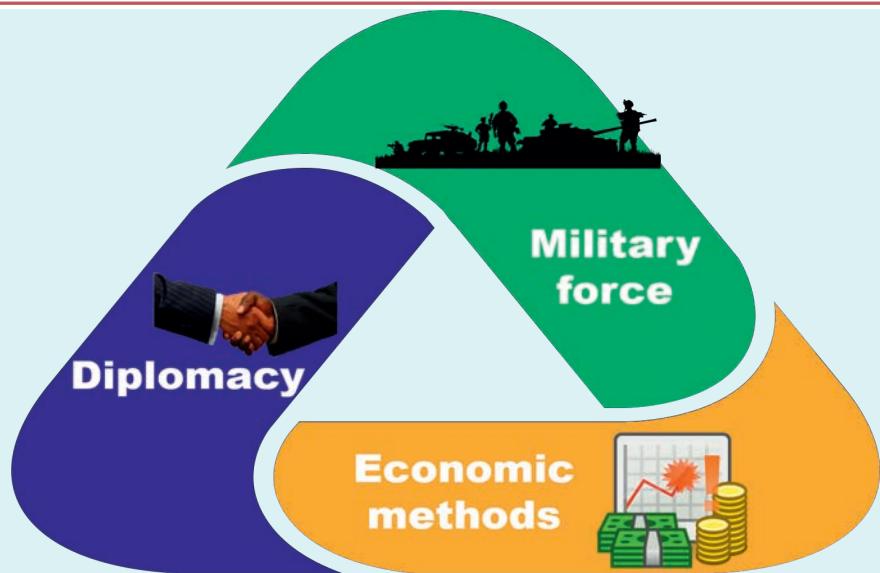
### **Economic methods**

Economic development is among the core instruments of the foreign policy of states. Economically all states across the world are not at the same level or status. In terms of the level of economic development, there are well developed nations such as the United States of America, European states, China, Japan, India and others. On the other hand, there are least developed nations like many African states including Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, Kenya, South Sudan, etc. Since all states are economically at various level of development they depend on each other to meet their national economic interests. The economic instrument of foreign policy, thus arises from this fact.

### **Military Force**

Sometimes states do not accomplish their foreign policy objectives only through diplomacy or dialogue and negotiations. The foreign relationships conducted between or among states can go beyond diplomatic deal and finally lead to conflicts. This means that; states use this instrument when their national interests are not fulfilled by peaceful methods. During this time, states use military interventions as the last resort. In order to realize foreign policy through military power, the strength of a particular state matters, because states with highly advanced and latest military technologies, for instance USA, Russia, China and others have a great bargaining power over other states in the international arena. This foreign policy instrument is more of violent and follows imposition of force on other countries.





## Instrument of foreign policy

Figure 8.1: Instruments of Foreign Policy

### Activity 8.2



1. *What are the differences between diplomatic, economic and force instruments of foreign policy?*
2. *Why do states employ force instrument of foreign policy as the last resort?*

### Remember

- ❖ *Diplomacy refers to the ways states manage their sovereign relations with other mutually recognized states.*
- ❖ *Economically all states across the world are interdependent.*
- ❖ *States use military force as their foreign policy instrument when their national interests are not fulfilled by peaceful or diplomatic ways.*



# LESSON

# 3

## 8.3. The roles of foreign policy

*By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:*

- Describe the roles of foreign policy in enhancing regional cooperation in East Africa*
- Explain the roles of foreign policy in promoting peace and security of Ethiopia*
- Identify the role of foreign policy in socio-economic development of Ethiopia*



### Brainstorming

- ➡ *What are the roles of foreign policy in enhancing regional cooperation?*



### 8.3.1. The roles of foreign policy in enhancing the regional cooperation

East Africa, particularly the Horn of Africa has been known for its recurrent civil wars and border disputes in its history. However, this does not mean that the East African states do not have foreign relationships with one another. Rather, states in the Horn of Africa such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda have a long standing links with each other in areas of language, culture, history, natural resources, and so on.

In addition to this, there are cross Boundary Rivers that connect Ethiopia with its neighboring states. Such rivers can determine a special type of relation between the countries that these rivers cross. The Blue Nile, Tekeze, Aqobo and Baro flow to Sudan and Egypt. Wabishebelle, Genale and Dawa rivers flow to Somalia and Omo River flows to Kenya. These rivers have significant contributions in the development endeavors of all states and their fair utilization is a great security concern among them. For instance, there has been a serious disagreement between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt on the construction of Grand Renaissance Dam by Ethiopia on Abay River. Thus, these countries will have to negotiate and make agreements in how to use these rivers equitably.

On the other hand, Ethiopia is the largest country without port in the Horn of Africa. As a result, it needs to create strong regional cooperation with neighboring states by formulating appropriate foreign policies. One of the key regional institution through which Ethiopia realizes its regional foreign policy is Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD). This regional organization is very important to promote peace and security through economic integration in East Africa.

Generally, regional cooperation has great impacts in the daily life of the people. It helps to solve cross- border disputes among states and speed up socio-economic transformations of states. Accordingly, Ethiopia has to look regional foreign policy as a podium to realize its two major national interests. The first one is ensuring peace and security, whereas the second one is socio-economic transformations.





*Figure 8.2: The regional cooperation of the states of the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, Kenya, Eritrea, Somalia, Uganda and South Sudan)*

### 8.3.2. The roles of foreign policy for sustainable peace of Ethiopia

A country that is not peaceful domestically cannot enjoy peace with its neighbors. Peace and security as one of core components of national interests of state is a prior-condition of the national development and regional integration. For a long time East Africa, particularly the Horn of Africa has witnessed civil wars between states and also terrorist attacks by Al-Shabaab.

Ethiopia is referred to be a regional power in the Horn of Africa, owing to its military and diplomatic influence as well as its population size. Ethiopia's growing involvement in regional peace and security concerns demonstrates the country's determination to lead and influence the area. Thus, Ethiopia in terms of its strategic location and one of the regional powers needs to cooperate with regional states for the establishment of a peaceful, integrated and prosperous region.





*Figure 8.3: Ethiopia's peace keeping force on mission in the horn of Africa*

### 8.3.3. The roles of foreign policy for socio-economic development of Ethiopia

East African states are the least developed in terms of socio-economic development. Except Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda, all of these countries have ports. The provision of port services benefits both the service supplier and the service recipient. In fact, if Ethiopia's neighbors do not supply port services, its economic consequences will be severe. For instance the port of Djibouti was designed from the start to serve Ethiopia, given its proximity to Djibouti. This has great contributions for rapid socio-economic development of the country.

Similarly, Ethiopia is a provider of major market for Djibouti as compared to other neighboring states. Thus, the port of Djibouti is the bedrock for the socio-economic relationships of the two states. In addition to this, Ethiopia saves millions of dollars each year by importing oil from neighboring Sudan. Ethiopia also exports electric power to Djibouti, Sudan and Kenya. This regional power pool of the country intends to raise its export profits while also boosting the economic growth of electricity-importing countries. Therefore, Ethiopia has been playing a great role in promoting the economic cooperation in the region through its foreign policy.





Figure 8.4: Oil provided to Ethiopia from Sudan and Ethiopia's part of Djibouti port

### Activity 8.3



- What are the advantages of establishing strong diplomatic relationships with its neighboring states for Ethiopia?*



## Remember

- ❖ States in the Horn of Africa have a long standing links with each other in areas of language, culture, history and natural resources.
- ❖ Ethiopia has to look regional foreign policy as a podium to realize its national interests.
- ❖ Regional cooperation helps to solve cross-border disputes among states and speed up their socio-economic transformations.
- ❖ Peace and security as one of core components of national interests of state is a prior-condition of the national development and regional integration.
- ❖ Ethiopia is referred to be a regional power in the Horn of Africa, owing to its military and diplomatic clout as well as its population size.
- ❖ The socioeconomic development is one of the primary foreign policy objectives of Ethiopia.

## Unit Summary

In this unit you have learned about the concept of foreign relations. Foreign relations refers to the interactions or relationships that exists between or among the states in the areas of peace and security, Economic development and world order. The central focus of foreign relation is national interest. You have also learned that states conduct their foreign relations through foreign policy. Foreign policy is the strategies and methods by which states can accomplish their national interests. In foreign relations states use different tools of implementing their foreign policy such as diplomacy, economic instruments and force.

You have also learned in this unit about the roles of Ethiopian foreign policy in East Africa in terms of enhancing regional cooperation, ensuring peace and security and promoting socio-economic development.



## GLOSSARY

- **Diplomacy:** the ways states manage their sovereign relations with other mutually recognized states.
- **Foreign policy:** is the agreement, strategy, method and guideline that states usually use to accomplish their actions in the international arena.
- **Foreign relations:** The external relations of a country with countries of the world
- **National interests:** The goals, claims, demands which states always seek to achieve, preserve and secure in relations with other nations.
- **Regional cooperation:** means cooperation and coordination between member states to promote their mutual socio-economic development and ensure regional security.

## Unit Review Exercises

### **Part I: Write True for correct statement and False for incorrect one.**

1. No state lives in isolation from other ones.
2. Ethiopia compromises on its national interests in its foreign relations in East Africa.
3. Ethiopia has less benefit from its foreign policy in East Africa in terms of investment and development finance.
4. Diplomacy is a violent instrument of foreign policy.
5. All states are subject to the influence of the decisions and actions of other nations.
6. Regional cooperation affects the everyday life of the people in the region.

### **Part II- Multiple choice items**

1. The minimum essential components of the national interest of any state include;
  - A. Security
  - B. National development
  - C. Strength and influence in international arena





