



# **Strathmore University**

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Faculty of Information  
Technology

**HED3101 - Social and Political Philosophy**

**Group: BIF/BTC 3**

*Assignment: THE COMMON GOOD*

## **Group Members**

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1. Outline Briefly the main problems encountered by proponents of the common good.

- a. **The pluralistic nature of society.**

The idea of common good is inconsistent with a pluralistic society like ours, in the sense that different people have different definitions on what would be the common good for all mankind.

- b. **Free-rider problem.**

This is when a group of individuals reap the benefits of common good and refuse to contribute to it in the least. While they allow other members of the society to support the common good.

- c. **Individualism**

Individualism is a common belief by our society where each individual should be allowed to pursue his/her own dreams without interference from other members of the society. Therefore, having the ability to do one's thing the way they want it and when they want it done without anyone's interference has been accorded much value and is viewed as individual freedom. However, without any individual sacrifice for the sake of the "common good" it is impossible to achieve it.

- d. **Unequal sharing of burdens**

In many circumstances, for the common good to be achieved, it costs a certain group or even an individual a very high cost compared to what is borne by the other people. Most of these groups or individuals may not be willing to bear this great cost for the sake of the common good or even bear any cost at all for that matter.

2. Discuss four ways in which college students and young professionals participate in the common good in their locality.

- a. **Innovation**

Young professionals and students can come up with innovative ideas that are meant to help their community develop in an efficiently and quick manner.

- b. **Voting**

Electing leaders that will support their vision of a better future. This is the only way to elicit political change within a democratic country, and by voting for a leader who has vision and integrity, they support the common good.

**c. Speaking out**

Voicing their views on activities which go against the common good of their society, such as speaking out against terrorism, corruption, violence, abuse, among others.

**d. Environmental activism**

Proper usage of facilities and resources provided for the betterment of themselves and others. For example - not dropping any waste or trash around their locality, participating in tree planting, using energy saving bulbs at their homes, doing their laundry in bulk at home which highly conserves water, among others.

3. Explain four ways in which the said young people commit antisocial activities.

**a. Materialism**

Due to this doctrine and its spread in today's world, young people have become increasingly materialistic, this selfishness they dismiss the idea of common good in the community in favour of obtaining their own wants and desires.

**b. Technological advancements**

This has brought about personal distance in society's individuals, such that young people do not see the need to go out and see the condition of environment and think of ways to make it better. This includes the use of electronic devices at home and at social gatherings therefore making it hard to meet up with friends or socialise during gatherings.

**c. Lack of care for the environment**

This is against the common good since the environment is a shared resource. Any damage done to it by acts such as littering, playing loud music which is noise pollution, leaving taps running in their learning institutions, among others is antisocial behaviour.

**d. Criminal Activity.**

Committing crimes is an antisocial behavior since it does not benefit any one and does not abide with the laws set by the society and also by moral virtues. This includes rioting/hooliganism during matches, political campaigns and university strikes.