

CIVIC EDUCATION

Civic education means the multiple processes through which children and young adults acquire the knowledge, skills and dispositions that are needed for effective democratic citizenship.

Civic Education deals with the roles, norms, principles and values that guide the conduct of individuals in the society.

It is about good virtues, knowledge, attitudes, attributes and skills that are necessary for political participation and community service. It prepares both the young and adults in the country on how to carry out their roles and responsibilities as citizens. Civic education is about how to be socially and legally part of the society.

Civic education involves both formal and informal settings. The informal settings include the families, communities, clubs etc while formal settings involve workplaces, civic organisations, unions, campaign rallies, political organisations, electioneering, mass media etc.

Civic education helps to prepare citizens for both community and political participation. Civic education teaches about democracy and democratic practices and principles. It helps to prepare future leaders. It inculcates in students good moral values and skills that are necessary to become a useful member of the society.

Civic education develops ideas, beliefs, habits, attitudes etc that are necessary for the development and progress of the society.

It helps in cultivating moral values, political norms, principles, hardwork and obedience necessary for national development.

Civic education provides basic understanding of civil life, politics, and government. It provides a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens in constitutional democracy.

It helps students to understand the workings of our own government, and other political systems as well as the relationship of our own government with other countries.

Civic Education aims at preparing students to get involve in activities that promote and demonstrate good citizenship community service, political participation and personal responsibility.

REASONS FOR STUDYING CIVIC EDUCATION

Civic Education is central to the purpose of Nigerian education and essential to the well-being of Nigerian democracy.

However for, "Government of the people, by the people and for the people" in Lincoln's phrase to survive, it means that the people have the right to control their government and participate in the government. But this right is meaningless unless they have the knowledge and skills to exercise that control and possess traits of character required to do so responsibly.

Therefore we study Civic education for the following reasons:

1. Civic education teaches about democracy and democratic principles and values.
2. Civic education prepares students to be good and responsible citizens.
3. It inculcates the sense of nationalism and patriotism that will translate to responsive citizenry.
4. It teaches and develops good ideas, beliefs, habits, attitudes, etc in students.
5. It inculcates moral values, knowledge, skills and standards that

- are necessary to become useful member of a society.
- 6. It also inculcates good virtues such as honesty, cooperation, integrity, courage, tolerance in citizens.
 - 7. It teaches us about our rights, obligations and duties.
 - 8. It enables citizens to address social issues so as to make life safer and easier for people in the community.
 - 9. It exposes students to a body of knowledge and develops participatory skills.
 - 10. It fosters certain dispositions and traits of character that enhance the individual's capacity to participate in the political process and contribute to the healthy functioning of the political system and improvement of society.
 - 11. Civic education helps in the preservation and improvement of Nigerian constitutional democracy.
 - 12. It broadens people's knowledge and understanding of democracy and democratic system.
 - 13. It enables citizens to shun corruption and corrupt practices.