

UNIT 11

Pursuit of Wisdom

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- understand the meaning of pursuit of wisdom.
- realize the significance of knowledge for betterment of ones own life and development of country at large.
- identify the necessity of knowledge and information for correct decision.

11.1 Knowledge and its Significance



Picture 11.1. Tree



Picture 11.2. Car



Picture 11.3. Camel

- Explain the meaning of above pictures and their significance for human beings.

- How do you know about those things?
- On the basis of answers you gave for the above two questions, what does knowledge mean?

How can we find knowledge?

Zeyneba, Muhaba, Lemma and Tediso are grade five students. One day, their teacher W/ro Mulu gave them homework on the title “Explain the meaning knowledge by using different information.” Those students usually like to read, debate, discuss and participate on different issues. Hence, they liked the homework.

After taking the homework, each of them engaged in different information gathering works such as reading books and interviewing people. After having individual’s finding, they gathered for common discussion. They discussed on the case thoroughly and responded in the following ways,

- Zeyneba** - Knowledge is an understanding concerning places, people and issues around us.
- Muhaba** - It is mental instrument to identify helpful from harmful.
- Lemma** - Knowledge is something we get from teachers, reading books and studying environment.
- Tediso** - Knowledge is our understanding about animals, earth, air condition and technology.

Each of them presented their ideas to the class in such way that students heard and surprised by their findings. The teacher becomes delighted by the effort of those students.

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Activity 1

Read the following carefully and debate on it:

1. Among those four students answer about knowledge, is there any wrong response?
2. What is knowledge? What is your answer?

Knowledge is an understanding of surrounding/ environment. By looking peoples and environment, we are widening our knowledge. By getting information from peoples, we are widening our knowledge. Through learning in schools, we are getting knowledge. Furthermore, through attending mass-medias, we acquire knowledge.

Knowledge directs us to be free from any kind of influence. For example, by constructing houses, we secure ourselves from cold, rain, sun rays and natural disasters. We investigate the way of disease transmission through knowledge. So, we are taking care of it either by using preventive or curative measures. This justifies, as far as knowledge expanded, human life is getting improved and improved. Hence, when you search knowledge in your school, you are becoming more and more active.

Activity 2

1. When it said that “Knowledge is once attained and not improved from time to time”, is it true? Justify.
2. From knowledge and money, which comes first to construct a house?
3. Among persons with higher and lower knowledge, which is more important to a country? How?

11.2 Methods of Gathering and Analyzing Information



Picture 11.4. People listening to radio



Picture 11.5. People reading newspaper



Picture 11.6. People watching television

- What kind of information do you get from pictures regarding as source of information?
- What are sources of information?
- What is the significance of getting frequent information?

Activity 3

Read the note titled “Ras-Simosh” and answer questions after it?

“Ras-Simosh”

This is the most collaborative work tradition by farmers of Arsi zone of Oromia Region. In this case, brother-in-law brings a work team to his in-law’s family. The interest of bringing such team may originate either from brother-in-law or from his in-laws. In all cases, the objective is to support his in-laws in cutting products in the fields which is expected to strengthen the relation between the two families.

The work team has higher responsibility and encompassing large man-power. This has the power to challenge their (in-laws) capacity of hospitality. Specially, if inviters of the “Ras-Simosh” are families of a woman, they have to arrange large feasts, which provides to guests such as ‘Tela’, ‘Areke’, ‘bread’, ‘Enjera’ and ‘wot’. The higher satisfaction of work team in the invitation is a prestige for in-laws.

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Picture 11.7. Farmers collecting crops

Sometimes, the cost of arranging feast may also be the concern for the brother-in-law. He has to provide certain things to support them. Specially, if the bringing of work team ideas has initiated by him, he has to take the whole responsibility. He has to bring the feast from his home by carrying on the back of donkey. Still, however, his in-laws have to provide fattened oxen. Furthermore, the work team may dwell in the home of his in-laws on basis of the distance they have to come back.

Activity 4

1. From where do you see the writer of “Ras-Simosh”, has gotten such information?
2. How does the writer gather such information?
3. What are sources of knowledge?

Information is a source of knowledge which may be gathered from books, radio, television and the like. It may be gathered through looking, listening, smelling, touching and testing. It may emanate from our environment or out of our environment. Among information from our environment, we can mention about community peace, sex and age of teachers, holidays and etc. The election result of house of peoples representatives, the international cost of oil, the expansion of HIV/AIDS are some of information among emanating from outside the community.

There are different sources of information which are helping to enhance our knowledge. The main ones are education, reading, mass-medias, observation etc. Observation is serious watch of occurrences and practices in our environment. For example, as we read the case of “Ras-Simosh” in the passage in the above, the writer gathered such information by seriously observing what individuals are doing and interviewing aged and honoured people. Then the writer provided such information for us and other

readers which can be further disseminated for understanding others.

School is the main source of knowledge. There are different professionals in school working the whole day to help us. We can get information and knowledge by reading books, newspapers and magazines. Other sources of information and knowledge are radio and television. They are providing recent and latest information and knowledge of the whole world.

Visiting is another source of knowledge. By such practices, we can get information of topography, air condition and the culture and way of life of the people.

To develop such different information, we have to put that information into practice. Furthermore, we have to see their advantage and disadvantage through critical analysis. To be effective in such way, individuals have to note it down and record in cassette.

Activity 5

By selecting one of the followings:

- A. Collect information supporting the topic from different sources.
- B. Organize the identified information in different category.
 1. The history of the establishment of your school.
 2. How can we take care of the health of milk-giving cow?
 3. What is the importance of habituating consumption of honey?

11.3 Backward Thinking and Attitude

- Some peoples say that “crop produced by using fertilizer is not durable”. Do such thinking are right? Why?
- Have you ever heard such saying in your community? Let you mention them and discuss in the class.
- How can it be avoided of such backward thinking and attitude in your community? What could be your role in avoiding such practice?

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Backward attitudes are based on unreasonable thinking. They are traditions, which may have lived long with us. It is an opposite of scientific and modern thinking. Individuals are based on illogical guessing. For example, we do not have realistic evidence if we say “why pottery is became the work of those few groups”. We also accept the dominance of males traditionally, but we do not have scientific answer for it.

Backward thinking is observed in different ways. Some of them are in sayings and traditional poems. Some are practical and even endangering the health of people. Among them female genital mutilation and uvula are there. Even, the consideration of evil eye is also among backward opinions. If this, the so called “evil eye” person, has effect on social life. And other peoples unnecessary worried of those peoples.

Backward attitude has effect on development effort. Because, it forces us to throw away things while they are important. On the other hand, it encourages harmful practices. Backward attitudes are obstacles to development of knowledge. Therefore, the new generation has to be free from such backward attitudes and thinking.

Activity 6

Give explanatory answer for the following questions:

1. What are effects of backward attitudes in residents of your community?
2. How do you see the fate of backward attitudes with the development of science and technology? Would they be avoided or continued to exist? Why?

11.4 The Culture of Reading



Picture 11.8. Students reading in the library

- What are those students in picture 11.8 doing?
- What advantages do the students can get from reading?
- What kind of relation is there between reading and knowledge?

Reading is attaining ideas which are stated in words in flat matter. The attainable issue may be giving knowledge, information or/and enjoyment. Authors are writing what they have found either by reading, observing, research work or practices and then disseminate it to others. These are the ways we get such basic points.

Reading has a number of contributions such as to widen our knowledge and to get experience. We have to habituate reading from our early childhood. There are peoples reached to higher level by practicing such cultures from their childhood. Some “honoured peoples” of our country such as Kebede Michael, Yilma Deresa, Tsegaye Gebremedhin and others reached to that level due to their habituation of reading from early childhood.

Activity 7

Read the following poem and answer questions after it.

መጽሐፍ ወዳጅ

ጥናት የወለዳት፣ ሣይንስ ያሳደጋት፤
 ፈላጎጅ ሽልመው፣ ምሁራን ያስገቧት፤
 ስለክብር ብዛት ሰዎች የማሉላት፤
 አለችኝ ፍቅረኛ መጽሐፍ የሚሏት።
 የምሁራን ዳኛ የጥበብ መስካሪ፤
 እንዳባት አለችታ እንደናት መካሪ፤
 የድንቁርና መርዝ የጨለማ ባትሪ፤
 ገስግሰሽ ነይልኝ መጽሐፌ ላንብብሽ፤
 ልንገርሽ አድምጪኝ ሆነሽ ካጠገቤ፤
 መንፈሴ ተጠማ ተራብልሽ ልቤ፤
 ድረሽ መጽሐፌ የአእምሮ ቀለቤ።
 የጥናት መብራቴ የሣይንስ ወዳጅ፤

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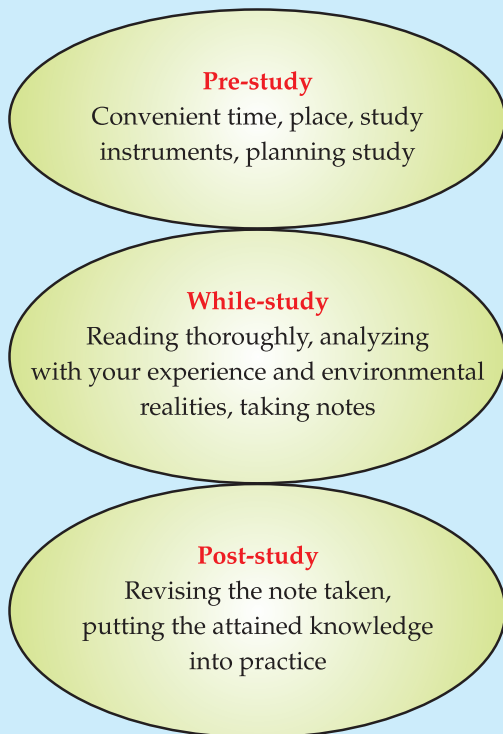
ስህጻን በመንገዱ ስቀመጥ በደጅ፤
 አጋር መጽሐፍ አትለይኝ ከጅ።
 ውዲ መጽሐፍ አንቺን ያነበበ፤
 አእምሮው ዳበረ ዕውቀት ተመገበ፤
 ልቡ ተሰፋ አገኘ መንፈሱ ጠገበ።

- (A) How can a book be a light?
- (B) Are the statements explaining a book as a killer of ignorance right? Why?
- (C) In general, what are advantages of reading books?

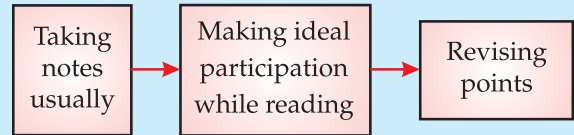
11.5 Methods of Studying

- Explain your preparations before you start studying to your colleagues of the class.
- What kind of practice you do while you are studying? What do you do after completion of your study?

Studying has its own steps. These steps are pre-study, while-study and post-study. The pictorial explanation below gives you, some brief understanding.



Taking note is very important in studying. The following points in boxes are said to be “golden law” for taking notes—let you be in group and discuss on the meaning and significance of them.



Studying thoroughly has a number of significances:

- To promote from one grade to next grade with good achievement.
- To reach good position in future such as to be teacher, engineer, builder, painter etc.

While you are reading (studying), you have to follow the following methods:

- Selecting convenient time and secured place to start studying
- Taking note while studying
- Analyzing while studying
- Evaluating the reality of ideas
- Associating the theoretical idea with practical world while studying.

Activity 8

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the importance of study?
2. What do you do in the following study steps?
 - (a) Pre-study
 - (b) While-study
 - (c) Post-study.
3. What is the importance of taking notes while studying?
4. What is the final goal of studying?

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Summary

Knowledge is attained from different sources. It enables us to change our environment. It can be attained from schools, reading and observation of environment.

Being based on unrealistic guessing and unscientific practices leads to be governed on backward understandings and opinions. When our understandings and opinions are backward, it is an obstacle to change our environment. It has side effect even in our health also. Studying can be, generally summarized as follows. It has pre-study, while-study and post-study steps.

Pre-study is creating convenient situations for study. The while-study step is while we are in mid-of study that required silence. Post-reading is also organizing what we have already read.

In general, it is expected that you have seriously attended the subject and realized basic concepts in it. However, mere theoretical knowledge by itself is nothing. You have to put into practice all your knowledge. You have great responsibility to pursuit wisdom and to combat harmful understandings and opinions.

Key Words

Wisdom:	The capacity to well understand issues and conditions
Information:	The raw idea gathered to know something
Study:	Investigating written or other sources to attain knowledge
Backward thinking:	Harmful understanding that is not based on reason, logic but based on tradition

Unit Review Exercises

Do these review exercises in your exercise book.

I. Write "True" if the statement is correct and write "False" if the statement is incorrect

1. It is important to read newspapers and books to get further knowledge.
2. Visiting is only for entertainment and not serves as the source of knowledge.
3. As knowledge expanded, human life is getting improved and improved.
4. It is possible to widen knowledge by observation of different things.
5. Reliable knowledge is attained only through reading books.

II. Match words or phrases under column 'A' with correct items of column 'B'

- | A | B |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. While-study | (A) Radio, Television, books |
| 2. Main source of knowledge | (B) Selecting readable materials |
| 3. Backward opinion | (C) Respecting elders |
| 4. Source of information | (D) Males have not to carry-out words of females |
| 5. Pre-study | (E) Serious reading of subjects |
| | (F) School |

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III. Choose the correct answer for the following questions

- How can backward opinions be reduced?
(a) Promoting education (b) Declining of science and technology
(c) By ignoring ours and accepts the culture of whites
(d) (b) and (c).
- Which one is the reliable modern source of information?
(a) School (b) Residence house
(c) Elder persons in our community (d) (b) and (c).
- Which of the following is the provider of information?
(a) Newspapers (b) Radio (c) Television (d) All.
- What is the importance of taking notes on study?
(a) Not to forget easily what we have read
(b) To discuss and understand with others on what we have not understood
(c) To improve our handwriting (d) (a) and (b).
- Which one of the followings is not backward opinion?
(a) Frequent taking of shower leads to skin dryness (b) Males have to support females in their work
(c) Supporting all traditional practices (d) Females cannot do what males are doing.

IV. Copy the table below on your exercise book and put (✓) mark in corresponding areas of practices either in "constructive" if it is healthy or "backward" if it unimportant

No.	Specific practices	Constructive	Backward
	<i>For example cutting uvula</i>		
	<i>Sharing information</i>		
1	Creating job opportunity than charity service		
2	Pottery is unimportant profession		
3	Giving doctoral treatment for children when they are sock		
4	Learning, learning and re-learning		
5	Respecting father and mother		
6	Female Genital mutilations		
7	Self-reliance than expecting aid from some		

V. Give short answers for the following questions

- What are the main sources of information?
- What is the importance of taking note in meantime of study?
- How can we practice participatory study while reading our notes?