

# UNIT 6

## Responsibility

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

- identify different types and levels of responsibility.
- understand your responsibility to preserve natural and historical heritages.
- describe how you can protect yourself from HIV/AIDS.

### 6.1 Fulfilling Responsibility

#### 6.1.1 Types and Levels of Responsibility



Picture 6.1. Traditional environmental hygiene day

- What do you understand from the photograph?

#### Memory

I used to work at the Customs Authority. Once an Italian named Baratolo came and asked me to erase his 30 million birr taxation debt. In return, he promised to give me 3 million birr with a lorry and a villa. I insisted that tax is the basis of our country's development and that no exemption could be made for him. This is because the law of the country has to be applied to everyone.

Later he sent to me a certain official as a mediator. I said to him "Is it right to sell our country?" He replied to me saying "You may stick to your principles, but the government will finally throw you away like a garbage". I responded angrily to him saying "That does not matter, the blessing of my country is enough for me".

The case became so serious that the Italian contacted the princess Tenagne Worq. She advised him to pretend to be ill and to take a bed at a hospital and she promised him that she would make the Emperor to visit him. When the Emperor visited him, he asked the Italian whether he had been hurt in a car accident. The Italian responded saying "No your majesty I have been injured, not in a car accident, but by the Custom Authority." The Emperor replied "Leave the case to us." In the middle of the year, I received a letter entitled "top secret". The letter informed, "The accumulated taxation debt of Baratolo is erased."

The Emperor was deposed on September 10, 1974. When I went to the office I met Baratolo. He asked me if I had received a letter. I said that I had not and consulted an official of the Ministry of Finance who loves his country. When I shared with him what annoyed me, he supported my stand and the Italian was accused. After a long judicial process the court decided that the Italian must pay all his accumulated tax debt.

(Source: Gebi Le Limat Megazin Volume 4 No 4)

#### Activity 1

Answer the following questions:

1. What does the refusal of the official to receive a bribe from the Italian show as?
2. What is the lesson of this story for a citizen who works for the development and prosperity of his country?
3. Explain the impacts of bribery on common interests.

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The basic goal of fulfilling our responsibilities is national development. Work is the basis for peace and development in social life. It is a citizenship responsibility to shoulder work and to accomplish it successfully. Shouldering (accepting) responsibility shows that one is determined to accomplish a certain task. Fulfilling a responsibility shows that one has successfully completed a task.

Responsibility is something to be accepted individually and collectively. Individual responsibility is the responsibility of every person to fulfill his/her duties alone. It is a moral and legal duty expected of every person according to his/her age, ability and position. If the person fails to discharge this responsibility, he harms himself, society and the country.

On the other hand, collective responsibility refers to the actions taken by members of a group or society for the common good. For example, defending the sovereignty of the country, wise use and protection of public property, combating terrorism and preventing crimes etc., are both individual and collective responsibilities.

As stated earlier, responsibility varies according to the type of profession, the level of education. For example, the development and survival of the country is the concern of every citizen. However, in making national plans and testing that whether the laws are properly implemented, the prime minister of the country is more responsible. Similarly, a doctor is professionally and morally more responsible than a nurse in the treatment of a patient. For the smooth flow of the teaching and learning process, the school director is more responsible than the administrative secretary of the school. Nonetheless, all the various positions and types of tasks are essential for success in a given field of activity.

### Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. What is responsibility?
2. What is the type of responsibility required in communally accomplishing tasks for the common good?

3. What is the difference between fulfilling and accepting responsibility?

## 6.2 Promise

- What is a promise?

### The treasure of promise

In Ethiopia, September is the beginning of new year. Schools will be opened and will start working to their full potential. The beginning of the school day is special at Ligaba School. Students of higher grades give lightening torch to those of lower grades. The tasks to be done by each grade in the academic year are assigned by the school's administration and students' council.

The tasks to be done by each grade are assigned as follows:

**Grade 7:** Keeping the school compound clean throughout the year.

**Grade 8:** Taking care of the school garden.

**Grade 9:** Supervision of water and toilet usage.

**Grade 10:** Generating income for the Red Cross Society and Voluntary Service Clubs (from vegetable farming, sports competitions and drama).

**Grade 11:** Fencing and painting the school's sports field, refreshment sites, flag ceremony areas and pathways.

**Grade 12:** Repairing old desks with carpenter, binding old books and planting and caring for memorial trees throughout the year.

All grades promise to accomplish their respective tasks. Along with the teaching and learning process, peaceful competition and activity continues from September onwards as students work on their prescribed tasks. The grade that fulfills its promise most successfully will finally be awarded a cup and a shield.

The environment at Ligaba School is clean and comfortable because the compound is kept neat and green. There are no broken chairs and torn notice boards or walls with faded paint. This is because students of all grades carefully work to protect

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school belongings as if they were their own, so as to fulfill their promises. The trees in the compound that serve as air conditioners, enhance the beauty of the school.

The other main activity of Ligaba School is repairing the houses of vulnerable and elderly people. Also, their villages will be cleaned and support will be given to the needy twice a year. These activities are organized by the Red Cross Society and Voluntary Service Clubs, and some residents in the locality apply to the student clubs for attention and assistance. The roads adjacent to the school are not crowded with pests, weeds and waste.

The fulfillment of assignments loyally and honestly by the students is considered as an honourable practice of keeping their promises. Thus, the students are thanked and their school is named the “Treasure of Promises” (Ye kalkidan Muday).

### Activity 3

Answer the following questions based on the above story:

1. What is the relationship between pledge and promise?
2. How did the students of Ligaba accomplish their responsibilities?
3. List the advantages of the completion of the tasks done loyally and responsibly by the student.

Fulfilling a promise is a mark of personal dignity and moral strength.

Among the promises made by students at school were punctuality, doing homework, obedience to school rules and regulations and participation in co-curricular activities.

By the end of the year, they have promised to their families and their school authorities that they would score satisfactory results and work in their lessons with full attention and responsibility, became successful ethically and academically and were rewarded for that. They also set a good example for

others. Young people who keep their promises play their part in solving the problems of their society by involving themselves in local associations. In this way, they achieve success in various developments. Since they are the ones who will take over the country, young students have to be able to reach their full potential. This local experience gradually transforms them to the level where they can discharge higher responsibilities.

### Activity 4

Answer the following questions:

1. In what terms are commitment and personal moral strength measured?
2. How should a young man participate in the development of his locality?
3. What can a student promise to himself/herself?

## 6.3 Natural Resources and Historical Heritage

- Mention some of the natural and historical heritage in your locality.



Picture 6.2. Natural and historical heritages need protection

Natural resources and historical heritage give identity to a society. These features are now prone to destruction and wastage, so they need to be protected. Our forest resources and bio-diversity are highly endangered as a result of increasing population and urbanization. Moreover, illegal hunting, destruction of natural resources and looting of historical sites are other causes of loss of identity. In general, the major causes of the destruction and wastage of natural resources and historical heritage are:

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1. Illiteracy and lack of awareness
2. Poverty and backwardness
3. Lack of national feeling and the prioritizing of personal prosperity.

These evil practices can be stopped mainly through education that encourages changes in attitudes. Schools and the mass media have a responsibility to contribute their part.

The protection and care of historical sites/our heritage not be considered as the responsibilities of a single party. Rather it is a national issue which needs cooperative work. Protecting them is the citizenship responsibility of everyone because their survival is important for the dignity and identity of everyone. Protecting them is the same as protecting our history.

### Activity 5

Discuss the following questions:

1. What is expected of the mass media for the protection of natural resources and our historical heritage?
2. What is the reason for the destruction and wastage of natural resources and historical heritage?
3. What is the responsibility of all citizens for the protection of natural resources and our historical heritage?

## 6.4 HIV/AIDS



*"My son died of HIV/AIDS leaving his baby to me. Hence, I was forced to start begging with my grand son"*

*"Let's discharge our responsibility for the elderly So that they do not have to shoulder burdens at their age of retirement"*

Picture 6.3. An old woman who lost her son to HIV/AIDS now begging on the streets with her grandson

- How did HIV/AIDS harm the elderly woman in the picture?
- What could be the fate of the child in her arms?
- Who benefits from protection HIV/AIDS?

HIV/AIDS affects everyone regardless of age, sex, colour, race and educational status. This epidemic causes great problems for citizens and the country. Thus, everybody is required to contribute his/her part to the prevention and eradication of this incurable disease. This epidemic which is causing social crises, has left children orphaned and parents helpless. This in turn is having a detrimental effect on social life, peace and well-being to see street children without anyone to care for them and elderly people begging in the street is.

HIV today is affecting the younger generation of our society. This in turn is reducing the productive force, increasing poverty and causing economic stagnation. The infection of professionals and workers by HIV/AIDS is increasing dramatically.

The best mechanism to prevent HIV/AIDS is abstinence from pre-marital sex. Marriage should only take place after blood tests. We also have to be protected from blood contamination by any means. For this, there must be no shared use of sharp items such as tooth brushes, needle, scissors or razors.

Protecting oneself from this epidemic is essential for ones own survival and that for others. Hence, it is an honourable citizenship responsibility. Parallel to this, those accidentally and unknowingly infected by the disease have to be supported and cared for regardless of their infection, as they are contributing their part to the development of their country. They need material and moral support.

### Activity 6

Discuss on the following questions:

1. What is the impact of the deaths of scholars and professionals due to HIV/AIDS?
2. What should we do to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS?



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## Summary

Our responsibilities are our moral and legal duties as citizens. The types and levels of responsibility differ in accordance with person's professional qualities and educational level. Whatever one's level one should work to the best of ones ability.

Promising to oneself and to the society is committing oneself to do or not to do a certain activity. A promise is an oral guarantee whereas its result is a tangible deed. Therefore, everybody must promise to bring about positive social change as much as he can and implement his promise in practice.

Enough education shall be provided for a citizen to make him/her aware of the history and resources

of his/her country. After being informed, everyone is responsible for the protection of natural resources and historical heritages from destruction and wastage. This is because natural resources are the basis for life and livelihood and our heritage provides our identity. Knowing about these resources, preserving and protecting them and creating awareness of them is a citizenship responsibility.

Furthermore, the healthy survival of citizens needs more care because people can only develop and improve their environment if they are mentally and morally healthy. Thus, one has to take care to avoid HIV/AIDS which is a great challenge to human beings.

## Key Words

<b>Responsibility:</b>	If you have responsibility for something it means that it is your job or duty to deal with it
<b>Discharging responsibility:</b>	Successfully accomplishing professional or social duties
<b>Memory:</b>	Remembering past history, situations etc.
<b>Citizenship:</b>	The legal right to belong to a country which you live in and satisfy the duties and responsibilities that brings. Citizens are supposed to fulfill these duties and responsibilities

## 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. A responsible person accomplishes his assignments properly.
2. HIV/AIDS affects everyone regardless of age, sex, colour, ethnicity and educational status.
3. A person who makes a promise should first consider his potential and ability.
4. It is only the government who is responsible for the protection of natural resources and historical heritage.
5. Natural resources and historical heritage give identity to a society.

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

- | A                                     | B  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Impacts of HIV/AIDS                | A. Common work for common benefit            |
| 2. Discharging responsibility         | B. Who denies his promise                    |
| 3. Honesty                            | C. Gold, petroleum and water                 |
| 4. Natural resources                  | D. Medicine, military, agriculture, guardian |
| 5. One who betrays (Liar)             | E. Accomplishing deeds successfully          |
| 6. Types and levels of responsibility | F. Rendering good service or being effective |
| 7. Collective responsibility          | G. Economic stagnation                       |

## III. Copy the following questions on your exercise book and fill the correct answer on the space provided

1. Respecting \_\_\_\_\_ is fulfilling responsibility.
2. Protecting oneself from HIV/AIDS is discharging \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A resource that passes from generation to generation and helps create our identity is called \_\_\_\_\_.

## IV. Choose the correct answer for the following questions

1. Discharging our collective responsibility:  
(a) Creates work delay (b) Does not have satisfactory result  
(c) Benefits many (d) Time wastes.
2. Which of the following is false about responsibility?  
(a) It varies according to our knowledge and capacity  
(b) All responsibilities are equal (c) It varies according to age  
(d) There are citizens who do not have to be responsible.
3. Keeping promises made at school  
(a) Promising to support the school (b) Not participating in co-curricular activities  
(c) Being successful academically and being involved in clubs  
(d) Developing self-confidence.
4. Historical heritage  
(a) Are identities (b) Do not serve for entertainment  
(c) Are not historical witnesses (d) Are not sources of income.
5. Reasons for wastage and the destruction of natural resources and historical heritage  
(a) Lack of awareness and responsibility (b) Expansion of tourism  
(c) Shortage of parks and museums (d) Lack of training in conservation.

## V. Give short answers for the following questions

1. What is the importance of discharging one's responsibilities?
2. Whose task is it to develop natural resources and protect our historical heritage? How?
3. What are reasons for the wastage of natural animals?