

Self-Reliance

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

- understand the negative impacts of dependency.
- explain self-awareness.
- know the importance of recognizing greater performance and learning from others for self-confidence.

8.1 Developing the Culture of Self-Reliance

8.1.1 Reversing Dependency



Picture 8.1. People depending on aid



Picture 8.2. Working for self-reliance

- In which of the pictures do you notice the effort for self-reliance?
- How can dependency be reversed?

ሳይቃጠል በቅጠል (A stitch in time saves nine)

While W/ro Hawa and Ato Ali were having tea and watching TV in their salon, Ato Ali pointed to the man on the TV screen and said, “Hawa!, this man was my childhood mate. He is called Kankura.”

Soon, the news reader said “Ato Kankura was caught red-handed while he was giving a bribe to get a site for house building illegally. Therefore, he has been sentenced to imprisonment and fined in today’s trial...”

Ato Ali was disturbed by the news he heard and said “You see, while we were school mates he used to give us biscuits, candy, exercise books and pencils as gifts so that he could copy exams from us.

W/ro Hawa replied saying “You see, this is why the saying goes **ሳይቃጠል በቅጠል** (A stitch in time saves nine).”

Ato Ali agreed with her comment saying “You are right, we were supposed to tell him to depend on himself rather than copying our exams.”

Meanwhile, W/ro Hawa responded with anger saying “You yourselves were economically dependent as you used to receive bribes of biscuits, candy, exercise books and pencils to allow him copy exam answers in violation of school regulations.”

Activity 1

Read the above story carefully and answer the following questions:

1. Explain the proverb “**ሳይቃጠል በቅጠል**” which W/ro Hawa used in the story. Why did she say it?
2. What would you do if you faced immoral acts like the one Ato Ali and Ato Kankura faced in their school?

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Group Work

Divide yourselves into three groups and do the following activities. Then, with the help of your teacher go to the social affairs office in your locality. Interview the officers. Then present the results of your interview for class discussion.

Group One: Write the details of characteristics which are manifestations of social and economic dependency.

Group Two: Write about the harm that could be caused by peoples with such characteristics of dependency.

Group Three: Write about the problems that people with such characteristics may face.

Dependency is the behaviour of waiting for one's basic needs to be fulfilled and one's problems to be solved by others. This behaviour may be exhibited by people at any age in any country or society. Particularly in our childhood we have to use our time wisely at home and do things by ourselves. This is because our future fate and personality is shaped in our families during our childhood. Being dependant on others from our childhood gradually becomes our behaviour and leads to a fatal failure. Therefore, we have to reverse dependency with self-confidence, self-direction and by working with our full potential.

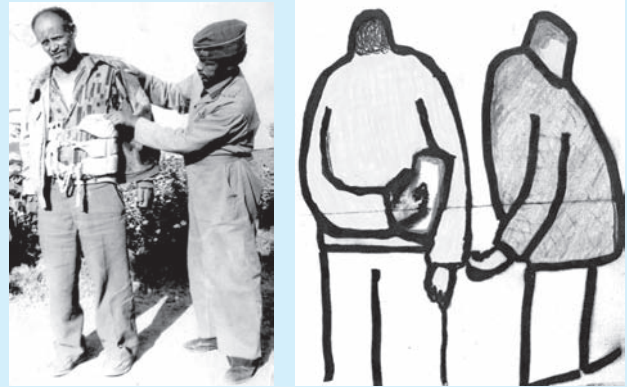
Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. What are the tasks that we can do for ourselves at home and at school?
2. How is dependency expressed by not doing these tasks?

8.1.2 Dependency and Contraband Trade

- What kind of trade is contraband trade?



Picture 8.3. Bribe and contraband trade are bad practices

- What do you understand from the above picture?

Useless act

Mamo is a well-known contraband trader in his village. Since he sells illegally imported commodities without a license, he does not pay tariffs or taxes on them.

Moreover, the commodities are of low quality because they do not pass through quality checks. Nevertheless, his villagers flow towards his shop to buy goods at lower cost.

Meanwhile, Mamo's neighbour, called Berisha, was concerned about the backwardness and poverty of his country. He hated and exposed illegal acts. In his plan to expose Mamo, Berisha often visited his shop pretending that he was about to buy goods.

One day, while he was investigating, Berisha heard Mamo's telephone conversation about his contraband commodities being imported to the country. Soon, Berisha reported the case to the police. The police took away the imported commodities and all the highly valuable contraband commodities which he stored at home. Mamo lost all that he had accumulated over long years. In addition, he was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. For the information he had provided Berisha was given a reward.

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Activity 3

Answer the following questions about the previous case:

1. What did you learn from Mamo's story?
2. Why is contraband trade wrong?
3. Perform a drama in your class based on the above story and then discuss the issue.

Contraband trade is a crime that leads to inflation and economic crises. It adversely affects development by weakening the economic capacity of the government. It makes the country lose foreign income by illegally importing and exporting commodities. It also affects legal traders by causing in economic crises.

Moreover, the illegal weapons that could be imported through contraband may be used for terrorist acts and banditry. This in turn puts the public in fear and has an adverse effect on the health and social life of the country.

Activity 4

Answer the following questions:

1. Why is contraband trade harmful to the peace, health and social life of a country?
2. What would you do if you faced people engaged in contraband trade?

8.2 Recognizing Greater Performance

- Look at the people in the picture and recall and describe such people who you know have been given awards in different professions.



Picture 8.4. People awarded for their exceptional performance

W/ro Bona Balanta

W/ro Bona Balanta lives in Hamer Woreda of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State. Besides bringing up her two children, she is a chairman of the association in her kebele. She recently has been given an award for her exceptional performance.

Question: Why were you chosen for the award?

W/ro Bona: In the past, women pastoralists of Hamer did not know the value of associations. They used only to work in cooperation ('Debo'). In all the other cases, they were dependent on their husbands. So, I was given an award for organizing the women's association in the Woreda.



Picture 8.5. Pastoralists W/ro Bona Balanta

Question: What caused you to organize the association?

W/ro Bona: Before organizing the association, I had improved my own performance in agricultural activities. Development agents trained me a lot about vegetable production, pottery and many other agricultural extension packages, but the women in my locality did not have this knowledge and did not benefit as I had done.

Therefore, I decided to organize them to work together. While I was planning like this, I got the opportunity to visit Afar region. There I met a certain non-governmental organization called "the Development Society of Ethiopian Pastoralists." I was informed that the organization provides cows and oxen to the women. I talked to them and they gave me ten cows and four oxen which I distributed among the women of my locality.

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Question: What challenges did you face in the process of establishing the association and how did you solve them?

W/ro Bona: I have faced a lot of challenges. For example, the women whom I registered for membership used to change their minds because they feared of their husbands. The husbands also used to condemn me saying “She is making our wives to look outside and misbehave.” Even my husband himself was not happy with my activities.

Later, they changed their attitude towards me when I distribute the cows and oxen among the women and when they saw that my goal was development for all our community.

Activity 5

Answer the following questions based on the above case:

1. Why was W/ro Bona Balanta given an award?
2. Explain how W/ro Bona expressed the importance of education in the improvement of performance.
3. What measures did the government take in order to motivate W/ro Bona and make others follow her example?
4. What would you feel by the award if you were W/ro Bona?

The basis for improved performance is greater effort in the area of our work. Our success will be greater if we know the purpose of our work and how we can improve our results. In addition, we need to develop our knowledge through education.

On the other hand, the essence of greater performance involves competition. This includes being in a better position than others and the ability to benefit oneself, one’s family and the country. For example, if we take W/ro Bona’s history, she transformed her life and that of the women in her village. She did so by developing her knowledge and skill, sharing others’ experience, working hard, respecting the dignity of work, giving recognition and respect to the deeds

of others and organizing the women in her village. Recognizing and respecting the deeds of others is a sign of civilization which makes successful people to work better.

Activity 6

Answer the following questions:

1. What would you do to achieve an improved performance?
2. Explain how improved performance involves competition.

8.3 Self-confidence

8.3.1 Decisive Role of Self-confidence in the Achievement of Improved Performance

- How does self-confidence lead to improved performance?

Visionary couples

Ato Mesfin Moga was born in the Yem special Woreda. He completed grade 12, but he was not successful in the National Examination. Ato Mesfin also took part in the “Development in Cooperation, Literacy and Work Campaign” in 1967 E.C.

Without being frustrated about his failure in the National Exam, he assessed the things that he could do with his level of qualifications. He thought that he would be successful if he combined his knowledge from school with the agricultural experiences that he had acquired from his family. He also committed himself to change the backward attitudes and culture of nutrition of the people in his locality.

There were rumors against him wondering how an educated person could be a farmer. He was supposed to work in an office in town, but instead he passed most of his life in the rural area. Regardless of the criticism Ato Mesfin insisted on continuing in agriculture. Later on he married W/ro Durtee Kusse who also completed grade 12 and who was engaged in agriculture, together with her parents.

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They started work with self-confidence and after assessing the challenges, potentials and alternatives, Ato Mesfin and W/ro Durtee became successful. Today they have received various awards for their achievements, which are important for themselves, their families and the country. They stood third in the “National Green Campaign Competition” and received their award from the hands of president Girma Wolde Giorgis in 1997 E.C. Now they are working better than ever and improving their capacity further.

Activity 7

Answer the following questions:

1. What enabled Ato Mesfin and W/ro Durtee to be self-confident?
2. Was their decision to go back to the rural area after completing grade 12, a well thought out decision? How? Explain the reasons.

Self-confidence is not a quality achieved by birth. Rather it is a behaviour that we develop gradually as next of different factors. Every person acquires knowledge from his interaction with the family and the environment as well as from formal education given in schools.

Hence, there are things which he can do and things which he cannot. Physical strength is one aspect of our capacity which is changeable from time to time. Therefore, one’s self-confidence results from knowing one’s abilities and capacity. This means that self-confidence can be built by developing one’s strengths and improving one’s weaknesses.

Activity 8

Discuss the following questions:

1. How can self-confidence be developed?
2. What are the characteristics of a self-confident person?

8.3.2 Tolerance to others' Views and Defending One's Own View

- What is meant by defending one’s own view?

Tolerance to other’s views and defending one’s own views emanates from self-confidence. This basic process of self-awareness has an important role to play success in life. This is because of many people do not know their intrinsic qualities and potential.

Everyone has some ability that he or she developed from his/her interaction with others (experience) and from formal education. If one is able to assess and know one’s potential, one can become self-confident. A self-confident person knows not only his strengths, but also his weaknesses. Thus, he works to improve them. Moreover, since he does not feel inferior, he develops an attitude of openness.

All the above characteristics finally lead to fairness. Fairness is a healthy interaction and tolerance that develops from self-confidence. Self-confidence avoid feeling of superiority or inferiority. It also means that one has no fear of criticism.

In order to tolerate the views of others and to defend our own we need to be self-confident. To develop our own views and to commit ourselves to their implementation as well as to tolerate the views of others and rationally accept or reject these views we need to be self-confident. Education is the key to the development of self-confidence. It enables us to acquire knowledge, be critical thinkers and be skilled. When we acquire knowledge, we become self-confident.

When we become fair we will be able to tolerate and benefit from the alternative views we hear. On the other hand, criticizing the views of others when they are believed to be wrong and defending one’s own views which are believed to be correct is expected from a civilized modern person.

Activity 9

Answer the following questions:

1. What enables us to be fair in our interaction with others?
2. Why do we say that one has to know one’s potential in order to be self-confident? Discuss.

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Summary

It is possible to develop the culture of self-reliance, to reverse dependency and become self-confident. Dependency is a social problem which gives us low self-esteem. Without self-esteem we cannot express our views openly and are not self-confident.

Contraband trade is one of the crimes that results from dependency. It affects the nation and the people. Therefore, it has to be avoided with the common effort of the people and the government.

If we prevent and reverse dependency and develop self-confidence we will achieve greater success. A self-confident person encourages others to do more by recognizing their greater performance. A civilized and self-confident person tolerates the views of others and rationally defends his or her own views.

Key Words

Inflation:	Ups and downs/increase and decrease of a situation, process or an economy
Red-handed:	The arrest of a criminal just while he/she is committing the crime
Trial:	A forum of debate for judgement, usually in a legally established court
Sentence:	Court decision or judgement

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. The basis for improve performance is greater effort in the area of our work.
2. The culture of self-reliance is the result of long-term effort.
3. A person should work hard only until he gets an award.
4. Education makes little contribution to improve performance.
5. Tolerance to the views of others is the sign of dependency.

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

- | A | B |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Reversing dependency | A. Those who work hard for greater performance |
| 2. A dependent thinking | B. An incentive for success |
| 3. Good citizens | C. Self-confidence |
| 4. Aware | D. The basis for improved performance |
| 5. Hardworking | E. Waiting for what one can do ourself to be done by others |
| | F. Competition |

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

1. Fulfilling ones needs and solving ones problems by oneself is _____.
2. _____ is an incentive given for people achieving improved performance.

IV. Choose the correct answer for the following questions

1. Self-reliance is:
 - (a) Strengthening one's body with physical exercise
 - (b) Helping others
 - (c) Doing what one can do by oneself
 - (d) All of the above.
2. Greater performance is:
 - (a) Doing a certain task better than others
 - (b) Helping oneself and the nation with the fruits of one's effort
 - (c) Being rich either through theft, begging or work
 - (d) (a) and (b) are correct answers.
3. Dependent thinking:
 - (a) It is an inborn natural problem that stays with people forever
 - (b) Though it harms the country and its people, it helps the person
 - (c) It develops self-confidence
 - (d) Helps the individuals and the country.
4. A person who is ready to learn from others is:
 - (a) A dependent person
 - (b) self-confident
 - (c) Able to give improved
 - (d) (b) and (c) are correct answers.
5. The problems caused by contraband commodities:
 - (a) Obstacles to development by denying the government income which it would invest in infrastructure
 - (b) It is useful because it makes the cost of goods lower
 - (c) It endangers the peace and health of the society by allowing the illegal import of weapons
 - (d) All are answers except (b).

V. Give short answers for the following questions

1. At which age should we start our effort to be self-reliant?
2. What is expected of people who have received awards for their improved performance?
3. Explain the impact of contraband trade on the social and economic life of a country.