

Unit 7

Industriousness

Introduction

You have seen the different responsibilities expected of you in Unit 6. This unit deals with the rewards which you get from work. The personal well-being you get from work is also discussed in this unit. You will also learn about the importance of having good work habits and of improving your skills.

Lessons

1. Work and Well-being
2. The Importance of Good Work Habits
3. Choice of Economic Systems
4. Improving your Work Skills

What you will learn

You will:

- understand the relation between work and well-being.
 - realize the damaging impact of poor working habits.
- appreciate the importance of improving your skills.

Key words and concepts

- Command economic system
- Economic system
- Economic potential
- Globalization
- Improving skills
- Market economic system
- Material things
- Mixed economic system
- Physical labour
- Self-fulfillment
- Time misuse
- Work habits

Shoeshine boy earning money for his family



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LESSON

Work and Well-being

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe the rewards and satisfaction which we get from work.
- describe what qualities are essential for work.

- What kind of reward do you think you get from work?
- What do you think are the essential elements for work?

As you have seen in Grade 9, when we work we make something useful or serve others. We are going to look at the importance of work for our well-being. **Well-being** means the enjoyment and happiness that we get from both material and non-material rewards in life and work. You can benefit from work in many ways. First of all, if you work hard, you will have more money. And when you have more money you can have more **material goods**. Having more material goods makes your life easier.

Also, if you work you can become **self-fulfilled**. This means that you will feel good about yourself. Self-fulfillment means being satisfied with one's situation. Work is satisfying for two reasons. First, you can buy what you need and want. Secondly, you feel satisfied and self-fulfilled because you have done something well.

Another important benefit of work is that it can

make people **happy**. When you understand that all the work you do is contributing to something useful, it makes you happy. In addition, you are able to help yourself and society through work. If you are happy with what you do, you will do your work better and this helps you to succeed in your career.

In order to get satisfaction from work you have to finish it on **time**. This is because the reason you work is to do something useful that will be ready when it is needed. If it takes too long then this may indicate that you are not working effectively or efficiently. If, for example, you are administering medicine, it is important that you do it when you are asked so that the patient gets it in time to help, otherwise delay may cause death of the patient.

All types of work are important and should be respected. Both white collar workers and blue collar workers are important because we cannot



All types of work are important

Work and Well-being

live without them. Blue collar workers are also called physical labourers since they mostly use **physical labour** to do their work. For example,

factory workers use physical labour in the process of production. Their contribution includes all the materials we use at home or at school.


CASE STUDY

Tilaye's body parts

One day parts of the Tilaye's body held a meeting to discuss their problems. The body parts all complained about the stomach. Tilaye's eyes were the first ones to speak. They complained that they work all day long by helping Tilaye see what he is doing while the stomach is just sitting there eating all the food. The legs said that they help Tilaye move from place to place while the stomach is just eating. Tilaye's brain spoke next saying that it controlled everything in Tilaye's body. The other parts also agreed that they were doing all the work while the stomach just did nothing.

Finally, the stomach said "If you think that I am not working, then I will stop eating from now on." They all agreed that the stomach should not eat. After

a few days, the hands and legs became very tired. The eyes became red and almost closed. The brain was tired and could not control the body or think properly. Then they realized that the stomach was actually doing very important work. They realized that they could not live without the stomach. Finally they apologized to the stomach and asked it to start eating again.

 Consider the message from this story and relate it to real life. Think of individuals whose role or work appears unimportant or unnecessary but, as part of a larger activity, is crucial. Discuss.

We have seen that all work is important. Both men and women play important roles in providing useful goods and services for us. Everybody can do important and useful jobs starting at home and in the work place. There are women soldiers, pilots, physical labourers etc. There are men who are chefs and cooks. So, it is not right to classify


work as a man's work or a woman's work. Some people think that women only belong in the house and should not work outside. Yet women are just as productive as men in the workplace, as well as in the home. Since women make up half of society, the work they do in all fields is extremely important.

CASE STUDY

W/ro Asegedech Assefa (first Ethiopian Female Pilot)

W/ro Asegedech Assefa was the first Ethiopian female pilot. As a woman she faced many challenges while trying to become a pilot. A lot of people told her that this profession is for men only. They also told her that she would not be able to handle the job very well. However, in spite of all the negative feedback, she managed to become a very good pilot in the

Ethiopian Airlines.

 What do you think about the story of W/ro Asegedech Assefa?
Do you think there are any professions that should be classified for men or women? Why?

Work and Well-being

Lunchtime is from 12.30 to 1:30. At 12:25 your boss asked you to do a small task. It was an important part of the bigger job which you were working on and would require just a few minutes.



Discuss in the class whether you would:

- Do what your boss asked, even if it took you until 12:35, because it was important to get the work done.
- Say that you had to go to lunch and he would have to wait until afternoon.

Finally, have a vote in class to see how many people agree with a or b.

REMEMBER

- Work is important for personal well-being.
- Work has to be completed in a given time.
- All types of work should be respected.
- Physical labour is important.
- Women are a very important part of the community as a productive workforce.



Physical labour is no less important

LESSON 2

The Importance of Good Work Habits

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- explain the effects of absence of good working habits on personal and national development.

Are good working habits important to personal and national development? Why?

You saw in Lesson 1 that working hard is beneficial for the individual. You also saw in Grade 9 that working benefits the country as well. In order to get these benefits, it is important to have good working habits. In many of the developed countries people work hard. They understand that, by having a good working habit, they could benefit. Some people have more than one job so they may work in the evenings and go to work

early in the morning. Because of this good working habit, the people earn more money and are able to buy the things they need and want. In addition, their country also continues to grow.

The success of many developing countries is partly due to good use of time and resources. One of the reasons that people remain poor in this country is lack of time management. It is important to respect work and work hard. Therefore, it is important to come to work on time but this is not enough. It is also important to work efficiently and effectively — that is doing a job well using the least amount of time and resources. This will help reduce the cost of doing things in the workplace, thus saving money which could be used more productively.

CASE STUDY

Road Construction by the Chinese

The Chinese people are very well-known for their good working habits. They are very devoted to their jobs. They do whatever they have to do on time and without wastage of resources. Because of this their country's economy is growing rapidly.

40 years ago the Chinese were among the poorest in the world. Today China is one of the world's most powerful countries. They also work in different countries which benefits both them and the host countries.

In Ethiopia, the Chinese are involved in road construction. People notice that the roads constructed by the Chinese are of good quality and are completed on time. This is because they have good work habits. They work both day and night in muddy and dusty places. They respect their work.



Why do you think having good working habits has helped the Chinese economy?

The Importance of Good Work Habits

Lack of good working habits leads to many problems. First it harms the individuals. If you lack good working habits you will not be self-fulfilled. Also you will not be happy since you will not be able to help yourself and others. You will not become successful or reach the level you want. Staying in the same position for a long time can become boring and frustrating and you may hate your job. Eventually you could be fired from your job for lack of good working habits.

When you lack good working habits you will not accomplish your assigned tasks well. If the work is not accomplished, people who need those goods or services will not benefit. The organization will not benefit either because it will not achieve its aims and goals. Without good working habits of its citizens, the country will stay in poverty because the economy will not grow. Therefore, lack of good working habits hurts both the individual and the country.



Children develop good working habits at an early age

CASE STUDY

Lack of Good Working Habits

Tassew is a clerk in a bank in Addis Ababa. The bank he works in has a lot of customers that come in early every morning. Some of them take out money because they have to make payments. Some of them come to deposit money. It is important that they receive good quality service from the bank.

Tassew started coming to work very late and a lot of customers had to wait for him. One of the customers, Ato Beyene, was very angry with Tassew since he was not serving them very well. Ato Beyene

had to take out money early in the morning because he had to pay his workers. Since Tassew came late, he was not able to pay them on time. Because of this Ato Beyene decided to stop using Tassew's bank and went to another bank. Many customers also decided to change to another bank. Because of this the bank lost its customers. The manager of the bank decided to terminate Tassew's employment.



Discuss the story of Tassew.

The Importance of Good Work Habits

REMEMBER

- ❑ It is important to have good working habits.
- ❑ Good working habits helps develop our country.
- ❑ Lack of good working habits hurts both the individual and the country.

LESSON 3

Choice of Economic Systems

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- explain the importance of a sound economic system for development.
- describe the positive and negative sides of globalization in general.

- Do you think a sound economic system is important for development? Why?
- What do you think about globalization?

You have seen the different types of economic systems in Grade 9. You have also seen that an economic system influences the decision on what to produce, how to produce it and how to distribute it. Having an economic system is very important. It helps to properly distribute the existing resources that a country has. Choosing the appropriate economic system is important, especially for developing countries. If the country chooses the right economic system it can use its resources efficiently and grow rapidly.

You saw in Grade 9 that the major types of economic systems are the command economic system, the market economic system and the mixed economic system. A command economic system is a system whereby economic decisions are made centrally by the government. A market economic system is a system where economic decisions are made by consumers and producers. A mixed economic system is a mixture of the two systems.

In choosing the appropriate economic system we have to take important points into consideration. First of all we have to see the economic potential of the country.

The economic potential of a country is the amount of resources it has and its ability to use those resources. Some countries have a lot of natural resources so it is important to choose an economic system that helps them use these resources in a better way.

Secondly, when choosing the economic system, it is important to consider how production is done and the things that affect production. This includes identifying the local manpower resources and other conditions, such as climate, which can affect production.

Thirdly, it is important to consider the global economic trends. This means we have to adjust our economic system to the system that other countries are using. This is because we have relations with them and are part of the larger global economy.

Taking into account the economic potential, production process and global economic trend try to choose the appropriate economic system for Ethiopia.

In order to do this form two groups.

- One group studies the command economic system and discusses whether it is appropriate for Ethiopia considering the country's economic potential, production process and global economic trend.
- The second group takes the free market economic system and discusses whether it is appropriate for Ethiopia, considering the same points.

Present your findings to the rest of the class.

Choice of Economic Systems

You may have heard people talking about globalization. Globalization is a situation whereby countries and people are influencing each other in different ways. One of the ways in which they are coming closer is culturally. Now-a-days people in one place have started sharing different cultural heritages with people from other places. They dress similarly; they listen to similar music and the like. Also they share ways of doing their jobs. People in one place have information about

the work that people from other places do. This is globalization. Globalization is getting stronger day by day because information is quickly communicated around the world.

Globalization also influences the economy. This happens when countries share economic beliefs and ideas. In addition to this, economic globalization also involves sharing the different technologies among countries. This increases when there is more trade between countries.

CASE STUDY

African youngsters with European or American Clothes

The clothing style of the young people in Africa is changing. In the past most people wore their traditional clothes everyday. Then you could see the culture of the people by looking at the clothes they wore. However, these days many people in different parts of the world wear similar clothes. It is the fashions from North America and Europe that are dominating the clothing preferences of young people all over the world. This happened because of **globalization**. Since there is access to information now, and since people are closer, they share their cultures.

Debate

Form groups. Each group should take one of the following issues:



- The advantages of globalization, in terms of cultural exchange, outweigh the disadvantages
- The disadvantages of globalization, in terms of cultural exchange, outweigh the advantages

The teacher will supervise the debate and then the class will vote on which idea was the stronger.

REMEMBER

- ❑ Choosing an appropriate economic system is important.
- ❑ We have to consider the economic potential of our country to choose the appropriate economic system.
- ❑ We have to consider production methods and local conditions in order to choose the appropriate economic system.
- ❑ We have to consider the global economic trends in order to choose the appropriate economic system.

LESSON 4

Improving your Work Skills

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe the imperative of improving skills in order not to be left behind.

Do you think improving skills is important to keep pace with the demands of the market? Why?

You have seen in Grade 9 that work is important to produce something useful. If you produce something useful, others also benefit from what you produce and you will benefit from the sale of your product.

A few years back in Ethiopia, television, radio and typewriters were considered as modern commodities. However, these days we have mobile

phones, computers and internet and these are widely used. It is important that you know how to operate these technologies if you are in this business. If you fail to learn, others will operate them and you may lose your job. Therefore, it is important to continually update your skills.

Improving skills is possible through training or participating in workshops or even going back to school to get the skill and knowledge required for a new work environment and marketing. Skills can also be learnt from work colleagues but this requires open-mindedness and a readiness to learn from others.

? Is age a factor to be considered when improving one's skills and knowledge. Discuss in groups.

CASE STUDY

Never too late to go back to school

Alfred Williams was 70 years old. He had always wanted to learn how to read. Since he worked in the fields when he was young he did not have time to go to school. But he promised his mother that

he would one day learn how to read. Although he may be older than the children in his class, Alfred believes that it's never too late to improve your skills and knowledge.

Improving your Work Skills



Students teaching older adults literacy skills

REMEMBER

- ❑ Improving one's skills is important.
- ❑ Without improving your skills you will **not** be able to compete with others.

UNIT SUMMARY

In this unit, you have discussed issues on industriousness. You have seen that the material well-being of an individual can be improved by being industrious. You have also learnt that all types of work, including physical labour, are important. In addition you have seen that it is important to consider women as a significant part of the productive force of our community. You have discussed how an appropriate economic system can be chosen, and learnt what globalization is. You have also seen the importance of improving one's own skills.

GLOSSARY

Economic potential:	The countries resources and the ability to use those resources.
Global economic trend:	The direction of economic systems across the world.
Globalization:	Countries and people influencing each other in different ways.
Material well-being:	When an individual has material things that he/she needs and wants.

UNIT REVIEW EXERCISES

Do these review exercises in your exercise book.

Part I – Multiple choice

- Improving skills helps to:
 - produce useful services and materials
 - compete with others
 - produce better products
 - all of the above
- Economic potential of a country is:
 - the amount of resources and the ability to use them
 - the economic system of other countries
 - none
- Sharing cultural heritages with people from another place is part of:
 - improving one's skills

- global economic trends
- globalization

Part II – True or false

- Work only helps the material well-being of an individual.
- All types of works are important and should be respected.
- Women should only work in the house.
- Having more than one job means having a bad working habit.
- An economic system is something by which we decide what to produce.
- Choosing the appropriate economic system helps to use resources efficiently.