

Unit 5

Patriotism

Introduction

You looked at many areas regarding patriotism in Grades 9 and 10. You also learnt about a new dimension of patriotism that includes fighting poverty, terrorism and working for the public interest on voluntary basis. There will be more discussion in this unit on these and other topics related to national issues, including development and voluntarism.

Lessons

1. The Bases of Patriotism
2. Responsibilities Required from Patriotic Citizens
3. Issues of Development
4. Voluntarism on a National Basis

What you will learn

You will:

- recognize the new dimension of patriotism in contemporary Ethiopia.
- understand the basic historical developments of the Ethiopian flag.

- recognize the issues of development.
- appreciate the role of voluntarism on national issues.

Key words and concepts

- Development
- Ethics
- Historical account
- Mortality rate
- Prejudice
- Primary sources
- Secondary sources
- Voluntary organization

A sign of patriotism — Tirunesh Dibaba winning an Olympic gold medal



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LESSON

The Bases of Patriotism

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

- enumerate the factors that contribute to the building of a sense of patriotism.

Why is it important to learn the history of Ethiopia?

History is a narration about the past based on facts. Every historian should use facts to write history. Even though most historical accounts are based on evidence, some of them can be misleading and far from the truth. This is because some writers use certain facts and even create evidences to construct history that is not true for whatever reasons.

It is important to understand history in order to understand the present. Knowing what has happened in the past can help us to understand and solve current problems. True history teaches us values whereas fabricated history creates false impressions that are used to mislead us. This means that the history you learn plays an important role in shaping your values and beliefs. This is why we say that understanding the true history is important in order to develop a sense of patriotic feeling towards our country. You have to search for the true history of Ethiopia to have clear understanding of the past and develop the sense of patriotism.

The role of a historian is to get closer and closer to the truth of the past. This requires gathering facts and evidence from reliable sources then refining and interpreting them with care.

History can be distorted because historians have different world views, political interests and motives. So there may be biased and exaggerated historical accounts to create a false impression and mislead people. You need to avoid these kinds of problems to know more about the history of your country. How can you do this?

- You can do this by reading a variety of historical accounts written by different historians. By doing this you can compare and contrast different historical perspectives and have a broad understanding of the past.
- You have to examine the sources, facts and evidence historians use to write history. Historians may use some sources that are less reliable. Histories written based on primary sources and other objective secondary sources are more reliable than histories distorted by personal views.

History of the Ethiopian Flag

Knowledge of your flag is one aspect of knowing your history. The flag in Ethiopia has a long history. It extends well over a thousand years. Some give a religious interpretation and trace the origin of the existing flag to a rainbow which appeared after the biblical flood.

Traditionally there was a tendency to relate the different colours of the flag with different regions: for example, red representing Tigray, green for Shoa and

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yellow for Amhara. It is said that, during the tenth century A.D., a blue flag was in use in the country which was believed to have been changed to yellow during the time of Yodit's rule. Under the Zagwe Dynasty, it was assumed to have been replaced by a red flag. During the Gondarine period, especially at the time of Emperor Susenios, a multiple coloured flag appeared with an emblem on its top.

During the period of Emperor Tewdros II, a multi-coloured flag with an emblem of the Lion of Judah was raised close to the Emperor's tent. When Emperor Yohannes IV came to power it is said that there was a flag in red, white and green. Likewise, Emperor Menelik was believed to have used a flag in green, red and yellow. The present flag in green, yellow and red, however, probably became the national flag of Ethiopia during the time of Empress Zewditu Menelik in 1918.

The 1931 constitution of Ethiopia did not mention the national flag, but the revised constitution of 1955 stated the national flag should have horizontally arranged stripes of green, yellow and red. The emblem on the Ethiopian flag during Haile Selassie's rule was the crowned Lion of Judah. The constitution of the Derg changed the emblem to show the state ideology of socialism. With the transition to democracy, the 1995 Constitution maintained the flag of Ethiopia with the same colours but with a different emblem. The green indicates prosperity; the yellow, hope; and the red symbolizes the sacrifices to be made for the sovereignty of Ethiopia. The star with equidistant rays represents equality of all nations, nationalities and peoples as well as religions and gender.

? In groups, gather data from other students and staff in your school on how the national and regional flags are perceived. Share this information with the rest of the class.



The Ethiopian flag from the Imperial time up to the present

Respecting differences

You discussed tolerance in the previous grades. You need to use your knowledge to treat people with tolerance. Tolerance refers to an attitude of openness and respect for the differences that exist among people. Originally tolerance was used to refer to acceptance of ethnic and religious differences but now concepts of diversity and tolerance can

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be also applied to differences such as gender and disability.

Tolerance means accepting and valuing differences, bridging cultural gaps and discovering common grounds. It also means rejecting stereotypes and creating new relationships with people who differ from us. Tolerance is accepting equality of

citizens despite different backgrounds. It is about accepting and respecting people for who they are. It is not being tolerant of bad behaviours, because bad behaviour shows a lack of respect and care for others. Behaviours that disrespect or hurt others, such as lying and stealing, breaking social rules and laws, should not be tolerated.

Read the following quotes and discuss their meanings. You can do it in groups or pairs.

"The problem to be faced is how to combine loyalty to one's own tradition with reverence for different traditions." Abraham Joshua Heschel



"The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with." Eleanor Holmes Norton

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your rights to say it." Evelyn Beatrice Hall

"The price of democratic way of life is a growing appreciation of people's differences, not merely as tolerable, but as the essence of a rich and rewarding human experience." Jerome Nathason

REMEMBER

- ❑ A good knowledge of history helps us to understand the present, solve current problems and develop patriotic feeling.
- ❑ The major goal of a genuine historian is to get closer and closer to the truth; to collect reliable data from different sources and interpret this data objectively.
- ❑ You get good values from true history; exaggerated and falsified history influences us to develop negative and biased attitudes.
- ❑ The present flag in green, yellow and red probably became the national flag of Ethiopia during the time of Empress Zewditu Menelik in 1918.
- ❑ The 1955 Constitution recognized, for the first time, the present colours of the Ethiopian flag.
- ❑ You have to use your knowledge of the past to understand differences and to treat people with tolerance.

LESSON 2

Responsibilities Required from Patriotic Citizens

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

- explain what the responsibilities of a patriotic citizen are.
- be patriotic citizens.

How do you know whether something is right?
Do you think that fighting to defend your country is right?

You learnt that patriotism has many meanings and dimensions. The traditional meaning of patriotism focuses on defending your country in times of war. It is mainly related to military engagements when your country is invaded. This is not the only expression of patriotism. For example, when you are concerned for the well-being of your community, or your country, you are being a patriotic citizen. Patriotic citizens not only think about the well-being of their country but they also act ethically. You have come across the word ethics and ethical in the previous textbooks. You have to get the clear meaning of the words.

The term ethics can be defined as the rules or standards governing the behaviour of a person or member of a profession. For example, different professions have their own ethics such as medical ethics or ethics of journalism. Ethics is a system of beliefs that deals with what is morally right

and wrong. Human societies have common values that govern their behaviours and actions. Our upbringing and religion are the main sources of our values, moral rules and norms that control our behaviour. Since we have values and moral norms we can evaluate what is right and wrong and then decide what is acceptable and unacceptable before making a decision. We deal with ethical decisions in our everyday lives. Most people do not steal because it is not morally right to take what does not belong to you, most do not lie because lying often hurts others. Social harmony is maintained when the majority hold the same set of moral standards. Therefore, as a patriotic citizen you have to act ethically.

? What might you have to consider before making a moral decision?

Citizenship allows people to take part in society as active participants. To be a good citizen includes doing your part for the public interest, serving your community and promoting the development of democracy in your country. The contribution of every citizen can make a difference in promoting harmony and equality. We can promote peace, democracy and development when each citizen upholds the Constitution, carrying out personal and civic responsibilities.

Responsibilities Required from Patriotic Citizens

CASE STUDY

Chaltu is a nurse working at a government hospital in Ethiopia. Many patients come to the hospital from far away places because the hospital is a referral hospital. There are many patients on the waiting list as it provides good care. Some patients have chronic

diseases such as diabetes and cancer; they have to wait for several days in order to get treatment. A person offers Chaltu 500 Birr to get jump the queue and get treatment prior to all other patients on the waiting list.



- Do you think it would be ethical for Chaltu to accept the offer and give that person service prior to other patients? Explain your answer.
- What would happen if many other nurses working at the same hospital did the same for other people?

CASE STUDY

Aster is working in a government organization. She is working as a clerk in the Purchasing Department. Her boss continuously asks her for a date but she always refuses politely. He soon threatens that she could lose her job at any time. This makes Aster deeply uncomfortable and unhappy in her work. She spends much of the day avoiding her boss and is not able to get on with her work properly. She has spoken to other female members of the organization and has found that she is not the only person who he harasses. These other members of staff have started to gather evidence (dates and what was done) against her boss.

In groups of five, discuss the following questions and let your group leader summarize their points to the class.



- Why is what Aster's boss is doing, morally wrong?
- What advice would you give Aster?
- What do you think would happen to Aster if she exposed the wrong deeds of her boss?
- What might be the benefit of 'whistle blowing' in these kinds of situations?

CASE STUDY

Drunk drivers in a city in Ethiopia have recently killed six people. The police chief of the city ordered the police to arrest drivers who are drunk. One night a policeman found a man who was driving at high speed. When he stopped the car he found that the driver had been drinking heavily. The policeman

identified the driver as his friend. If he arrested his friend for drunk driving, the man may be sent into prison for at least a year and his family would suffer. The policeman was faced with a conflict. His duty was to arrest the driver and protect the citizens of the town but he also felt loyalty to his friend.

Responsibilities Required from Patriotic Citizens

Discuss the following in groups.



- How do you feel towards the driver? What is the impact of these kinds of actions on the lives of individuals, families and the country as a whole?
- Do you think that the policeman should arrest the driver? Give reasons for your answer.
- Should a person's actions be dictated by their duty as a patriotic citizen or their feelings at the time?

REMEMBER

- ❑ Patriotic citizens have many responsibilities including working for the well-being of their community and promoting the interest of their country.
- ❑ Our everyday activities involve ethical decisions because we assess what is right and wrong before we take action.
- ❑ Sometimes our private interests and the common good come into conflict.
- ❑ As patriotic citizens you are responsible to promote the public interest, serve your community and contribute to the development of democracy in your country.

LESSON 3

Issues of Development

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

- explain what development means.
- explain Ethiopia's potential for development.

How do you define the word development?
How developed do you think Ethiopia is?

The term development has several meanings. Development can be defined as growth, or reducing poverty and gaining more advanced and better living conditions. Therefore, fighting poverty promotes development. You learnt some of the indicators of poverty in Grade 10. It is important to remember the indicators of poverty to understand universal indicators of development.

There are several indicators of poverty: a high infant mortality rate, a very low-income level (for example, below one US dollar per day), a low average life expectancy and a low literacy rate. The major aims of development are to reverse these problems and increase the quality of life for people in low-income countries. When people in a country earn more money, fewer babies die, people live longer and all receive a good education, they can be said to live in a developed country.

We have mentioned that the major goal of development is to reduce or eradicate poverty. The Millennium Development Goals is a global campaign that aims to improve the living conditions of people in poor countries. To achieve its goal it focuses on tackling the problems of poverty. The following are some of the Millennium Development Goals that are targeted to be achieved by 2015.

- Reducing by two-thirds the mortality rate of children under the age of five;
- Eradicating gender inequality in access to education; this means eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2015, and eradicating gender inequality in education;
- Increasing the income of poor people and reducing people who suffer from poverty and hunger; this includes reducing by 50 percent the proportion of people whose income is below one US dollar per day;
- Ensuring that all children in all countries are able to complete primary education; this means enabling all boys and girls in the world to get primary education.

Issues of Development

CASE STUDY

Development indicators related to five countries

Indicators	Ethiopia	Tanzania	Ghana	Kenya	Norway
Literacy rate	45.1%	80.5%	76.9%	86.9%	99%
Infant mortality rate	92	95	59	57	4
Life expectancy	49.2	46	59.1	55.3	79.7
Average income per person/GDP (US\$)	156.80	316	484.8	546.80	3,918.10
Population per Physician/doctors	34,988	44,133	11,111	7576	281

Source: Encarta 2008

Examine the figures in the table and compare and contrast the similarities and differences between the five countries.

- Which of the five countries is most developed? Why?
- Which country is least developed? Why?
- How does Ethiopia compare to the other less developed countries?
- What do you think is the role of Ethiopians to help meet the development goals?

Discuss your answers in groups.

CASE STUDY

Rates of infant mortality are one of the indicators of poverty as well as development. Child mortality rates are high in poor countries while the rates are low in developed countries. For example, deaths of infants under the age of five per thousand live births in Sub-Saharan Africa is 160; in South Asia it is 83; in the Middle East and North Africa it is 46; for East Asia

and the Pacific it is 29; and for Latin America and the Caribbean it is 27.

Source: Encarta 2008

? Can you explain why infant mortality is higher in undeveloped countries?

We have recognized that Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world; but this does not mean that Ethiopia is poor in all aspects. It is rich in natural resources such as rivers, wide areas of cultivable land and has a large amount of livestock.

It is also rich in human resources since Ethiopia has large number of working people. Ethiopia also has many tourist attractions. Harar, Tiya, Gonder and Axum are examples of popular historic sites. There are natural tourist attractions including the Bale

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and Semien Mountains that have beautiful scenery as well as endemic animals and birds. The people

of Ethiopia, with their different cultures, clothing, music, dances, houses and craft products, appeal to tourists.

CASE STUDY


Agricultural potential of Ethiopia

Ethiopia has a very high potential in the agricultural sector. For example, it has the greatest number of livestock in Africa, tenth in the world. Ethiopia also exports the most livestock in Africa. According to a sample census in 2001 and 2003, Ethiopia has:

- 40 million cattle
- 25.5 million sheep
- 23.4 million goats
- 2.3 million camels


In addition, Ethiopia has a suitable climate and type of soil for producing high quality tea, coffee, fruit, vegetables, flowers, cotton, oilseeds and pulses.

Discuss the following questions based on the case study.

- Do you think that Ethiopia really has a high potential in the agricultural sector? Why?
-  ➤ Do you think that we are getting maximum benefit from our livestock resources? Explain your answer.
- Do you think Ethiopia has any other agricultural potential to promote its development?
- Why do you think Ethiopia remains poor if it has a high potential for development?

Rivers of Ethiopia

Several rivers originate from the Ethiopian highlands and flow to the lowlands then on to other countries. They include the Abay (Blue Nile), Awash, Genale and Wabe Shebelle. Ethiopian rivers have very high potential for hydroelectric power development and irrigation for agriculture. The Abay contributes more than 85% of the Nile water that reaches Egypt. Sudan produces about 80% of its electric power from the Nile River through its big dams called Roseires and Sennar. These dams also serve for irrigation to produce wheat and high quality cotton.

- Some people say Ethiopia is the water tower of Africa. What is your opinion on this?
-  ➤ Do you think that we are maximizing the potential of our rivers to promote Ethiopia's development? Explain your answer.
- Ethiopia has many small rivers in addition to the big ones. How can we use them to promote the development of our country?

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Awash River



Abay River

REMEMBER

- ❑ Development can be defined as growth or change from poverty into more advanced and better living conditions.
- ❑ Indicators of poverty help you to understand universal indicators of development.
- ❑ The Millennium Development Goals focus on eradicating poverty; reducing infant mortality, increasing the incomes of poor people and providing a primary education for all.
- ❑ Though Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world, it is not poor in natural resources such as rivers, wide areas of cultivable land, a large amount of livestock wealth and tourist attractions.

LESSON 4

Voluntarism on a National Basis

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

- explain voluntarism and its importance for addressing national problems.

What is the role of volunteering in promoting the national interest?

You discussed issues related to voluntarism in Grades 9 and 10. Voluntarism is contributing one's time or talent for educational, social, charitable and other purposes, freely without expectation of compensation. People in many countries contribute to the community through voluntary efforts. They do this by providing services such as caring for the poor, providing education and by involving themselves in various community development activities.

Though voluntary services can be provided on an individual basis, in most cases people with similar purposes form or join voluntary organizations to achieve common goals. There are many voluntary organizations that focus on different social, economic and environmental issues. Voluntary organizations are different from other organizations in some ways. For example:

- They are different from purely social groupings because they have some degree of formal organizational existence.
- They are non-profit making organizations.
- They are independent of government or

other public authorities and are free to govern themselves without interference.

- They are often active in the public arena and their activities are aimed at contributing to the common good.

Volunteers contribute to the well-being of others at various levels: local, national and international. There are millions of volunteers all over the world who work for the betterment of communities and nations. There are several thousand international volunteers who move outside their countries to provide voluntary services. For example, many volunteers have come from the United States, the United Kingdom and other countries to teach in schools, colleges, universities and hospitals and to provide services in Ethiopia.

Voluntary activities or organizations at community, national or international levels share a common goal: they aim to promote the well-being of people. But they differ from each other based on their focus. Some voluntary activities focus on local and community problems such as water shortages, school or health problems. Other voluntary organizations focus on national issues such as fighting against HIV/AIDS, gender inequality and poverty.

People participate in voluntary activities to promote the interest of their country in many ways. They contribute their money, talent and time for the sake of the national interest. Voluntary efforts have served many purposes in the time of peace and war.

Voluntarism on a National Basis

CASE STUDY

Tolosa is a teacher in one of the primary schools in Oromia Region. He was a student of the same school. The school lacks many facilities, including desks, and the building has not been maintained for years. Some of the doors and windows are broken.

Tolosa decided to do something by mobilizing the local people and former students of the school. First he went to the elders in the village and persuaded them to support him. He told them his plan was to collect money from the village people and ex-students of the school. They agreed. He sent messages to former students of the school who live in different parts of the country. Then he formed a committee that included people from the village and teachers of the school.

The committee managed to collect 48,013 Birr. Some people donated furniture and equipment for the school. The school ended up with new desks and chairs, the broken doors and windows were fixed and the walls were decorated.

- Do you know people like Tolosa who take the initiative for these kinds of voluntary activities?
- ?
- What is the significance of such voluntary activities in promoting national development?
- List problems that might be solved through these kinds of voluntary activities at a community level.

For example, thousands of Ethiopians have contributed their efforts and lives to defend the freedom and independence of their country. During the period of the Italian invasion (1936-1941) Ethiopians offered strong resistance organizing themselves into patriotic groups. They formed secret groups to spy on enemy positions and they created war plans. They attacked the convoys of the enemy, prisons and camps. Women patriots contributed by taking part in the fight against the enemy, nursing wounded patriots, providing food and comfort and working as spies. Those Ethiopian patriots continued their struggle until the Italian forces were pushed out of the country. They did this without the expectation of pay or other material gains.

Citizens can involve themselves in many activities to promote national interests. In our society there are many areas where help is required to support the members of our community and to benefit our society as a whole. Any activity you can involve yourself in that is of benefit in an area that

requires assistance will be a positive advantage in the long run. For example, our environment needs to be cared for, this could include removing rubbish from an area of beauty or planting trees in a place of deforestation. There are many poor members of our society who could benefit from help, such as the elderly and street children. Giving your time to help to raise awareness on the issue of HIV can save the lives of others in the future. Your voluntary activities can change the lives of others and support the development of Ethiopia.

Through volunteering you are not only supporting your country but may also gain valuable skills and experience. Many volunteers feel great personal satisfaction when they give their time to serve worthy causes. They often meet new people and make new friends. Volunteering has also been a way for many people to move into new careers, by volunteering first to get into an organization. There are many benefits to volunteering both personally and for society.

Voluntarism on a National Basis

- ?**
- Identify areas in the Ethiopian Constitution where voluntary services may be required in order to uphold the rights of citizens.
 - Choose one that interests you and identify what voluntary activities could support this right.

CASE STUDY

Since there is no modern health institution for heart surgery in Ethiopia, people with heart problems have to go to Europe or America to get medical treatment. Most of the people, including children with chronic heart problems, lead painful and hopeless lives because they are not able to travel abroad due to the cost of the treatment.

Belay Abegaz is a medical doctor who has lived abroad for many years. He came back to this country, volunteering to help his people. He quit his job and attractive income because of his dream of saving the lives of children suffering from heart diseases. He came to Ethiopia aiming to help children who suffer from chronic heart problems. To achieve this he founded Children's Heart Fund of Ethiopia (CHFE). With the help of his friends, the people and

the government, he started the construction of the building for the Cardiac Centre. He gained support to get medical equipment and professionals from abroad. Belay always says that he is happy to come to this country to help children suffering from heart diseases.

Source: adapted from Kum Neger. Amharic Magazine, Volume 5, Number 58, November 2006, Addis Ababa

What do you think of Dr Belay's voluntary work?

? How can he be seen as a role model for others?

Do you know other volunteers? What do they do and why do they do it?

REMEMBER

- ❑ Voluntarism is contributing one's time or talent to help others in the community and to promote the national interest without regard for compensation.
- ❑ Though voluntary services can be provided on individual basis, in most cases people with similar purposes form or join voluntary organizations to achieve their common goals.
- ❑ Volunteers contribute to the well-being of others at different levels: local, national and international.
- ❑ A patriotic citizen participates in voluntary activities to promote the interest of her/his country by defending sovereignty, promoting development and defending the rights of citizens enshrined in the Constitution.

UNIT SUMMARY

A good knowledge of history helps us to understand and solve current problems and develop patriotic feelings. Citizens have a responsibility to work to promote the interests of their country. You have to know that our actions and decisions are related to ethical questions because we assess what is right and wrong before we do something. We are responsible for promoting the public interest but sometimes our personal interests and the common good come into conflict.

Promoting development is one of the main responsibilities of patriotic citizens. There are universal indicators of development. Some of them are income level, average life expectancy, infant mortality and literacy rates. The Millennium Development Goals include reducing infant mortality rates, eradicating poverty and eradicating gender inequality in education. Though Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world, it is rich in natural resources such as rivers, wide areas of cultivable land, livestock and tourist attractions.

Volunteering is an important way of contributing for the development of the country. People who share similar purposes form voluntary organizations to achieve common goals. Volunteers contribute for the well-being of others at the local, national and international levels. A patriotic citizen has a responsibility to promote the interests of their country, defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, promote its development, defend the Constitution and maintain domestic peace.

GLOSSARY

Ethics:	A system of accepted beliefs which control behaviour.
Historical account:	A description of a historical event.
Infant mortality rate:	The number of child deaths (under 5 years) within a particular country per 1000 live births.
Prejudice:	The unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling, especially often based on a stereotype.
Primary sources:	Sources which are first hand and more reliable sources of history.
Secondary sources:	Sources which are not products of the period and place of a historical event.

UNIT REVIEW EXERCISES

Do these review exercises in your exercise book.

Part I – True or false

1. Historical accounts written by professional historians always reflect the truth so there is no need to question their reliability.
2. All sources of history are equally important in terms of their reliability.
3. Voluntary organizations can influence the development of Ethiopia.

4. Voluntary organizations should be independent of government but obey the laws of the country where they work.

Part II – Short answers

1. Why is history important for development?
2. What is development?
3. Does Ethiopia have high potential for development?
4. Why is volunteering necessary for promoting national development?

Part III – Multiple choice

1. Which of the following does not go with primary sources of history?
 - (a) a history book written by professional historians
 - (b) written materials such as letters, diaries, coins and ornaments
 - (c) statues and ancient buildings
 - (d) inscriptions and wall paintings
 - (e) (a) and (d)
2. Which of the following is false about the Millennium Development Goals?
 - (a) eradicating gender inequality in education

- (b) reducing infant mortality by ninety percent
- (c) making poor people rich
- (d) providing primary education for all children of the world
- (e) none of the above

3. Which part of the world has the highest infant mortality rates?

- (a) North Africa
- (b) Sub-Saharan Africa
- (c) Latin America
- (d) South Asia
- (e) East Asia

4. Which of the following is true about voluntary organizations?

- (a) they are non-profit making organizations
- (b) they are independent of government
- (c) they contribute to promote the common good
- (d) they often work with the government and other organizations to solve common problems
- (e) all of the above