

# UNIT 4

## Justice

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

- identify unjust acts in different places.
- explain the importance of social institutions in your community.
- justify that social institutions must be free from unjust acts.

### 4.1 Unjust Acts

#### 4.1.1 Unjust Acts of your Community

- What does it mean by an unjust act?
  - Differentiate whether the following actions are just or unjust, and give your reasons.
1. The teacher has made an adjustment in the exam result for those students who he believes to be the best.
  2. The doctor gave priority to his son to get treatment in the hospital where he works.
  3. The judge has made his neighbour free while others are found guilty in the same case.
  4. Priority was given to some elderly people while others were waiting for their turn to receive identification cards from their kebele.
  5. Abdu was given permission by his parents to play with his friends while Merima was ordered to clean the house.



Picture 4.1. Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela is one of the most respected, honourable and greatest people in the world. Mandela has spent 27 years in a very narrow cell. Mandela was a prisoner for many years because he was a criminal and committed crime but it was due to his opposition of the unjust acts that were prevailing in South Africa.

During this time, the majority of the people of South African suffered because of the unjust rule of the white minorities. The following are among the injustices that prevailed in South Africa.

- The fertile lands of indigenous people of South African were overtaken by force.
- It was never allowed for South African to own farmland, house and to be involved in trades and other services.
- It was legally forbidden for South Africans to become government officials or employees or to seize government offices.
- The white minorities thought that the black majority South Africans were born or created to serve others as slaves.
- Therefore, the need for the indigenous or native Africans was only to serve in the residences of the whites by delivering their hard labour involuntarily.
- When the whites were living in beautiful or suitable cities, the native people of the land were forced to live in shanty towns or areas.

Therefore, the native people who opposed such evil and unjust acts were brought to suffer as prisoners. On the other hand, those who made the blacks suffer, who took the blacks to prison, who bit them and killed them were rewarded and promoted

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by the unjust white rulers of the time. As matter of this fact, Mandela was a prisoner for a long period for his struggle of such injustices and exposure to the international society.

Mandela was clever enough to organize and unify the oppressed and exploited people in South Africa. Thus, after the severe struggle of 27 years, Mandela was elected as the first black leader in South Africa.

### Activity 1

Answer the following questions according to the above passage:

1. Mention the discriminatory unjust acts that happened to the black people of South Africa.
2. Did Nelson Mandela take the right measures? How?
3. What can you learn from Mandela's actions?
4. What actions do you think Mandela had to take to avoid unjust acts after he became a leader?

Partiality is one of the activities opposed to justice. Injustice often prevails in human life. It may prevail at school during games, in the Kebele, the judiciary and other social institutions. There are reasons for unjust or unfair treatment in different places. We can say there is injustice or some actions are unfair whenever inequalities or discriminatory acts are seen. This can be manifested when equal people are treated differently without reasonable evidence or facts.

This of course occurs when people discharge their responsibilities based on their family relations, marriage relations, and friendship.

People perform unequal treatment based on language, religion, ethnicity, gender and political views. Evil acts that are based on abuse of power are unjust acts.

Unequal treatments happen due to traditional or backward outlooks. A good example of this problem is the actions against female children in our country. Our society does not give equal opportunity or chances for the education of female children. Duties

of females at home are more than male children. In general, girls are not given equal chances as boys to develop their general knowledge and improve themselves.

### Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. List some unequal treatments that prevail in your community.
2. How can we protect against unjust acts? Suggest some measures to be taken to avoid such evil acts.
3. Who commits unjust acts? Give three examples of unjust acts committed by
  - (a) individuals
  - (b) government organizations/institutions
  - (c) other bodies.

## 4.2 Social Institutions

### 4.2.1 The Effective and Just Social Institutions in your Community

- Which of the schools in your area are considered to be good?
- Mention the reasons that make these institutions efficient.
- Mention another institution that provides a good service in your community and list some points that make these institutions better.

Social institutions have the responsibility of providing service equally for all citizens. The institutions need to fulfill two things to provide an appropriate service, these are justice and efficiency of the service.

What does it mean to maintain justice in social services?

First of all, there should be equal and fair distribution of social services. Thus, we can say there are just acts which are manifested when

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citizens get the right service from their respective social organizations/institutions.

The strength or efficiency of social institutions can be measured by their capacity of fulfilling the

necessary manpower and work outputs. This means the workers should be skillful, able to use working hours effectively, able to protect public property and use it wisely.

### Group Work 1

Copy the following table and questions below on your exercise book and evaluate social institution that are found in your locality.

Name of Institutions	Punctuality		Skilled man Power		Discrimination or inequality		Availability of materials		Effective use of time	
	Good	Poor	Good	Poor	Good	Poor	Good	Poor	Good	Poor
1. kebele										
2. school										
3. health centre										
4. farm area										

1. Which institution is best?

- (a) In its punctuality ----- (b) Equal treatment -----  
 (c) Skilled man power ----- (d) Enough work materials -----  
 (e) Use of effective time to work -----

2. Which of the institutions is competent by its effective acts and efficiency?

3. Compare the social institutions of your community with that of your neighbour and tell the class.

### Group Work 2

The scarcity of social institutions in various parts of our country is one of the factors which makes Ethiopia one of the poorest countries in the world. What do you suggest to overcome the scarcity of social institutions in the country?

### 4.3 Causes of the Abuse of Rights and Justice

- Why do people discriminate against others/ threaten inequality?
- List some points you think are evidence for discriminatory acts to happen.

### "Ato Adfursa, the city governor"

Ato Adfursa is an administrator of the municipality of a small town. The municipality gives support to all citizens who are ready to participate in the development of that town. For instance the municipality provides construction land for investors according to their capital potential. All these activities are carried out by a committee led by Ato Adfursa.

The committee carries out proper assessments based on the established rules and regulations and gives decisions on these matters without discriminating against any person.

However, one day, Ato Adfursa decides to give three kebele houses to his wife's brother, who

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works as an investor without the knowledge of the committee led by him. The people who have lived in this house for a long period understood this problem only when they saw construction materials being brought near their house. After a while, they tried to explain their case to the municipality, but their voice was not heard. Even if they wanted to see any of the officials, they were told that no one was in the office, but they watched the officials walking in and out of the office. After a long period, even though their case was brought to the office of Ato Adfursa, they were not able to get any help. Moreover, Ato Adfursa sent a messenger to inform them to leave their houses within ten days, because the area was needed for construction. Anyhow, the unjustly treated people decided to stay at their houses to see what will come next.

### Activity 3

Answer the following questions:

1. Do you think that there exists injustice? Mention the injustices you have observed.
  - (a) If the houses, which were illegally or unjustly given to the entrepreneurs, were yours, what do you think your parents would do?
  - (b) Do you accept the silence of the committee about the case?
2. In this case who abused power?
3. Point out if there is anyone who did not abuse power.

The following points are the main causes for the prevalence of injustice and abuse of power.

#### A. Disrespecting citizen's rights

Citizens have different rights, such as the right to live, the right to learn, the right to work, the right to be member of any political party.

Injustice can be mentioned as one major factors for the violation of citizen's rights. This is to say that, injustice means not respecting the rules or laws

of society. Justice is the main mechanism for the prevalence of the rule of law or respecting the rights of citizens. If unjust acts exist in a country then it leads to the violation of citizen's rights. Therefore, the prevalence of justice in a country should be observed by government officials and respective citizens of that country.

#### B. Inappropriate use of power and authority

Officials at various levels have authority that enables them to perform their duty.

Thus, using power properly is important to perform one's duty. However, it may create great problems if it is intentionally abused by the respective officials.

Therefore, the abuse of power by the majority of the people leads to the prevalence of injustice and the abuse of human rights.

#### C. Unequal treatment of citizens

Unless there is reasonable difference among people, individuals need to be treated equally and they have the right of equal service.

For example, it is proper to give similar punishment if people are found guilty in similar case. However, actions that create unwanted differences among individuals cause the violation of rights and injustice.

### Activity 4

Answer the following questions:

1. Who commits the abuse of people's right and unjust acts?
2. Mention some injustices and power abuses in your community.
3. Identify those bodies who should be responsible for the maintenance of justice and the protection of rights of citizens.

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## 4.4 Conditions for the Prevalence of Justice

- What are the conditions for the prevalence of justice in your school and classroom?
- What measures should be taken by a person whose rights and freedoms are abused?

### Part 2: Nelson Mandela

Mandela was released and became the first black leader in South Africa.

When he came to power, his government tried to maintain justice throughout the country.

The following are among the measures taken to maintain justice in the country:

- All constitutional provisions that encourage injustices were amended/omitted.
- Equal rights for all citizens were declared.
- Blacks and whites started to learn together in the same school.
- Health services were equally provided to all in every health institute.
- There prevailed equal treatment in any sport and recreational centres...etc.
- Those blacks who were discriminated against or treated unjustly for many years were able to be government employees and appointees.
- There existed equal freedom of participation in public affairs.
- Security organizations composed of all societies without any discrimination were established.
- Generally long standing prejudices and the sense of revenge was drastically minimized, even, it has said, was abolished.

Thereafter, sustainable peace and order was maintained throughout South Africa.

All these suitable conditions became the basis for development and the prosperity of the people.

Mandela thus entered into the hearts of people all over the world due to his marvellous deeds in our contemporary world.

He was very much loved by people all over the world for his just deeds never seen before.

### Activity 5

Answer the following questions according to the above passage:

1. Mention measures taken to maintain justice.
2. According to this story, what measures should be taken to maintain justice in one country?
3. Based on the above story, mention the importance of justice.
4. Explain the importance of the following points regarding the maintenance of justice.  
(a) Ethics (b) Democracy  
(c) Rule of law (d) Equality.

The following are some of the main points to help justice prevail.

#### A. Justice in Action

Various governmental institutions at different levels should give just services accordingly.

Government institutions at Kebele, Woreda, etc. levels should exercise equal provisions treat everyone equally.

The functioning of local judicial bodies under the power provided to them is limited by the rule of law.

Local security bodies are organized to keep the peace and security of the society.

Thus, these bodies should base their duties on the provided laws of the country. Rules and regulations should be established in such a way they protect people's benefits and interests.

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### B. Citizens should exercise their right to get justice

If the rights of individuals are violated, they should be able to appeal to the concerned judiciary because of the injustice and judged properly. Injustice ruins the peaceful co-existence of people. In a democratic system, citizens should be able to defend other citizens rights by opposing unjust treatment of others in addition of standing up for their own rights.

### C. Initiation for the prevalence of justice

One of the reasons for the prevalence of injustice is the poor initiation of individuals. Citizens should take the initiative to protect themselves from injustices. Beyond struggling against unjust acts, citizens should develop the habit of reporting cases of injustice to the concerned judicial bodies.

### Activity 6

#### Answer the following questions:

1. Give examples of any unjust or unfair actions.
2. Ask your parents whether they have contributed anything to maintain justice and explain what you understood to your friends.
3. List some of your contributions to maintain justice at your school.

## 4.5 Taxation



Picture 4.2. Paying tax is the citizen's duty

- Where does the government get income to fulfill the needs of its citizens?

### Part 1: The report of Kedija and her friends

Group work was given to Kedija and her friends to prepare a report on the historical development of taxation. They prepared the following report by asking their parents and others.

#### “The Historical Development of Taxation”

The history of taxation dates back to the existence of the state and its development. Taxation was the main source of finance for different ancient states of the world. For instance, 3000 years ago, ancient Greek and Egyptian states used to collect taxes from their people in some form.

But at that time collecting taxes was not legal. In Ethiopia, it was legalized in the 15th century during the reign of King Zara Yacob.

### Activity 7

#### Discuss the following questions:

1. Why is collecting tax linked with the origin of state?
2. When did tax collection start in our country?
3. When did people start to pay tax in the world?

### Part 2: The report of Kedija and her friends

- Why is it necessary to pay tax?

Society needs to live in peace and order. In order to be protected from external attack, there must be a force that is commonly organized. For this, the relationship between people should be strong. As a result, the state originated in order to protect people from external attacks and to lead its citizens. In relation to this, the state started to receive tax in order to protect citizens' common interests and to fulfill other demands of the people. Taxation can be in cash, kind and labour.

The fee that is paid to the government by its citizens is known as tax.

As you understand from the report of Kedija and her friend, taxation began from the time when people

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came to live together as a society and formed their statehood. From that time onwards, the government collected tax from peoples that were governed by a state. From this time, tax has become the main source of income for a state.

In turn, taxation is used to fulfill society's common benefit. For instance, tax is important to protect or keep the security of a country's people from external aggression and to maintain domestic peace and order.

### Activity 8

Answer the following questions:

1. How did ancient kingdoms use the tax that was collected from their people?
2. What was the benefit of paying tax in ancient times?

### 4.5.1 Types of Tax Incomes

- List the types of income taxes that were collected in ancient times.

#### Types of taxation in ancient and modern ages

##### A. Ancient Times

In ancient times, kingdoms collected taxes in different forms. Mostly tax was collected in the form of money and in kind.

But people were also paying tax by providing their labour under duties. The tendency to pay tax by force was widely spread. As a result, paying tax become unjust and people suffered from inequalities or unfair taxation.

For instance, there were some people who paid tax beyond their capacity and some others who did not pay tax at all. Also officials were free from taxation. Consequently, the collected tax was benefiting a few privileged groups rather than benefiting the largest section of the population.

##### B. Modern Ways of Collecting Tax

Tax collecting has changed from the past. The collection and types of taxation are also different from time to time and from state to state.

Also types of taxation differ from country to country. For instance, in a democratic system collecting tax is better than in other political systems, because there are clear specifications that are set forth such as to tax whom? Why taxation and tax from which incomes?

You have understood that tax collection methods differ from time to time. For example, in ancient times, tax was not paid in cash and was collected as different products in kind and also as human labour.

But in the modern age, tax collection is significantly improved.

Taxation is collected from different income sources.

Tax collection in our country is from different income sources or areas.

The following are major areas of tax collection:

- From different trading services
- From salaries or wage
- From industries and mining activities
- From other services such as tourism and hotels...etc.

### Activity 9

Answer the following questions:

1. Do you think that tax collection in every country is similar? Why?
2. For which of the following do our families pay tax?
  - Farm land
  - Salary
  - Residential area
  - Television
  - Electricity meter
  - Trade
  - House rent
  - Market place
  - Telephone box
  - Animal rearing

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### Paying tax honestly is a citizen's duty

- Why is paying tax considered the duty of citizens?
- What type of ethics must be observed in citizens in order to pay tax?

Paying tax voluntarily is a citizen's duty because in a democratic system all people know that this is an acceptable duty. In order to fulfill needs such as establishing social institutions, infrastructure and security, citizens have to pay tax.

It is true that in the developed world failing to pay tax in a given time brings punishment.

Moreover, the community considers such an act shameful. Thus giving right income amount to the respective body in tax collection helps to estimate the correct amount of taxes to be paid.

### Activity 10

Discuss the following issues:

1. What problems will occur if citizens do not pay tax?
2. Differentiate the purposes of taxation in ancient times and in modern age.

### Summary

Unequal treatments prevail at different times and in different places. This can be observed when it happens in small up to large social institutions and service delivery institutions.

There are different reasons for the prevalence of inequalities. Citizens have to fight these evils and free themselves from being involved in such unwanted activities.

The other thing to protect from unequal distribution of services is strengthening them with necessary manpower and materials. In this case, societies are expected to contribute their help and

give support to government officials. Among the situations that violate citizens rights and access to justice; abuse of power, lack of equality or unequal treatment of citizens. Therefore, in order to maintain sustainable justice, it is necessary to maintain justice and officials have to use their power in accordance with the rules provided and to increase the education of citizens to protect their rights.

On the other hand, citizens have to know that paying tax is a citizen's duty and citizens have to give their exact income amount to the concerned body honestly and truly.

### Key Words

<b>Unfair:</b>	An unnecessary harmful act
<b>Law/rule:</b>	System of government by the free will of the people
<b>Regulation:</b>	Indicative guideline
<b>Public security:</b>	Condition of national peace
<b>Organized force:</b>	Organized force to fulfill or solve any serious problem
<b>Kingdoms:</b>	Absolutists who are not elected by their people and transfer their power to their relatives/hereditary rulers
<b>Entrepreneurial:</b>	Investors



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## 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. There exists justice if social institutions are founded and well organized.
2. The efficiency of a social institution is measured by its materials and equipment.
3. It is correct to use unequal acts sometimes.
4. In democratic system paying tax is a citizen's duty.
5. Unequal treatments that prevail in different places are similar.

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

- | A  | B                         |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Treatment based on relations              | (A) Problem of efficiency |
| 2. Citizen's duty                            | (B) Mechanism of justice  |
| 3. Non-availability of work materials        | (C) Discrimination        |
| 4. Giving a verdict based on false evidences | (D) Injustice             |
| 5. Observance of the rule of law             | (E) Paying tax            |
|  | (F) Social institutions   |

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

1. The payment of citizens to their government from their income is called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The service that is distributed by service delivering institutions should be \_\_\_\_\_.

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

1. Which of the following manifests the fairness of tax?  
(a) citizens have to pay tax in accordance with their income  
(b) All citizens have to pay tax in equal amounts  
(c) Leaders of the country should be free from tax  
(d) (a) and (b).
2. Which of the following is a source of tax?  
(a) Agriculture      (b) Salary/wage      (c) Trade      (d) All of the above.
3. Which of the following areas are not expected to use discrimination?  
(a) Kebele      (b) Judiciary      (c) Schools      (d) All of the above.
4. Which of the following is not a cause for injustice?  
(a) Use of bribery      (b) Abuse of power  
(c) Unjust act/unfair justice      (d) Respecting the rights of others.
5. What should be done to respect human rights?  
(a) Use of the law      (b) Use of force      (c) Maintaining justice      (d) (a) and (c).

### V. Give short answers for the following questions

1. Enumerate the expected responsibilities that should prevail at schools.
2. Mention those discriminatory actions that should be avoided.