

# UNIT 11

## The Pursuit of Wisdom

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

- develop your interest to education by understanding the importance of knowledge for development, research and innovation.
- understand the importance of information.
- identify sources of information and methods of gathering and using information.

### 11.1 The Importance of Scientific Knowledge



Picture 11.1. Research in laboratory



Picture 11.2. A teacher in the class



Picture 11.3. Archaeological research

- What do you understand from pictures 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3?
- What does the picture showing a woman in the laboratory tell you about scientific thinking?

### The Bat

Long ago there was a famine in the place where the bats were living. All the birds and animals living in the area were victims of hunger. To resist it, they started to borrow food from one another. One of the borrowers was a bat. It had borrowed a lot from many birds.



Picture 11.4. The Bat

When all other birds were able to pay back what they had borrowed the bat was unable to do that even after the bad days had passed. When all birds searched for it, it preferred to escape by hiding itself. Because of this it changed its flight from day to night. Since then it has been known as “የሌሊት ወፍ” (nocturnal bird).

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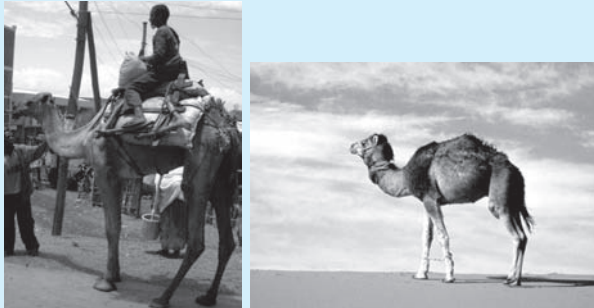
## Activity 1

Answer the following questions based on the previous passage:

1. Is the story based on reality? If not, why?
2. Based on your answer to the above question what do you understand about non-scientific thinking?

## The Camel

Camel is the tallest of all domestic animals. When it is loaded and unloaded, it kneels down. When it stands up it pulls on its back legs first. So, the person loading it has to carefully catch the camel's neck. Otherwise he or she may spring towards the head of the camel and fall to the ground. Since the camel is stronger than the horse, it can hold heavy loads. The Camel is widely used in northern India, Arab countries and African Deserts. It can travel long distances and stay many days without water. Some species of camel has one hump and others two. The hump of a camel is very fat. As the camel consumes this fat its hump shrinks. This means that it consumes its hump in the absence food.



Picture 11.5. The Camel

The feet of the camel are big and wide. They are lined with thick skin. This enables it to walk easily on the sandy soil of the desert. Since it walks slowly we cannot hear its footsteps when it passes nearby. It has narrow nostrils which can be easily closed and opened. So when the sand blows up the camel protects itself from it by closing its nostrils. Its nostrils smell water from a distance which helps it to find short cuts to water.

(Source: Adapted from Kebede Michael's book)

## Activity 2

Answer the following questions based on the story:

1. Do you think that we can prove the truthfulness of the above story? How?
2. What do you understand about scientific thinking from what you have seen so far?

The pursuit of wisdom is a natural behaviour which is a process of seeking knowledge based on scientific thinking. Scientific thinking is empirical understanding and knowledge that we establish about ourselves, the environment and the world. It depends on the kind of information we get from using different methods. This means that it is a mental resource that we develop according to age, experience and level of education, and according to the wideness or narrowness, simplicity or complexity of the information that we get. In other words, the strength of our scientific thinking is measured in terms of the reliability and practicality of the information we have.

Our acquisition of detailed knowledge is necessary to make correct decisions, develop our creativity, bring rapid development and become self-reliant. If a person acquires detailed knowledge about a given issue he/she will be able to make appropriate decision on that issue. For example, scientifically testing different chemicals in the laboratory, the laboratory technician will be able to decide whether the chemicals can be used for producing soap or medicine.

Being knowledgeable helps not only to develop professionalism but also it paves the way for creativity by motivating us for work. For example, one who has detailed knowledge of engineering is motivated to create designs of his own rather than using those created by others.

A country can develop when its citizens are educated. The transformation of citizens to a high level of knowledge means using new innovations, establishing new practices that change life styles and the engagement of many citizens in work. These

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in turn bring about technological development, fast production systems and improved productivity and the development of the nation and prosperity of its people.

### Activity 3

Which of the following issues can be considered as scientific? Give your reasons for your classification of the issues as scientific and non-scientific:

1. The moon does not produce its own light.
2. The earth is not spherical but a flat planet.
3. Boiling the water we drink is not necessary to prevent disease caused by micro-organisms.
4. Vaccinating dogs prevents rabies.
5. Thunder is a bullet that is proved when God shoots evil sprits.

## 11.2 Sources of Information and their Utilization

### 11.2.1 From where do we get Information?



Picture 11.6. Information can be obtained through cell phone



Picture 11.7. Information can be obtained from newspapers



Picture 11.8. Information can be obtained from books

- What clues do pictures 11.6, 11.7 and 11.8 give you about information?
- Which source of information in the picture comes first, second and last if we arrange the sources according to their importance?

You have to bear in mind that information cannot be viewed in a narrow sense. When we need references for our lessons this means that we need information.

We also need information about when the school will be opened, who teaches us which subject, when the exam dates will be etc. Moreover, we have to get enough and reliable information about local weather conditions and the socio-economic activities of our zone, region and country. For this, we use telephones, newspapers, radio, TV and other media. However, when we need detailed educational information we have to go to the library to refer to books.

Information is obtained from experience, education and training, varied reading, radio and TV and other Media. In other words, scientific thinking is a reflection of the real world. We gather truth through our five sense organs and through the observation and research of others.

The information that we get from personal experience is often informal. Such information is our perception of the people around us, weather conditions, animals, plants etc. Perceived information is information which we acquire whether we want it or not.

As we move from place to place and a continuously interact with people and things around us, we cannot avoid the acquisition of such information.

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Perception is our interaction with our environment in our five sense organs. We acquire information from the mass media while we are entertained, attending news or reading newspapers and magazines. They are often up-to-date and connect us with global realities.

Information from school is more reliable and important. This is because of the following reasons. Firstly, the information is reliable in that it is obtained from trained and qualified professional teachers. Secondly, the information is reliable and capacity based. These means that education that is being delivered is designed according to the age, knowledge and life styles of the recipients. Moreover, it is based upon a planned curriculum and textbooks.

### 11.2.2 How to Apply Information?

- How do you handle the information you get everyday?
- How do you use the pieces information you have collected in your note books?

Nowadays, it is said that “information is life!” this is to mean that information is decisive for a modern man or woman. People and countries far from each other today have very much in common. For example, even though China and Ethiopia are located far apart in world, they have to work cooperatively in trade, political and socio-economic issues. Therefore, they have to exchange day-to-day information. In short, to have a complete personality and become good citizens we have to get enough and reliable information.

However, getting information is not enough. We have to consider the following three points regarding the information we get.

1. We have to record the information we have received. For example, have you recorded grade level of the age, sex and students of your school? Do you record the weather conditions of your locality? What about the health of your family and yourself? Do not forget that all these are important pieces of information.

2. We have to take care of the authenticity of the information we get. For example, if we want to know about the annual climatic condition of our zone, we have to get the information from a meteorologist. We do not have to accept the guesses of people who say “it may rain” as true. Even when we refer to books for our education we have to refer only to those which are written by professional authors. There are books written for profit and they do not give us reliable knowledge.
3. We have to handle properly and protect the information that we get by our own efforts or that others process and give us. This means that we have to keep it confidential with their sources in a special note book. If it is from interviews we have to record them in audio or video cassette and keep them as a document. So a clever student gives careful attention to acquiring and keeping information.

### Activity 4

Answer the following questions:

1. From what sources can we get information? From where can we get better information?
2. What care shall we take besides acquiring information?
3. Why is information decisive in modern life?

### 11.3 Backward Thinking and Boastful Sayings

#### 11.3.1 Backward and Boastful Sayings in Our Locality

- What do we mean when we say someone has backward thinking?
- Have you ever faced people with backward thinking? In what way do they manifest their backward thinking?



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## ፊታውራሪ መሸሻና ወይዘሮ ጥሩዓይት

ፊታውራሪ መሸሻና ሚስታቸው ወይዘሮ ጥሩዓይት በዘር ያክለናል-ይመስለናል የማይሉት ሰው ልጃቸውን ለጋብቻ ሲጠይቅ እንኩዋንስ ለመስጠት መጠየቃቸውን እንደውርደት እየቆጠሩት እጅግ ያዘኑ ነበር።

«ወዬው ጉድ ጆሮ አልሰማም አይልምኩ!» ይላሉ ፊታውራሪ።

«ዛሬ ደግሞ ምን ሰሙ ጌታዬ? » ሲሉ ይጠይቃሉ ባለቤታቸው።

«ቀኛዝማች እክሌ ሰብለውንጌልን ለልጅ ለመነኝ»።

«ቀኛዝማች እገሌ የማን ልጅ ነው ? » በማለት ባለቤታቸው ይጠይቃሉ።

«አባቱን እንኩዋን እኔ እሱም አያውቀው»።

«ትልቅ ድፍረት ነው!» በማለት ይቆጣሉ ወይዘሮ ጥሩዓይት።

«በሌላ አጋጣሚ ደግሞ ፊታውራሪ ግራዝማች እገሌ ልጅን ስጠኝ አለኝኮ ጥሩ !»ይላሉ።

«የማን ልጅ ነው ጌታዬ? »።

«አባቱ ሰው አይደለም ገበሬ ነው!»።

«ምነው ይህን ሳልሰማ በሞትሁ!» በማለት ጥሩዓይት ያማርራሉ።

«ባላምባራስ እገሌ ልጅህን ስጠኝ ብሎ አማላጅ ላከብኝኩ፤ ሀ.. ሀ..ሀ... ወይ ጊዜ!»

«የማን ልጅ ነው? »በማለት ጥሩዓይት ይጠይቃሉ።

«አባቱ ብዙ ላም የነበረው ባለጌ ባላገር ነበር እሱ ላሙን ሁሉ አውርሶት ሞተ አሁን አንቱን በፋጋ እየጠጣ ሆዱ ሲነፋ ጊዜ ከሰው እኩል የሆነ መስሎት ይኼዎ የኛን ልጅ ይለምን ጀመር።

«ይበለን ሽረ ይበለን ሲያንሰን ነው ሲያንሰን ነው እንደታሰርን ሁሉ ይህን አገር መልቀቅ አቅቶን የባላገር መጫወቻ ሆንን»። ይላሉ ወይዘሮ ጥሩዓይት።

«ታዲያ ለነዚህ ልጅን ልስጥ? የእሌኒን የገላውዴዎስን ልጅ ለገበሬ ለነጋዴ ልስጥ ? እነሱ ባያዩ ባይሰሙ አጥንታቸው አይከሰኝም? አይወቅሰኝም?» ይላሉ ፊታውራሪ።

«እርስዎም ልስጥ ቢሉ እኔን መቃብር ሳይጫኑኝ ልጄ አጥንተ ሰባራ አታገባም :: እንዲያውም አላቸዋ አግብታ ዘር ከምታበላሽ የሚያክላት-የሚመስላት አጥታ ሳታገባ ቀረች ቢባል ክብሯን ይጨምረዋል ::»

እውነትሽ ይላሉ ፊታውራሪ

(ፍቅር እስከ መቃብር ገጽ 86-87 በመጠኑ ተሻሽሎ የተወሰደ)

## Activity 5

Answer the following questions based on the story:

1. Which expressions of the characters in the story show backward thinking?
2. Do you see boastful view points that violate the rights of women in the speeches of Fitawrari Meshesha and W/ro TiruAynet? How?
3. Can we say that there are racial superiority and inferiority as Fitawrari and his wife said?

Often backward thinking passes from generation to generation orally and in practice. This means parents and grandparents transfer the life's principles and public thinking which they believed in and lived to the next generations.

This thinking which was accepted by the majority of people in their time may be destructive and impractical for the next generations. For example, the life principles of Fitawrari and his wife in the above story used to appear correct in their time. However, with the improvement of awareness, this thinking has become absolutely backward and boastful. In our time today we believe that a girl shall not have an arranged marriage *i.e.*, of her parents/choice of husband. Rather she has to attend to her education without the influence of anybody and determine her fate by herself when she completes her education.

Moreover, marriage in our time should not be based on caste (race). Because everyone today is equal before the law and his or her occupation is equally respected.

We have to bear in mind that there is much backward thinking in our localities. This knowledge enables us to take care of and correct it. Even though backward thinking in our locality is a mental attitudes, it is manifested in many ways such as proverbs, stories, and ironic speeches, slips of tongue, jokes and beliefs. There are also expressions that make one race superior to the other. These expressions include የትልቅ ሰው ዘር (the family of

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the best race) and የልዑላን ዘር (Royal Family). Until today, some people believed that beauty, good luck and wealth were the gift for only some races.

There is also biased thinking about occupations. Accordingly farming, trade and professions like this were considered to be the occupations of only a few races and unfit for people of the “great race”. This thinking has been reflected in sayings, stories and jokes. But all these boastful thoughts are unscientific and hence they need to be corrected and avoided before being passed on to the next generation. This is because; they endanger the peaceful co-existence of people. Moreover, they adversely affect fair thinking, the peace of the nation and the unity of the people. Therefore, we need to fight and avoid them as early as possible.

### Activity 6

Discuss the following questions:

1. What could be the impact of backward thinking on the peaceful co-existence of the people?
2. Why are people affected by backward thinking?
3. How does the development of scientific thinking help us to be freed from backward thinking?

## 11.4 Reading

### 11.4.1 Developing Reading Habit

- What is reading?

Reading is an instrument for acquiring knowledge by which we enrich the knowledge we get from our teachers by making additional efforts by ourselves. Therefore, we have to read not only what we learn in classes, but also additional reference materials. If our teacher has taught us about the uses of the cow, we have to read additional reference books about cows from the library. This makes our knowledge deep rooted. It is appropriate to allot time and choose a place for reading. We do not have to be shy of reading for these reasons. If we have the habit of reading we can read everywhere. For example, under a tree, in a taxi, in the salon, in our bedroom etc. People

whom we consider to be great became great through reading. So you (students) are expected to read a lot in order to make your country famous.

### Activity 7

Discuss the following questions:

1. What is meant by the statement “reading is an instrument of knowledge”?
2. What has to be done in order to develop the habit of reading?

### 11.4.2 Making Strategies for Studying Lessons

- How do you study your lessons?
- Discuss the questions that follow the following story.

#### Nuramo's strategy of studying

Often Nuramo studies for long hours, even sometimes for the whole night. But he usually asks himself “Why is it that I do not achieve a good result?” His goal was to make his classmates envious by coming first in the class.

Later on he decided to change his studying style. This was to make a schedule to study each subject for a limited time, instead of studying a single subject for many hours. According to the schedule he allotted a longer time for subjects that were difficult for him. Moreover, he decided to study these subjects little by little everyday. Particularly he decided to revise mathematics at the end of each lesson. In this process, Nuramo become successful and came first from in class in the first semester.

### Activity 8

Give answers to the following questions:

1. What do you understand from Nuramo's studying strategy?
2. Do you think that studying for a long time or studying only one subject bring success? If not why?
3. Is making a schedule for study useful? How?

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With regard to study we have to first consider its importance. Studying is useful to be acquainted with great knowledge. This knowledge in turn enables us to reach at a higher level in our education. A person having a higher educational standard benefits himself and the nation. He benefits himself by being successful in his education and being employed in a job that earns high salary. He also benefits the nation by becoming a strong doctor or renowned teacher or a political leader who loves his people.

Studying is a must for getting knowledge. Our study shall not be arbitrary, rather it has to be scheduled. Our reading for general knowledge and information differs from our reading for academic purpose. Reading for general purposes does not require a special schedule. But, reading for academic purposes needs scheduling. In general when we plan to study, we have to consider the following points.

- 1. Understanding the Use of Time:** Scholars advise us to choose an appropriate time for our study. Accordingly, we should not study when we are sleepy or tired. This is because studying requires a refreshed mind. Related to this we have to consider the length of time we spend studying. Here, we have to bear in mind that we do not understand lessons because we study them for a long time.
- 2. Developing Co-operative Learning:** Psychologists advise that discussion and debate in pairs or groups is very useful for studying. When we explain to our friends and when they explain to us knowledge becomes clearer and more tangible.
- 3. Choosing Convenient Place for Study:** It is preferable to choose to study, because this helps us to concentrate on our study. However, whether we are alone or with others we should not study in a place where there are pictures or strong smell because these things affect our concentration. Moreover, there should be

clean air and enough light in the place and our clothing shall not expose us to the cold. The chair we are sitting on should be hard and enable us to sit straight.

- 4. Making a Schedule:** Making a schedule is determinant factor for our study. It enables us to control hindrances to our study and guides us how long to allocate for which subject, because we do not have to study all subjects for equal periods. Rather, we should give more time for those objects which are difficult for us.
- 5. Understanding the process of study:**
  - (a) Skimming:* It is reading roughly and quickly to grasp the general content of the lesson. This enables us to know what instruments to prepare and other conditions we have to fulfill.
  - (b) Questioning:* In our rough reading we have to raise basic questions that have to be answered in our study. Then, our study continues until we are able to answer these questions.
  - (c) Detailed Reading/Interview Reading:* It is a deep reading that we make in the main part of our study. At this stage we try to grasp the essence (main points) of the lesson.
  - (d) Considering the Practicality of our Study:* While we are grasping the essence of the lesson, it is good to think how we can implement it in our life. This is to relate what we study with the real life situation. For example, if we are studying about vegetables thinking about how we can produce vegetables in our yard, this deepens our study. Furthermore, at this stage we have to evaluate ourselves to see how far we have understood the lesson.

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### Activity 9

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the role of reading in the process of learning?
2. Is choosing a place for reading a must? How?
3. What is meant by knowing the use of time in studying?
4. Have you ever read things outside of your lessons? What benefit have you got by reading them?
5. What should you do at the following stages of your study:
  - (a) Skimming?
  - (b) Questioning?
  - (c) Considering the practicality of study?

### Summary

Scientific thinking is obtained particularly from education through reading, observation and research. It is an instrument that enables us to change ourselves and the environment.

Leading ourselves according to intangible guesses and practices makes us backward. Likewise, thinking ourselves as superior or inferior to others based on race, class, occupation is also inappropriate. It is

obvious that such thinking hinders self and national development.

Study is a process that enables us to grasp appropriate knowledge in timely way. Successful study needs planning, objectives and other resources. Before we finish studying, we have to evaluate our success and before we start studying we have to make ourselves ready.

### Key Words

<b>Science:</b>	A search to acquire knowledge based on empirical (tangible) evidence
<b>Informal information:</b>	The information that is obtained from various sources without enrolling in schools or without attending a curriculum based education
<b>Boastfulness:</b>	The psychological feeling of superiority in which one considers himself above all others human creatures
<b>Examining:</b>	The process of checking and rechecking the reliability of information or knowledge
<b>Study:</b>	An attentive process of building knowledge by examining various sources of information and understanding theories deeply
<b>Skimming:</b>	An introductory reading to the main study

### Unit Review Exercises

Do these review exercises in your exercise book.

**I. Write "True" if the statement is correct and write "False" if the statement is incorrect**

1. A country can develop when its citizens are educated.
2. Reading is unimportant instrument for acquiring knowledge.



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3. Scientific knowledge is essential to lead life in a better way.
4. Wasting a lot of time by studying is appropriate.
5. Reading can be considered as a skill that feeds about half of our personality.

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

- | A   | B   |
|---|---|
| 1. The main source of scientific thinking | A. An educated woman is advantage us for all        |
| 2. Advantage of skimming                  | B. Introducing oneself to the contents of a lesson  |
| 3. Schedule for study                     | C. Helps to appropriately use of our time for study |
| 4. Skimming                               | D. Helps to know the contents of the lesson         |
| 5. An example modern thinking             | E. A thorough reading process                       |
|   | F. School   |

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

1. When can boastful thinking be changed?  
(a) When a generation is acquainted with scientific thinking  
(b) When schools are expanded  
(c) When science and technology are developed  
(d) All are correct answers.
2. Which of the following is wrong about study skills?  
(a) We should only study in school  
(b) We have to study only before the exam days  
(c) It will enable us to study our lesson little by little at the beginning  
(d) It will not include the experience of studying with others.
3. Which of the following is the best source of information for study?  
(a) TV  
(b) Radio  
(c) Library  
(d) Newspaper.
4. What is the advantage of taking notes during study?  
(a) To forward unclear points for discussion  
(b) To evaluate our understanding of the lesson  
(c) To improve our skill of writing compositions  
(d) (a) and (b).
5. In which of the following can boastfulness be noticed.  
(a) Being born wealthy  
(b) Though a woman knows, a man makes the decision  
(c) Educating women is an advantage for all  
(d) (a) and (b).

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

1. What are the basic advantages of scientific knowledge?
2. How can backward thinking endanger national peace?
3. What is the importance of questioning in the process of studying?
4. What could be the role of youth in fighting backward thinking?

### V. Make a study schedule and show it to your teacher.