

UNIT 5

Patriotism

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

- develop a modern patriotic idea in relation to the preservation of history and culture of the country.
- identify harmful traditional practices that harm the well-being of the society.

5.1 Patriotism

5.1.1 Manifestations of Modern Patriotism

- Mention some of the manifestations of patriotism.

History of a country

Grade 7 students of Ethiopia Tikdem Primary School invited a historian to give them an explanation of about the history of their country. The topic given to the historian for explanation was “Developing Modern Patriotism”. At the end of his explanation, the students raised different questions:

Question 1: How can we classify patriotism into modern and traditional types?

Answer: This question is a basic question. Patriotism in previous regimes did not focus on the culture, language, history and belief of peoples. Rather it was related to the topography of the country, the rivers, mountains, plants etc. Modern patriotism is aimed at correcting the one-dimensional traditional patriotism and developing a patriotic feeling that focuses on nations, nationalities and peoples.

Question 2: How can every citizen show modern patriotism in practice?

Answer: Modern patriotism begins from love and respect for the family. Furthermore, knowledge and respect for local and national history is another aspect of modern patriotism expected from every citizen. The history of a country is the history of its nations, nationalities and peoples. One who respects his own history respects other’s language, culture and history. Modern patriotism is also manifested when every citizen participates in activities which are useful and exemplary to the society.

Question 3: How can we correct the previously biased history of our peoples?

Answer: In the writing of history leaders of previous regimes used to prioritize their personal fame, honour and power, but not the people. In the monarchial period, the people were not sources of political power, as political power is gained through a blood relationship to the ruling class. The military regime that replaced the monarchy also did not give attention to the history of ordinary people but focused on features such as the soil, rivers, mountains. Therefore, history books written during these periods were not focused on the people’s history. The lack of focus on peoples’ history was not only a problem of written history, but it was also seen in oral history. The writing of history will be corrected by focusing on the true history of the people in the new process of building a democratic system. This in turn inculcates modern patriotism, among the people.

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Activity 1

Answer the following questions based on the previous explanation:

1. What are the manifestations of modern patriotism?
2. How can unbiased histories of nations, nationalities and peoples be written?

Some of the manifestations of modern patriotism are—obedience to laws and regulations; respecting the rights of others; discharging ones responsibilities and doing exemplary deeds. Nations, nationalities, and peoples have their own languages, cultures, histories, religions and psychological makeup. The history of leaders or ruling parties does not have to dominate that of the people. Biased written or spoken histories do not have to be tolerated. Openly criticizing such a history and re-writing with the support of empirical evidence is expected from every patriotic citizen. This is one of the manifestations of modern patriotism.

Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. What basic issues have to be considered in patriotism?
2. What is expected from us as patriotic citizens when we face biased history orally or in writing?

5.2 Destructive and Harmful Practices

5.2.1 Destructive and Harmful Practices in our Locality



Picture 5.1. Patriotic citizens oppose harmful destructive practices

- What do you notice from the pictures?
- Are there any youths in your locality who commit activities such as those in pictures?

“Awchachigne” (Exposing the criminal)

There were three thieves in a village. They committed many crimes such as robbing houses and public transport buses, destruction of local and public properties and rape. They committed serious crime against a national resource by stealing buried water pipes and electricity and telephone wires.

The residents of the locality who were tired of the activities of the thieves secretly decided to expose them. They promised one another to keep this secret plan and punish whoever exposed it. The attendance of the thieves in the meeting when the case was to be heard was controversial. Some of the residents suggested that if they expose the thieves in their presence, they will attack who exposed them, so the accusations should be made in their absence. Other residents however, were determined to expose the thieves in their presence saying that if they confessed publicly and decided to lead a peaceful life they could be pardoned. However, if they decided to continue in their theft, they would be passed on to legal bodies.

Still others argued that there should be no negotiation and compromise with such thieves who have been destroying public property and robbing the people. Therefore, they should be present in the meeting, their acts should be exposed publicly and they should be handed over to the legal authorities.

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Activity 3

Answer the following questions based on the previous case:

1. How does the theft of public property harm the community and government?
2. Discuss the alternatives presented by the attendants in group. Which alternatives to expose the thieves are better? Explain your answer.
3. What could be the result of carelessly watching the destruction of public property by others with the assumption, "this is not my concern?" Discuss in groups.

Opposing and avoiding destructive and harmful practices in our locality is expected from every one of us. Since public properties serve the community as a whole, their destruction is harmful to all of us.

Activity 4

Answer the following questions:

1. How can we create an environment free from destructive and harmful practices? Discuss in groups.
2. Write a short essay under the heading "My Responsibility in tackling Destructive and Harmful Practices in my Locality." Report it to your classmates.

5.3 Policies and Strategies of Development

5.3.1 The Role of Development Policies and Strategies in Combating Poverty



Picture 5.2. Hard workers are rewarded



Picture 5.3. Hard work eradicates poverty

- What message do both the above pictures convey?
- What are the manifestations of poverty in a country?

The youth of Addis village

The 30 youths of Addis village did not have jobs for many years. They reached a common agreement to use the opportunity created by the government and end their idleness. They formed a cooperative association under the name "Imibi le Dehinet" (No to poverty). They started work with the money they borrowed from a local micro-finance organization. The members of the association were divided into three groups. The first group was engaged in getting commissions for collecting the monthly payments for the electricity, water supply and telephone services of every resident.

The second group generated income in the form of service payment for the removal of solid waste from every residence.

The third group was involved in cleaning and guarding services at the market centre.

Achieving great success in a short time, the association of "Imibi le Dihenet" was rewarded by three institutions and by their local kebele office. These all brought improvement in the lives of the members.

Activity 5

Answer the following questions based on the above story:

1. What could be the result if the youths were to retain their old life-style?
2. Are there any youths in your locality involved in the activities mentioned in the case studies above?

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3. It is usual to listen to the complaints of many youths about unemployment. What would be your advice if you faced such a youth? Discuss in groups.

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world. Creating a patriotic generation who believe in work is essential to get rid of poverty once and for all. The government is making an effort to change the poverty image of the country by implementing various policies and strategies. As a result the economic growth of the country has improved particularly during the past few years. The success achieved in the agricultural sector is exemplary. Farmers and investors, who were successful in various economic activities, were awarded.

It is the responsibility of every citizen who claims to be patriotic to play his or her part in the eradication of poverty once and for all. For this, one has to examine development policies and strategies of the country and suggest improvements.

Activity 6

Answer the following questions:

1. List some major development policies and strategies in Ethiopia and discuss their tangible outcomes in groups.
2. What is expected of every citizen to eradicate poverty from Ethiopia?

5.3.2 The Role of Voluntary-Service in the Eradication of Communal Problems

- What are considered as communal problems?

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Activity 7

Answer the following questions based on the poem:

1. What is the message of the poem?
2. What voluntary services did the character in the poem promise to provide?
3. If you belong to any Voluntary Service Club in your school to which you belong, discuss its service. What are its strengths and weaknesses?

The development policies and strategies of the government need to be supported by the voluntary service of citizens. Society's problems cannot be resolved by the efforts of the government alone. They need the voluntary participation of the people, giving their knowledge, money and time for common development. For example, if there is an accidental fire in a village, the villagers should not wait for the fire brigade. They should make their own effort to control and extinguish the fire. Moreover, they should provide emergency relief assistance to the victims until rehabilitation is possible.

Waiting only for government support will not solve common problems. Society itself must also make a cooperative effort. Voluntary service is expected from every individual. Cooperation with local voluntary service associations, such as the Red Cross society make render this service effective.

Activity 8

Answer the following questions:

1. List voluntary service institutions in your locality.
2. Have you ever participated in the voluntary services of your locality? If not, why not? Discuss.

5.4 Citizenship

5.4.1 Rights and Duties of Citizens

"Ask what you have done for your country, not only what your country has done for you."

(John F. Kennedy President of America)

- What do you understand from the quotation?

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Comments from/to participants

Chuol, Fulaso, Zinash and Kusito are members of the Civics and Ethical Education Club. Two days ago, they held a debate on the topic “The Rights and Duties of Citizens”. They are reading comments sent to them from participants. A comment from one student reads “. . . I enjoyed the debate. I believe that we have to fulfill our citizenship responsibilities not only during normal situations, but also during when the country is in difficulty. Every citizen has not only to claim their rights but also to fulfill their responsibilities. For example, we have to cooperate to alleviate the problems occurring in our locality. Thank you!”

The second comment reads “Yesterday’s debate was hot and encouraging, but I think that there are many points which the debaters did not raise. I believe that we all are responsible for the exposure of those who become prosperous illegally”.

The third comment is as follows “We usually tend to condemn someone who does not fulfill his/her responsibilities, but we do not seem to show appreciation for those who fulfill them. Why is this? Thanks”.

The organizers of the debate agreed to come up with the summary of these and other comments from participants in the next debate session.

There are human rights that have to be respected for every citizen. For example, all citizens have the right to live freely in their country. No citizen shall be accused illegally. Freedom of religion and thought has also to be respected for every citizen.

Meanwhile, in the democratic system that our country is following, the democratic and human rights of citizens are respected. For example, the rights for freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, holding demonstrations, petition and popular sovereignty and self-administration are some of the democratic rights constitutionally granted in Ethiopia.

Every citizen must fulfill his/her responsibilities to see that his/her human and democratic rights are respected. Besides, every citizen must respect the rights of others as he/she claims his/her own rights must be respected. For example, as a child depends on his parents or caretakers to fulfill his basic needs, he or she has to fulfill the responsibilities given to him/her in the family.

Every citizen must take part in the social affairs of his locality while enjoying his rights. Other responsibilities include protecting common property and fulfilling what the country expects from him/her. On the other hand, citizens have the right to demand government funds for the implementation of local development projects, to which they contribute their part. For example, it is the responsibility of every citizen to cooperate with local security forces to insure the sustainable peace and security of their locality.

Activity 9

Discuss the following questions based on the above passage:

1. As it is said in the first comment, is it only during normal situations that we have to fulfill our responsibilities?
2. Is it appropriate for some to obey the law and fulfill their responsibilities while others become illegally successful? What is expected of a citizen when an illegal act is committed? Discuss.
3. Discuss in groups how a person has to be appreciated when he fulfills his responsibilities and how he has to be corrected if he does not.

Activity 10

Answer the following questions:

1. What would happen if citizens did not fulfill their responsibilities and only focused on their rights?
2. List at least three points that you consider are your citizenship rights and duties.

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5.5 National Flag

5.5.1 The Historical Development of the Ethiopian National Flag



Picture 5.4. Ethiopian National Flag

- What do you understand from the above picture?

Kumera Afincho and Ababa Goda

Ababa Goda is well-known in the village of Darba for his wise words and knowledge of history. The families of Kumera Afincho and Ababa Goda are neighbours. Hence, Kumera Afincho often has the chance to talk with him. Their discussion about the national flag goes as follows:

Kumera Afincho: Has the colours of our flag been historically green, yellow and red as they are now?

Ababa Goda: The green, yellow and red colours of the flag have a long history. But the colours and their arrangement have been changed at different times in history.

Kumera Afincho: Was it only the colour that changed or was it also the emblem?

Ababa Goda: The emblem has also been changed. Just to give recent examples, during the regime of Haile Sellassie I, the emblem on the flag was a lion holding the flag on its shoulder. The implication of the emblem was that the power of Ethiopian Kings descended from the blood line of King Solomon of Israel. During the Derg regime, the lion emblem

was replaced by an emblem symbolizing socialist ideology. After the downfall of the Derg regime, EPRDF took power and adopted a new national emblem. This is the emblem of the star reflecting the equality of nations, nationalities and peoples.

Kumera Afincho: Thank you for your explanation Ababa Goda.

Ababa Goda: You are welcome. If you want additional information, you can ask your Civics and Ethical Education teacher.

Activity 11

Answer the following questions:

1. What do you understand from the discussion between Kumera Afincho and Ababa Goda?
2. Why do you think the emblems and colours of the flag have been changed in different times in history?
3. Discuss the possible reasons why the flag and emblem are inseparable.

The mosaic colours of our flag—the green, yellow and red were not the only colours of the flag in history. Different Ethiopian rulers used flags with different colours. For example, the flag during the region of Emperor Tewodros II was Red, White and Blue. Whereas, during Emperor Yohannis IV the colours become Green, Yellow and Red.

After the coronation of Menelik II, in 1889 the above colours continued to be the colours of the flag even though their arrangement differed at different times. During Empress Zewditu's reign the green, yellow and red national flag was widely used. Emperor Haile Sellassie was the first to legally establish the mosaic colours of the flag and their arrangement in 1930.

The above mentioned kings had an emblem that reflects the *“MoāAnbesa Ze Imnegade Yihuda”* /The Winning Lion of Judah/. This reflects their blood line or lineage. During the role of the Derg the

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colours continued as they were but the emblem was replaced by an emblem reflecting socialist ideology.

In our democratic system today, though the colours continue as they were, a star made of equal lines and rays of light is adopted as the national emblem. This is to reflect the equality of nations, nationalities and peoples, their unity in diversity and their bright future.

Activity 12

Discuss the following questions:

1. Discuss with your teacher the changes that have been made to the national emblem from Haile Sellassie time to present.
2. What would be your answer to someone who claims that the Ethiopian flag has been green, yellow and red since ancient times?

Summary

Modern patriotism mainly focuses on the culture and history of nations, nationalities and peoples. Moreover, one's love of the country and its people is expressed in loyalty to the law. We have to respect the rights of others if we want our own to be respected. Every citizen is expected to fulfill responsibilities, to perform exemplary deeds, to know and correct the history and culture of the peoples and the country.

Modern patriotism begins with being informed about our own locality and protecting and wisely using public properties. Besides, even though the policies and strategies of the country have an important role in combating poverty, they will not be successful without the voluntary service of citizens. Citizens need to know their rights and responsibilities.

Key Words

- Policy and strategy:** A plan of action, law and rule set by the government for the fulfillment of a certain purpose
- Awchachigne:** A traditional system of detecting criminals the community
- Voluntary service:** An activity that one does willingly, with self-motivation without payment
- Sovereign state:** An independent state whose territorial integrity is internationally recognized

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. Every citizen should ensure that the history of our nations, nationalities and peoples is not to a biased one.
2. In order to obey to the law every citizen must have legal education.
3. Before we claim our rights we have to fulfill our responsibilities.
4. Our national flag is the witness to for our independence and long history.
5. Every citizen has to perform exemplary deeds for the community as far as his knowledge and abilities let him.
6. Correcting biased history is only the responsibility of historians.

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

A

1. Freedom of expression
2. Knowing rights and duties
3. Development policies and strategies
4. A manifestation of honesty
5. Being addicted to narcotic drugs
6. Destroying the national image
7. Protecting public property

B

- A. Keeping a secret
- B. Harmful practice
- C. Destructive practice
- D. Exemplary deed
- E. Mechanisms for combating poverty
- F. Democratic rights
- G. Responsibility of citizens
- H. Moral obligation

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

1. For the eradication of poverty, every citizen has to contribute his/her part to the implementation _____ and _____ of the government.
2. _____ is an activity that one does willingly and with self-motivation, without payment.

IV. Choose the correct answer for the following questions

1. Manifestations of modern patriotism are:
(a) Distinguishing biased history from unbiased history
(b) Obedience to the law
(c) Performing exemplary deeds
(d) All of the above.
2. Preventing destructive and harmful practices is:
(a) The individual responsibility of every citizen
(b) The common responsibility of the public
(c) The responsibility of law enforcement increasing officers
(d) All of the above.
3. Policies and strategies for the development of the country
(a) Can be effected only with the effort of the government
(b) Will produce results simply because they exist
(c) Must not be amended
(d) Need the common effort of citizens and the government to ensure successful implementation.
4. Rights and Responsibilities of citizens:
(a) Is enshrined in the constitution
(b) Shall be practically tested
(c) Must be made clear to all
(d) All of the above.

V. Give short answers for the following questions

1. Explain the problems that could result from the mishandling of public property. Support your explanation with examples.
2. How can voluntary service help the implementation of development projects?