

UNIT 11

Pursuit of Wisdom

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

- identify ways of developing knowledge.
- understand ways of using knowledge.
- realize the significance and necessity of information.
- recognize the necessity to combat harmful opinions and outlooks.

11.1 Ways of Developing Knowledge



Picture 11.1. Elephant of Africa



Picture 11.2. Athlete Tirunesh Dibaba and Kenenisa Bekele

- What do you know about the above two pictures?

Group Work

Teacher Ojullu requested his students to raise points in four titles which can enhance knowledge. Students started to search for titles in groups. Then they completed their work within a month. The following are titles given by the teacher.

- How the victory of Adwa attained? (Title from Kedija's Group).
- The topography and climate of Gambella region. (Title from Berehe's Group).
- What does the social life of bees look like? (Title from Tona's Group).
- Uncleaned water is danger for health (Title from Adugna's Group).

In next session, students should come with adequate supportive ideas in each of their groups. Supportive points can be attained from different sources and as follows.

Pursuit of Wisdom



Picture 11.3. Ways in order to enhance knowledge

1. What do you understand from the above pictures? Discuss.

It is natural for human beings to pursue wisdom. It is obvious that he/she can help him/her self or country, if one is empowered by knowledge. Thus is why, when individuals matured they are encouraged to attend schools. As human beings are knowledgeable, they have matured outlook and become problem solvers.

Human beings develop their knowledge by using different sources as instrument. The way of empowering knowledge can be categorized into four. These are formal education, informal education, Mass Medias and through reading materials. People opt

schools to attain strong and sustainable knowledge. There are well-trained teachers in schools. Teaching materials are also organized in special ways. The approach of education is also based on living situations of students. Since the curriculum is designed in a scientific way, it is guaranteed.

In addition to education, we get a lot of knowledge from experiences of others. This can be by looking things thoroughly, by sharing ideas with others, or by attending different meetings. For example, we may see, while children are suffering from diarrhoea in our community. We may ask ourselves “what is the reason?” Perhaps, large number of people may use river water for drinking purpose. Therefore, the frequent occurrence of the problem

Pursuit of Wisdom

is drinking impure water. Then we can make the people to talk on it. Eventually residents can reach to the conclusion that “by providing portable water, we have to safeguard our children from water born diseases”. Then after, we can realize while people are acting to provide pure and portable water. From this experience, we see at least two things. In one way, we understand that impure water is danger for health and on other way, if people mobilized, they can carryout some significant thing. Therefore, this shows on how to develop knowledge in informal ways.

Peoples who attend Radio, Television, Newspapers, Bulletins and other sources have broader understanding about their community, country and the world at large. On other occasions, we may forward different issues and questions through telephone, and letters and the accepted bodies in turn can take the case for the concerned bodies or refer necessary documents. By doing so, they can give appropriate response for us. For examples, we can raise the question for Ethiopian Radio regarding the social life of bees. Then journalists by contacting the concerned professional or by referring necessary documents can disclose appropriate information for us.

Reading is among the ways to attain well-developed knowledge. For example, since there are a lot of books written on Adwa, regarding the victory we can get brief knowledge from it. In this way, reading is the major option to enhance ones knowledge in all dimensions.

Activity 1

Discuss on the following questions:

Debate and decide on which of the following four methods is more important to enhance knowledge in the following four issues. Justify your decision of each.

1. Regarding the economic inflation of this and the last year, what kind of similarity and difference exist?

2. How that scientific way is implemented when sounds of individuals are transmitted to audience via Radio?
3. How the river in your community does have that name?
4. How does Rabies occur? How can it be prevented?
5. While we are clearly observing that the moon is giving light, how do we say the moon has no light of her own?

11.2 Ways of Using Knowledge

- When you get higher knowledge in future, for what purposes do you want to use?
- Among you, if one of students says “I want to use my knowledge for research”. And if the other opposes her saying and say “I must use my knowledge to improve myself”. Then which of them is correct and why?
- If your instructor enumerates the use of knowledge for following purpose and invites you for discussion, how would you explain the purpose of each?

The major ways of using knowledge

- (a) Research
- (b) Innovation
- (c) Improving oneself
- (d) Country’s progress.

A. Knowledge for Research

As far as our knowledge is developed, our research interest too increases. Though other scholars made research on a given thing, we develop our interest to research by our interest. Therefore, knowledge creates opportunities for further research over issues. For example, as you further advance in learning, you can make research in your areas of interest. Some of you may be interested to make research on the history of Ethiopia or Africa to date. Others may make research on way to improve agricultural products. In this case, while the knowledge helps for research, a research also serves to get knowledge.

Pursuit of Wisdom

B. Knowledge for Innovation

Remember what kind of innovative skills each of you have. You may have innovative skills of drawing pictures, engineering, music, literature writing, designing, art, leather work and pottery and others. Some of you may be with one of them or more than one of these skills. In addition to this, as people of other part of world did, you may want to be honoured by making cars, airplanes, production machines, computer and technological products. Even now, you may be attempting to do somethings. Such kinds of skills are products of innovative activities.

In this regard, there are honoured individual in our country as well as in world. In our country such as Meter Artist Afework Tekle and Loret Tsegaye Gebremedhin are significant persons in this regard. Not only in arts but also in natural science we have persons such as Dr. Aklilu Lemma. Furthermore, people use their indigenous knowledge and create new technologies like “Magedo Kotabi Midija”.

The knowledge we have must enable us to do further things. This implies, knowledge by itself is not an end. But it is the means to create new things. For example, to enhance communication creating a mobile phone is not an end by itself but it is progress and process of technology.

C. Knowledge to Improve Oneself

It is obvious that we are learning to improve ourselves. If we learn appropriately until the end and sustain our achievements, we can incur better income or manage our own institutions to make better money. Then we can fulfill our basic needs. We can help our families and our society properly. Therefore, it would not be wrong to say knowledge is important to improve ourselves.

D. Knowledge for Development

To take out our country, Ethiopia, and peoples for the long existed poverty, it is possible when our life is based on knowledge. Everyone may realize the responsibility to enhance country’s development

and to alleviate poverty. If you understand and realize this, the only way is attaining knowledge. The knowledge we get in schools has to be for avoiding country’s problem and enhancing development. If well-empowered citizens are there in every sector, researches are carried out to solve country’s problem. Innovations are founded and scientific outlooks are expanded. While these things are founded from broad knowledge, their general target is country’s development. Generally, every person can contribute broadly for his/her own country, when he/she employed, his/her knowledge for country’s development.

Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. Is it true or false when we say a person uses his/her knowledge to improve him/her self, indirectly he/she is helping his/her country? Why?
2. What is the significance of knowledge for innovative works?
3. Peoples to make detail researches on issues, they need knowledge? How?

11.3 Effects of Issues not Based on Information

ጦር ከፈታው ወራ የፈታው።

ሳያጣሩ ወራ፣ ሳይገድሱ ጉፈራ።

The proverb here in above, regarding issues not based on information, what kind of significance it has?

Washo

In past time in a given family, there was a servant whose name was Washo. He has been planning in order to confront a wife and husband. Once upon a day, while both are on bed peacefully, he dropped hot water on them. Then both of them woke up

Pursuit of Wisdom

turn by turn. The husband was surprised but kept silent thinking that wife had urinated. The wife also understood as her husband has done the unusual thing and kept silent.

On the next day, the husband had “Debo” to cultivate his land. The wife was also moving here and there with other neighbourers to prepare food for the working people. At that moment, Washo, the problem maker went to her and said “today your husband found while telling something bad about you for other farmers”. That was, “my wife had urinated upon me last night”. The wife get irritated on the wrong information and decided to quarrel with her husband. Washo, in turn went to the husband and told him that “your wife is talking something bad about you with females at home”. He asked “what?” Washo responded “Last night my husband had urinated on bed”. Then the husband has offended and said ‘while she did so, is she talking upon me?’ Then he went home and shot by the bullet and killed her without getting genuine information.

Activity 3

Answer the following questions on basis of the above passage:

1. What the two individuals should have done before they enter to such offenses?
2. What lesson the story gives for issues not based on information?
3. If you hear from somebody that “this year Grade eight National Examination will not be conducted”, What do you feel? Do you accept or not?

On different occasions different information may come to us. We may face problems to identify which information is true and which is not true. Of course,

some of them may be true. Others may be false and may not be creating problems on others. Still others may be creating problems on the individuals, society and country at large. Some merchants may make irrelevant information on some commodities as a cause to impose illegal price upon it. Others disseminate terrorizing information on other to disturb the life of society. Therefore, before deciding all disseminated information are true.

1. Checking whether that information is from free and reliable source.
2. Identifying them for not being from a single dimension and genuine sources.
3. When the relevance of information is under question, rather than publicizing merely, it is important to contact reliable and legal bodies which can give further confirmation.
4. Opting documented or written sources for information than mere mouth words.

If not, some individuals or bodies can disseminate anti-peace and terrorizing statements in order to distort our communities’ peaceful activities. Beyond this, they can initiate conflicts and disputes among the people. If these all are not successful, they make us to accept unapproved information and to even talk to other. But latter, we even may feel shame when an issue is found wrong.

Activity 4

Answer the following questions:

1. When do we say information is relevant?
2. What is the advantage of accepting unreliable information?
3. What kind of roles you have to play to get the people in your community is not disturbed by irrelevant information?

Pursuit of Wisdom

11.4 Backward Thinking and Outlooks

- What is the source of backward thinking?
- What kind of backward thinking are there in your community? How can they be replaced by progressive outlooks?
- What has to be your share in order to avoid such backward thinking?

Backward thinking are drawn from traditional outlooks. This may transcend from generation to generation. This is to mean, if the past outlooks and social principles are taken directly to the modern world without improvement. Such thinking may be legitimate in that past period. But in this current development trend, their legitimacy is questioned or totally perished.

For example, belittling peoples engaged in different arts was common in the past. But currently since they are professionals, their profession is highly respected. In past period, some people consider themselves from higher class. Even today, such peoples may exist. Today with the development of social awareness and changes of outlooks, such things became backward and worthless.

In the past system, girls were obliged to marry a husband whom they do not know, but whom is selected by her parents. In current time however, not only the development of the outlook to make such choices by her, it is also constitutional. Therefore, the

philosophy of a given time does not work for other. It can die and perish with that society.

Therefore, it is important to avoid backward thinking and outlooks. This is possible when we have the culture of reasoning. A person based on reason, since looks thing critically, avoids mere assumptions and stereotypic outlooks. For example, peoples based on mere assumption have no scientific reason to belittle others engaged in pottery. A reasonable person, however, can forward justifications to honour these works. Those peoples, while they are using the pottery products at their home, however, they fail to realize that is honoured profession. It is obvious that, since these peoples are incurring money from their work, after their self-reliance, they are also helping others. On basis of this, it is important to accept every issue or life philosophy only with relevant information. It is not worthy to accept merely as outlooks of “my father or mother.” In general, to enhance our country and society, it is important to avoid backward thinking and outlooks.

Activity 5

Answer the following questions in group:

1. What is the effect of backward thinking on development effort of a country?
2. How a reasonable thinking is helpful to avoid backward outlooks?

Summary

Knowledge can be developed in four major ways. These are formal education, informal education, mass-medias and readings. A person can empower his/her knowledge by all or some of those ways. But, at any time, to change oneself, others and the country; schools have great role.

As human beings equipped with knowledge in that extent research interest increases. It is possible to solve community’s and country’s problem through research. Knowledge helps to use the innovation skill properly. A number of innovative skills are

supported by knowledge. To be known artist or engineer, it is important to have detail knowledge of the area. Knowledge has great significance to change oneself. Highly educated and knowledgeable peoples, they got incomes for them. When citizens are more educated and their number increases, it has great significance for a country. It is unthinkable to think country’s progress without educated man power. This is why it is said to promote a country; a government has to expand education sectors.

Pursuit of Wisdom

Key Words

Reliable information:	Just and real information founded from different source
Pursuit:	Aspire, need
Mass media:	Public information dissemination mean such Radio, TV etc.
Research:	Study about an issue either to explore or solve a problem
Innovation:	Creativity
Past time:	The time before, not now or in future
Self-reliance:	Satisfying basic needs of life

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. Innovation is categorized backward thinking.
2. As far as scientific outlooks are developed, backward outlooks are perishing.
3. To improve ones life, the main thing is wealth and knowledge.
4. School is the source of knowledge because it is based on uniform curriculum.
5. All Radios centres can be reliable information sources?

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

A	B
1. The major source of knowledge	A. Leads to conflict, war, anarchy
2. Mass media	B. Found from legal and reliable sources
3. Reliable information	C. Includes radio, Newspapers etc.
4. Distorts public peace	D. Suspicion on information
5. Indicates effects of distorted information	E. Without relevant information
	F. Schools

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

1. _____ is among the few professional groups of Ethiopia.
2. _____ and _____ are among ways of using knowledge.
3. _____ can create conflicts among peoples or groups.

Pursuit of Wisdom

IV. Choose the correct answer for the following questions

- Backward opinions can be changed when
 - Expanding scientific outlooks
 - Expanding cultural education
 - Giving more emphasis to oral sources
 - All.
- Which one is true about the significance of knowledge?
 - Can use for research
 - Crest bad outlook upon cultures
 - Avoids our experience and achievement in whole
 - All.
- Which one is the best source of knowledge?
 - Television
 - Oral sources
 - Discussions in meetings
 - Schools.
- How knowledge helps us to improve ourselves?
 - Enables to go to abroad to work there
 - To be wise merchant and to get unexpected profit
 - To create citizens who prefer a single job only
 - (a) and (c) only.
- One of the following statements is the attribute of harmful traditional practice?
 - Educating females is important for all
 - Men has to be ultimate decision-maker
 - Women should be with the limited position
 - (b) and (c).

V. Give the short answer for the following questions

- What are the major sources of scientific knowledge?
- Why is reading considered as the source of knowledge?
- What are the reasons for backward thinking to be harmful?
- Are all outlooks of our fathers and mothers harmful traditional practices?
- What should be the role of young students in avoiding harmful traditional practices?