

Justice

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

- understand the necessity to avoid unfair practices.
- recognize the effects of unfair practices.
- realize practices of judicial bodies.
- understand the necessity of fair distribution of social services.
- remember the significance of tax at country level.

4.1 Partisanship

4.1.1 Ways to Avoid Partisan Practices

- How it is possible to avoid unfair practices from different areas?

'Shole Meda', for whom?

Since the recent past, peoples of 'Shole Meda' are facing a number of problems from the institution established in their community. Though they informed the concerned body to get a solution, no one has given attention to the problem. The main cause of the problem is, the 'Shole Meda' which was the base of their livelihood is currently held in private groups. 'Shole Meda' is a fertile field where grasses are cut, water is fetched and a number of vegetable products are harvested throughout the year. Even though residents complained to concerned bodies legally to carryout development activities there, their frequent applications have been disregarded.

On the contrary, a way that violates rules and regulations of the 'Shole Meda' are given to an individual unfairly on basis of partisanship. What has irritated residents of the community was the displacing of them to give the area to that person. The investor who has unnecessary benefits with the leaders of the community says that "I am investing for my country and people, so who can talk against me."

Activity 1

There are some alternatives that forward by certain residences to avoid the problem of Shole Meda. Read those alternatives and answer the questions that follow.

Ato Tegicho - "Though we have presented our problem to judicial bodies, there is no appropriate response. Even in future if we appeal to higher judicial bodies, nothing different would happen. All such valueless attempts are worthless. Let us consider that he has offended us. Let us attack his properties, which would lead to no more effect than being arrested."

Ato Bunkura - "It shall not be in such a way. So, let us contribute money and give a bribe to higher judicial bodies. Let us look for individuals who can facilitate this attempt. If not,

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let us give-up doing anything by admitting what has been done against us.”

W/ro Alena - “Though we are not successful for the moment we have to apply the case to the concerned bodies. Still we have to apply to higher bodies by tolerating certain obstacles. We should not regret the time, money and energy committed to the purpose. If not, in future we may encounter more bad challenges than this.”

Ato Dorsiso - “No problem. Let us creates clear understanding for the ‘investor’ on the problem we are facing. Let us talk with him together. He has a conscience to analyze our problems. Then after we can determine measures to be taken at individual and collective levels.”

Among the aforementioned alternatives

1. Which of those way(s) is (are) appropriate? Justify.
2. Which of them is wrong decision? Explain with reasons.
3. Which options have significance for peace, justice and prosperity? How?

Citizens have a great responsibility to fight with unfair practices in a society. In this regard, the following are among the responsibilities of leaders, workers and society in general.

Responsibilities of leaders and workers

- **Working on the basis of laws:** Public officials and workers have to respect and be governed by the law. They have to use their authority to discharge their responsibilities. They have to act on the basis of the limit of power. If not, it causes unfair or partisan practices. Therefore,

while carrying out our responsibilities, we should base them on rules, regulations and laws. Furthermore, it is unnecessary to keep silent while public officials and workers are violating laws. It is important to apply the case for the concerned bodies.

- **Discharging on the basis of integrity and loyalty:** Among the prime mechanisms to fight partisanship is practicing integrity and loyalty. Integrity explains being based on self-esteem, honesty and genuineness. Based on this, workers have to be committed, loving their work, and discharging their responsibilities with competence and quality.
- **Equal treatment of citizens:** This is among the major principles to avoid unfair/partisan practices. Equal treatment refers to non-discrimination and fairness.

Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the good behaviour expected from government workers to give appropriate service for customers?
2. Mention problems of services given by governmental institutions in your community by asking your families.

4.2 Injustice

Effects of injustice on building democratic system and development

- Mention effects of injustice at country level.

“Shole Meda was the land of injustice where people are victims”. The unjust practice of ‘Shole Meda’ has resulted political and social problems. For example, the waste drainage released in the field has bad smell which has adverse effect on the health of the society and animals too. Furthermore, since there is no animal and vegetable product from

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the field, such products became costly in the market. This has affected the social life highly. The problem has even affected people surrounding the 'Shole Meda' community. Everyone has been irritated by the unjust practices of public officials. Therefore, the public has lost confidence in their leaders. Unlike in the past, they have no interest in listening and accepting messages from authorities. Since there is less observance of law, there is no peace and security in the society. Some are even saying that "there is no law, and hence let us achieve our needs forcefully."

Activity 3

Answer the following questions on basis of the above passage:

1. Mention the possible economic, political and social problems which are created due to unfair/unjust practices of 'Shole Meda' officials.
2. What have residents to do if their application to higher officials received little attention? What kind of problems may be created?

4.2.1 Injustice Creates the Following Problems

Avoiding confidence of the public upon the government

Unjust practices which victimize the society are commonly practiced in government institutions. Unjust practices in such an area weaken pillars of the democratic system which are important to promote justice, the rule of law and equality. Violation of the rights of citizens due to injustice erodes confidence of the people in their government.

Such things trigger riots and anarchy in a country. Injustice endangers the participation of society in country's development and progress.

Absence of willingness to give citizenship duty

The weakness of justice is the factor for partisan practice. Therefore, though a country is state of the

whole people, it becomes the property of 'elites'. Since the majority is excluded, they have no motivation to take part or contribute for a country. Furthermore, it promotes unconcernedness and carelessness in a society. This in turn hinders the development of democratic system and good governance. Such practices endanger the society and country at large.

Activity 4

Answer the following questions:

1. Mention problems created due to injustice or unjust practices.
2. By selecting some of institutions which are known by unjust practices in your community, mention their problems? Enumerate the possible solutions for the problems.

4.3 Judicial Bodies

4.3.1 Practices of Judicial Bodies



Picture 4.1. Courts play significant role in the judicial process

- What should be the practice of judicial bodies?

Courts have a great responsibility as well as authority to promote justice. Courts can discharge their responsibility to promoting justice if they are based on the following principles. These are, having independent judiciary and non-interference of other bodies.

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Independent judiciary

Courts have to be free from anybody's interference when passing judgement. Nobody has to be involved in court decisions. In other words, decisions have to be based on no pressures except the law. Therefore, in any judicial process, courts have to promote institutional freedom. If courts are based on such activities, the judicial process would become appropriate.

Judicial practice have to be free from partisanship

Courts in their judicial practice should not practice partisanship among citizens. Since higher officials

as well as ordinary citizens are equal before the law, courts have to exercise this into practice. Courts have not to be partisan to politics, ethnicity, language and religion. Their decisions have to be based on rules and regulations as well as professional ethics.

Based on this federal constitution article 79 explains judicial freedom in the following ways. *"Judicial powers, both at Federal and State levels, are vested in the courts. Courts of any level shall be free from any interference of influence of any governmental body, government officials or from any other source. Judges shall exercise their functions in full independence and shall be directed solely by the law".*

Activity 5

Based on the procedures of the following two courts, answer questions:

Court A		Court B	
1.	Before a decision, it requests comments from different professional groups and religious fathers	A.	Acts on basis of rules and regulations
2.	Accepts orders from political leads on an occasion basis	B.	Provincial judges pass decisions
3.	Decisions are given by only few publicly elected judges	C.	Uses witnesses and evidences to pass decisions
4.	Passes decisions by compromising different criminal practices	D.	Accept bails and applications
5.	Citizens are obliged to accept the decisions	E.	A President of a country can grant forgive for peoples under arrest
		F.	Give decisions on crimes as per activities stated as criminal in state law.

1. In which of those courts has judicial freedom prevailed? And in which of them not? How?
2. Which of those courts is important to promote the building of democracy and the progress of the country?

4.3.2 The Right to Get Justice

- What kind of roles citizens have to play to make judicial decisions fair?

It is obvious that promoting justice is the responsibility of higher government leaders. For this purpose, government enacts laws. It also organizes judicial bodies and assigns professionals. Furthermore, it follows their functions. Nevertheless, without active community participation, practices of

judicial bodies cannot be effective. It is important to analyze the question, 'What is the role of citizens in promoting justice?' In general, the following shall be among the major contributions of citizens to promote judicial practice.

Challenging to get a right judicial decision

In democratic system, institutions are established to serve the public. Therefore, citizens should not admit

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any kind of violation of justice and not associating with such decisions with chance or creator. They have to struggle with the violators to get that decision correct through putting peaceful pressure upon them. For example, publicizing the violator in mass media is among way to correct the violator.

Applying to legal body on the occasion of violation of justice

If citizens fail to get appropriate justice by their own struggles, they have not to attempt to get it by force, money, blood relation or so on. If there is distorted justice, it is important to inform the concerned judicial bodies, apply and appeal to the competent court against the decision or judgement of the court which first heard the case. Legal procedures are preferable and effective at any time.

Activity 6

Answer the following questions:

1. Explain possible measures you may take when you counter violation of justice in different areas.
2. Mention the importance of courts being independent from interferences in their decision.
3. What does an independent judiciary mean?

4.4 Social Services

4.4.1 Social Services and their Necessities

- What are functions of social services to society?

Wanza Society and Social Services

Wanza society has been blocking a number of social services attempting to be established in their community. Even the already existing one is not

giving appropriate service. They hate such service by thinking that; it would lead to misconduct of our children by deteriorating our culture. According to them, the modern treatment is a mischief designed to extinct our race. When roads and other infrastructures are implemented, life becomes costly, togetherness and compassion may be avoided. Due to this misunderstanding, they have remained backward people.

After a certain time, they started to regret by looking at progress in other areas. The health is secured and their children are assigned to higher positions because they are learned. However, Wanza Society is frequently infected by diseases and their children cannot be assigned to significant positions. They started to feel in the absence of a road, water, light and so on in their communities and hence started to talk about these issues. What would they do?

Activity 7

Answer the following questions on basis of the passage:

1. Enumerate the significance of social services for public progress.
2. What are the obstacles for the development of social services?

Institutions, which are giving services such as health, education, agricultural and so on are said to be social institutions. Such organizations can be established by the efforts of society or government to give either free or low cost services. They are important for the progress of a society. By improving the life of society, social services play a great role for the development of a country. For example, education by avoiding illiteracy and backwardness creates scholars which are the major instruments of development. It is also true of health centre, when they are fully developed, to create healthy and productive citizens.

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4.4.2 The Significance of Non-Partisan Access of Social Services

- Is the service of social institutions free from partisanship in your community?

Basic principles of service giving

The Wanza society understood the significance of social services. To construct social services, a number of responsible persons carried out the awareness creation and convincing the society. Governing rules and regulations of institutions were established and the community also made to know such rules and regulations. In the rules, major attention was given to give non-partisan service to the society. Furthermore, the first phase of construction was supposed to be taken in densely populated and central settlement areas of the people. Agreements were also made to expand such construction to other areas. Even appropriate systems are designed to give fair service for the moment. Eventually, the question which needs an immediate answer has risen. That is, 'Who are responsible for constructing such service-giving institutions?'

Activity 8

Answer the following questions:

1. Mention practices which show fair procedures on basis of the above text.
2. Mention the significance of non-partisan procedures.
3. Mention the significance of social services in giving non-partisan procedures to a society.

Citizens can get proper service if there is non-partisan practice. Non-partisanship ensures the basic principle of democracy that is equality. This enhances the belongingness and commitment sentiment of individuals. Non-partisan practices bind the society with the government and hence promote the democratic system.

4.4.3 The Role of Government and Society in Expanding Social Institutions

- What is the role of government and society in expanding social services?

Unity is Strength

The Wanza society entered into contention on the issue of who has to take the responsibility to expand social institutions. Some are saying "It is up to the government which has done nothing in our community yet". Others say that "though government has to take the responsibility clearly, let us support its effort by money, material and energy." This idea has got the support of majority. The society agreed to create income generating symposiums. They organized a committee which can coordinate their effort. On basis of this, with common effort and togetherness, within a few years, they succeeded in constructing schools, clinics, roads, electricity and telephone services. This enabled the community eventually to attain appropriate services. They understood that, to have better life, social services are too significant.

Activity 9

Answer the following questions:

1. From the two outlooks referred in the passage, which do you prefer? Why?
2. Mention the significance of community participation in building social services.

Government is an organ with major responsibilities to expand social services. It has the responsibility to fulfill citizens' material and spiritual needs. However, government alone cannot build and construct such institutions. Such effort has to be supported by citizens' active participation. Therefore, society has to support government's effort at individuals as well as collectively in physical or financial issues in expanding such institutions.

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Group Work

By making an observation of social services in your community, make a report to your class based on the following points:

- (A) Necessary service-giving institutions
- (B) Organs expected to be involved in the work
- (C) Possible functions of those organs.

4.5 Tax

- What is the significance of tax in a country's economic development?

The Civics and Ethical Education Club discussion program of Iwket Fana School

Among the functions of the Civics and Ethical Education Club in Iwket Fana School is managing discussions on different issues. Today's discussion program emphasizes on the development of agriculture and on the tax share of regional and federal governments. In this discussion, students of grade eight and school communities are strong participants. The invited guests and professionals are put forward their ideas and comments on the following ways:

Part One: *"Agriculture and investment are the two sides of a coin."*

- **The Role of tax for expansion investment:** "Tax has a significant role in the development of investment. This is because, incomes incurred from tax are used by a government for infrastructures such as roads, light, bridges, water and energy sources etc. As these infrastructures are expanded, it is conducive for internal as well as external investors, and hence they can be involved in different development works. On the other hand, when investment is expanded, tax sources are also expanded. Therefore, tax and investment are complimentary activities."

Activity 10

Discuss the following questions:

1. What is the significance of expansion of investment for tax?
2. What is the importance of expanding investment for country's development?

Part Two: *"The significance of tax for fair development of regions."*

"The amount of resources and sources of tax of regions in federal system may not be similar. However, all are governed by a single common constitution. More than this, residents of all regions are citizens of a country. Citizens have the right to share and use country's resource fairly. The disparity between regions is not only in tax sources but also in the level of development. Especially areas in peripheries are facing critical problems. Therefore, to promote balanced development among regions, it is important to share collected taxes equitably to regions. Therefore, there is the procedure that region with higher tax sources will share their tax incomes to lower tax source areas. This is among the major principles of federalism. This procedure creates mutual understanding among and balanced progress among regions."

Group Work

Based on above-mentioned fair usage of tax incomes, discuss the following issues. A federal country with seven regions has the following structure for tax collection.

There are two hundred million birr annual subsidies for two regions from a federal government. The federal government collects one billion birr per year from the three regions. The other two regions are self-reliant with no subsidies. Sometimes, this tax collection and sharing creates dispute from regions. The difference of ideas had the following contents. The three regions claim to retain all taxes collected from them for themselves. The two self-reliant regions also claim that even though they are self-reliant,

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a federal government as doing for other regions has to give us subsidies. However, the central government strictly conforms to its procedure.

Activity 11

Answer the following questions on basis the issue presented above:

1. From the three ideas mentioned in above, to which do you agree? Justify.
2. What has to be done to inculcate appropriate outlooks in a society?

Part Three: “Types of income sources of federal and regional government.”

One of the attributes of federal government is power sharing between central and regional states. Based on this power division, their areas of tax collection are differentiated. As both have exclusive tax territories, they have also concurrent tax income sources. Those concurrent tax sources are shared income sources of the federal and regional states. Based on this, our current constitution states the exclusive and concurrent income sources in the following ways:

Main income sources of Federal government (Article 96)	Main income sources of Regional governments (Article 97)	Concurrent income sources (Article 98)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Federal Government shall levy and collect custom duties, taxes and other charges on imports and exports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State shall levy and collect income taxes on employees of the state and of private enterprises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Federal Government and the States shall jointly levy and collect profit, sales, excise and personal income taxes on enterprises they jointly establish.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It shall levy and collect income tax on employees of the Federal Government and international organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State shall determine and collect fees for land usufructuary rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They shall jointly levy and collect taxes on the profits of companies and on dividend due to shareholders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It shall levy and collect income, profit, sales and excise taxes on enterprise owned by the Federal Government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State shall levy and collect taxes on the incomes of private farmers and farmers incorporated in cooperative associations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They shall jointly levy and collect taxes on incomes derived from large-scale mining and all petroleum and gas operations, and royalties on such operations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It shall tax the income and winnings of national lotteries and other games of chance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State shall levy and collect profit and sales taxes on individual traders carrying out a business within their territory. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It shall levy and collect taxes on the income of air, rail and sea transport services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State shall levy and collect taxes on income from transport services rendered on waters within their territory. 	

Group Work

By visiting tax collecting institutions in your community, present a report on

- (A) Major types and ways of tax and tax collection
- (B) Constraints in tax collection
- (C) For what purpose a collected tax is employed

Summary

Partisanship has adverse effects in a community and country. It creates a number of problems. For example, it hinders the building of the democratic system. It also hinders the involvement of citizens to carry out their responsibilities. Therefore, it is important to struggle and resist unfairly practiced exercises anywhere. For public officials or ordinary citizens to struggle against partisanship, they have to base their struggles on the rule of law, respecting and following the respect of law, treating customers equally and carrying out their work loyally and honestly. Among the institutions to promote justice, courts are the primary ones. They have to be free from the interference of any external body. Furthermore, decisions of judicial bodies have to be based on law and free from partisanship and discriminations. In other ways, to avoid partisanship, citizens have great responsibilities. Citizens have to obviously understand that they have to attempt to get justice

with their individual involvement and if they fail in such a way, they have to follow the legal procedures only.

Institutions of social services are important in order for citizens to have a better life. For this, non-partisan service has to be given. It has not to be taken as the duty of government only. Citizens have to give further support in the attempt of the distribution of social services. Tax has a great contribution in making the expansion of investment faster and promoting fair development among regions. Therefore, from a country having a federal system, it is important to have a procedure that promotes fair distribution tax incomes among regions. The collection and sharing of tax incomes among regions is not carried out arbitrarily. Rather, it is based on laws and the constitution of a country. In any way, citizens by understanding the significance of tax, have to pay it on time and be cooperative with tax collectors on collection.

Key Words

<i>Tax:</i>	Any kind of income collected for a government
<i>Sales tax:</i>	15% fee from certain commercial activities
<i>Custom duties:</i>	Income collected for a state from daily trade exchanges
<i>Value:</i>	Standards of right and work behaviours
<i>Principle:</i>	Procedure of work

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. Partisan practices can be combated but cannot be avoided.
2. Sometimes, it is important to use force to avoid partisan practices.
3. Unjust practices exercised sometimes contribute for the development of democracy and development.
4. In constructing social institutions, the public has to be involved as the government cannot carry out alone.
5. Tax has great role in order to narrow the development level gaps among regions.

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

- | A | B |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Concurrent taxation | A. School |
| 2. The way to have balanced development among regions | B. Common income |
| 3. Measures to be taken by citizens to avoid partisanship | C. Respecting law |
| 4. Social institution | D. Fair sharing of tax income |
| 5. Be free from interference of any external body | E. Courts |

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

1. In federal system, there is distribution of tax between _____ and _____.
2. _____ and _____ are the basic principles of courts.
3. When a person applies to higher competent courts against an order or judgement of the court which first heard the case, we call it _____.

IV. Choose the correct answer for the following questions

1. One of the following is not the way to avoid unjust/partisan practices
(a) Using law (b) Accusing
(c) Being silent while violation is there (d) (a) and (b) are correct.
2. The principle to be follow by judicial bodies is
(a) Their own interest and emotions (b) Principles
(c) Being non-partisan (d) All are answers.
3. Which one is more expected to follow-up partisan/unjust practices?
(a) Government (b) Religious institutions
(c) Civic Organizations (d) Organizations.
4. Social institutions
(a) Important to the development of a society (b) Have to be free from partisan practice
(c) Constructed by a government only (d) (a) and (b) are answers.
5. Which one is not the consequence of partisan practice?
(a) Low commitment (b) Low democratic practice
(c) Promoting justice (d) All are answers.

V. Give short answers for the following questions

1. By selecting one of the followings, mention the effects of unjust practices.
2. Mention the significance of tax for a country's development and balanced progress among regions.