

Unit 5

Patriotism

Introduction

You learnt the new dimensions of patriotism in Grade 9. There are different examples of patriotism. Among them are working hard to fight poverty and backwardness and defending the principles of democracy. Respecting the rights of others, tolerating diversity and volunteering to serve the community are also patriotic actions. You will explore this issues further in this unit.

Lessons

1. Requirements to Increase Patriotism
2. Patriotism and the Common Good
3. Patriotism and Poverty Reduction
4. Voluntarism

What you will learn

You will:

- understand what is required for the prevalence of patriotism.

- understand the relationship between patriotism and the common good.

Key words and concepts

- Chauvinism
- Corruption
- Discrimination
- Ethical person
- Self interest
- War culture
- Welfare

A sign of patriotism — Tirunesh Dibaba winning an Olympic gold medal



1

LESSON

Requirements to Increase Patriotism

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- list what is required to make people feel patriotic.
- respect the equality of citizens.
- respect the national flag.

What do you think helps people to feel patriotic?

Citizens develop patriotic feelings about their country when they all feel equal. If they are denied their rights, or believe their views are being ignored and/or are being treated unfairly, they will feel negative towards their country.

Unequal treatment was common in our country in the past. Very small numbers of people had access to education and health services, which others did not have. Some groups of people were treated much better than others. Some had the right to read and write in their language but many others did not. People who are denied their rights cannot develop a sense of patriotism and a group of people who are badly treated may decide to fight for equality and their rights.

Patriotism develops when there is no discrimination of any sort. As you know, discrimination is unequal treatment of individuals or groups because of their cultural background, sex etc. For example, if your school treats male

and female students differently, this is called discrimination.

Both sexes should have equal opportunities for education, political participation and work. Moreover, people with disabilities should be treated equally in schools and health centers. People who live in urban and rural areas should also have the same opportunities. Discrimination leads to conflict in society. To avoid conflicts, citizens should be treated equally in every respect.

Form groups and discuss these questions. Ask your group leader to summarize your discussion for the class.



- How does discrimination weaken patriotic feelings?
- How can we strengthen the sense of patriotism in all Ethiopians?

Respect of the National Flag

The Ethiopian flag is the oldest in Africa. During colonial times the Ethiopian flag, in green, yellow and red, was regarded as a symbol of independence for the Africans who were under colonial rule. Ethiopia's subsequent role for the decolonization of Africa made the country the champion of independence in the continent.

Many African countries, after independence,

Requirements to Increase Patriotism

adopted the Ethiopian tricolour in a similar way or in different arrangements. For the Ethiopians, the choice of the colours in the flag has a very long history. The Ethiopian flag, among other things, symbolizes the commitment of the people to preserve the independence of the country. So, the flag of Ethiopia is a national symbol of sacrifice, pride and unity for its peoples.

Today, Ethiopia is a federal country. The Constitution of the federal government under Article 3 describes the Ethiopian flag as consisting of the colours of green, yellow and red with a national emblem at the centre. Besides, the Constitution empowers the regional states to have their own respective flags. The federal flag represents the country at the international arena and is known across the world. Thus, due respect for the national flag increases one's patriotic feeling.

Tolerance of diversity

Tolerance of diversity is important in promoting patriotism. If you look at people in your classroom, school, village or town, you can see many differences. Ethiopia is a diverse and interesting place and so you should appreciate the differences within it.

You need to be wise when dealing with diversity because conflict can result from the failure to appreciate and tolerate differences. You have to accept that diversity is a reality. You need

to treat everybody politely, fairly and equally. People develop a sense of patriotism and belonging when they are well treated and their rights are respected.

Diversity was not appreciated in the past. Governments tried to maintain unity without recognizing the equality of the people. They did not care about promoting equality among groups with different languages, religion and other cultural traits. But despite the government's failure to treat all cultural groups equally, the peaceful coexistence of the Ethiopian people developed due to the tolerance of the nations, nationalities and peoples of the country.

- How many different languages do students in your row/class speak?
- How many of them like reading the same kinds of books?
- How many students choose football as their favourite sport?
- How many of them follow the same religion?
- How many students like similar kinds of music?
- How many different kinds of cultural foods can the students list?

Form groups to discuss what people and the government should do to promote a sense of patriotism among all citizens and let the group leaders summarize your ideas to the class for further discussion.

Requirements to Increase Patriotism

REMEMBER

- ❑ When treated equally, people develop patriotic feelings about their country.
- ❑ In the past unequal treatment was common.
- ❑ It is important to respect the equality of the peoples of Ethiopia to develop patriotism.
- ❑ Discrimination leads to conflict among members of society.
- ❑ It is important to tolerate diversity in Ethiopia.
- ❑ All people should respect the laws of the land, respect diversity and develop tolerance of culture to develop a sense of patriotism.
- ❑ The Ethiopian flag is the oldest in Africa.
- ❑ The Constitution empowers the regional states to have their own respective flags and constitutions for domestic use.

LESSON 2

Patriotism and the Common Good

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- define what the common good or public interest means.
- defend the common good.
- explain the duties of a patriot apart from that of defending Ethiopian territory.
- be patriotic.

What do you think the common good or public interest means?

Why is it important for everybody to do his or her best for the public interest?

In Grade 9, you learnt that everybody has an obligation to promote **public interests** or the **common good**. Public interest refers to things that are beneficial to all or most of us. Keeping peace and order is a good example of looking after the public interest. Safeguarding the country's independence is another example. You are responsible for promoting the public interests. Everybody should help to keep our independence and promote our economic development. To do this, we need to know about the true history of our country.

In Grade 9, you learnt that history should be **objective**. It should reflect the contributions of all patriotic citizens. It should not exaggerate the contribution of a particular group or individual

while ignoring the roles played by others. Ethiopian history is the history of its nations, nationalities and peoples. When people think of Ethiopia as their own country they become patriotic. They defend their country's territorial integrity, fight against terrorism, corruption and intolerance. They also feel responsible for promoting its development.

You have to be an ethical person to promote the welfare of your community or country. Ethical people evaluate the good and bad effects of their actions on themselves, the community and their country before deciding what to do. They would not be too subjective in favouring or disfavouring individuals or groups. They avoid hasty generalization and refrain from giving judgement not founded on facts. Patriotic citizens clearly know that they are responsible for promoting the public interest and the well-being of their country.

Patriotic citizens are also responsible for keeping state secrets. Citizens have the right to get information about their government and country. They have the right to know what is happening in their country. But there are state secrets that should not be made public. For example, issues of national defense and military strategy should be kept secret for national safety. You will not be told about these secrets because this could put your country in danger. If, by chance, you come to know these secrets you have the responsibility not to disclose them. Keeping state secrets is also important in reducing the risk of terrorist attacks.

Patriotism and the Common Good

Terrorism is the illegal use of force against people or property. It is the cruellest of all crimes. It affects everyone by indiscriminately destroying their lives and property. It also holds back development by shifting the government's attention and budget to defending the country from terrorist attacks.

We should all know about the causes of terrorism. In a democracy individuals and groups have the right to promote their political interests legally. But sometimes certain people or groups may not be able to get what they want legally so they may use terrorist tactics to achieve their political goals.

Fighting for equality and freedom is patriotic but acting cruelly and destroying civilian lives and property to achieve political goals is not patriotic. Defending peoples' lives and property from terrorists is true patriotism.

We are also responsible for opposing and preventing nationalistic chauvinism which arises when one nation thinks it is superior to others. This can lead to conflict and war. People who fight against their country's enemies are patriots because they take part in just wars. Sometimes, states may invade other countries' territories motivated by extreme nationalism. Some leaders encourage their people to think that they are better than other nations and persuade them to invade these countries. This has led to devastating wars which caused millions of deaths and much destruction of property.

Leaders, such as Hitler, invaded other countries by telling their people that it was in the national interest. While safeguarding our sovereignty, we need to discourage nationalistic chauvinism and promote peace and equality.

CASE STUDY

Terrorism: Minibus Bombing in Addis Ababa

Three people were killed and nine wounded in a bomb explosion on a minibus in Addis Ababa. Professor Yehezkel Shoshani was one of the people who died in the explosion. He was riding in a minibus on Tuesday May 20, 2008, when the explosion occurred. Shoshani was a 65 years old elephant expert. He loved elephants and had been studying them for more than 10 years. He did not complete his study on elephants when he died. The professor was teaching at the Addis Ababa University until the time of his death.

Tigist Kasaye was among the people who died in the minibus bombing. She was a student in the Faculty of Technology, Addis Ababa University. Tigist was a

graduating student but she died before completing her study.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7411628.stm>



Wreckage of the minibus



- Discuss the impacts of terrorism considering the above case study.
- Do you think that you have a responsibility in the fight against terrorism?
- What is the effect of these kinds of terrorist actions on your country's development?

Patriotism and the Common Good

CASE STUDY

A Disaster caused by Nationalistic Chauvinism

Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany in 1933. He came to power when the country had serious problems. Germany had been defeated in the First World War and had suffered a lot because of the negative effects of that war. There were serious economic problems. A large number of Germans did not have jobs. Hitler controlled political power by promising the people a better life. He preached the superiority of the German people. He thought that the Germans were better than other nations such as the French, the Polish, the Russians etc.

He believed that Germans should rule everybody else. Hitler led his country into the Second World War. He invaded countries such as Poland, Austria and Russia. He did not like the Jewish people so he encouraged his soldiers to kill Jewish people in Europe.

About six million Jewish people, men and women, children and old people, were killed when Hitler was in power. More than 50 million people died during the Second World War.



Adolf Hitler

Discuss the following questions in groups and list the summary of your points. Ask the leaders of each group to read the summaries to the class for further discussion.

- Do you think that there are superior and

inferior nations in Ethiopia?

- What is the impact of feelings that there are superior or inferior people?
- How do you feel when your nation or culture is regarded as inferior?
- Discuss how we can avoid nationalistic chauvinism.

Hitler's idea of German superiority led to Germany invading other nations and the World War II (1939–1945). This chart indicates the number of deaths in World War II.

Country	No. of deaths	% of deaths out of total population
USSR	20,600,000	10.4%
Austria	480,000	7.2%
Germany	6,850,000	9.5%
Poland	6,123,000	17.2%
G.Britain	388,000	0.8%

The total number of people who had died by the end of the war was 52,199,000

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

- Using the above information, discuss the effects of nationalistic chauvinism as a class.

You are responsible for promoting the public interest although you also have the right to promote your own personal interests. A patriotic citizen keeps a balance between public and private interests. You may want to have a good education, a good job, a better income and a good house, but you have to meet your own interests without going against the public interest.

There are times when your personal interests

are in conflict with public interests. In this case, ethical people give priority to the public interest. This simply means that you should not have to go against the interests of your school, community, or nation in order to promote your own personal interests.

For example, you may find an interesting book in your school library. The book contains many attractive maps and pictures and you would like

Patriotism and the Common Good

to take the book. If you did, you would be getting what you wanted but you would act against the interest of other pupils. So you decide not to take the book as other students also need to use the book. This is an ethical decision. But do not forget that you can promote your personal interest without acting against the public interest. What you can do is to go to the library and copy the

maps or pictures that you want. But stealing the book, or tearing out pages, would be unethical. This is promoting one's personal, selfish interests which is wrong.



Form groups to discuss how you can promote the public interest/common good in your area. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class.

CASE STUDY

The "I" and the "We"

This real story happened many years ago. It is about Abebe who worked for an NGO which helps the needy. The NGO distributed food and oil to rural communities suffering from drought and famine. The people were in real difficulty because the drought had killed their livestock and they did not have food to survive. Children and babies were severely affected and some of them were dying. The NGO was distributing food to save people's lives.

Abebe was responsible for distributing food aid to that community. He did this but also made some money by selling some of the food and oil that should have been given to the poor. He did this

every month, secretly and carefully, and was able to complete building a house in Addis Ababa.

Abebe was a selfish and corrupt official who stole from the poor.

Discuss the following questions as a class.



- What do you think about Abebe's action? Do you think this is corruption? Why?
- What would you do if you were in Abebe's position? Discuss the problem and mention possible solutions.

REMEMBER

- ❑ Patriotism is love and loyalty to your country and devotion to promote the public interest.
- ❑ Common good refers to commitment to advance the public interest.
- ❑ We should all understand the true history of our country because it helps us to feel patriotic.
- ❑ Patriotic citizens have many duties including keeping state secrets and fighting against terrorism and nationalistic chauvinism.
- ❑ We are all responsible for promoting public interests and the common good.

LESSON 3

Patriotism and Poverty Reduction

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- explain the causes and effects of poverty.
- describe how citizens can help to reduce poverty.

Describe some of the responsibilities of patriotic citizens fighting against poverty?

Patriotism does not just mean fighting in battlefields. Fighting against common enemies, such as poverty and backwardness, is also patriotic. Patriotism means showing positive attitudes to your country and working for its development and prosperity. Patriotic citizens are proud of their country. But it is difficult to be proud of a country whose people are suffering from poverty and backwardness.

Our country is one of the poorest countries in the world. There are many people who do not get three meals in a day. Some people still depend upon food aid to survive in times of drought and famine. We need to fight against poverty, famine and backwardness which negatively affect the image of our country. Poverty badly affects our country and its citizens. It erodes people's pride and dignity. It makes human life miserable because it leads to poor sanitation and malnutrition, accelerates the spread of diseases and increases the death rate. It makes it difficult for many people to get access to education, health

care, transportation and other services.

There are some indicators that show the level of poverty in a given country. One of these indicators is the number of children who die before the age of five. The other indicator is the ratio between the number of doctors and the number of people. Life expectancy is another indicator of poverty.

According to the encyclopaedia, *Encarta 2004*, out of 1000 babies in Ethiopia, 103 die before the age of five. There is one doctor for 35,096 people and one hospital bed for 4,141 people. Life expectancy in Ethiopia is 49 while it is more than 75 in the richer countries of the world. It is our duty to work hard in order to eradicate poverty and change the image of our country.

Ethiopians are famous for their patriotic stand to defend their country from enemies. Our fathers and mothers bravely fought against the enemies of their country and gained many victories. They gained victories over Egyptian forces at the battles of Gundet (1875) and Gura (1876) and defeated the Italian forces at the battle of Adwa (1896). They pushed out the Fascist Italian invaders in 1941 after five years of patriotic struggle. Recently, Ethiopians have defended their country from an aggressive Eritrean war. All these are great achievements and are sources of our national pride.

But internal conflicts and war were also common in Ethiopia. Many battles were fought

Patriotism and Poverty Reduction

between feudal lords and war leaders for several centuries. In most cases feudal lords and kings launched military campaigns to defeat their rivals. Although there were times when war leaders solved their conflicts peacefully, they were very rare. The continuous battles fought for centuries led to lack of peace and instability. Agricultural productivity was very poor because farmers were fighting instead of growing crops. This in turn slowed economic development.

We have to transform this war culture to a culture of working together. We need to do this to gain victory over poverty and backwardness and to be proud of being Ethiopians.

The current government of Ethiopia has mobilized the people in the fight against poverty. It has tried to bring about rapid and sustainable development. Ethiopia has many natural resources

such as large areas of cultivable land and rivers that could be used for irrigation or hydroelectric power. It also has a large number of working people so it is rich in resources and labour. Ethiopia can produce enough food for all its people and even for export. It is the duty of you and other citizens to unite to eradicate famine, poverty and backwardness. This is patriotic.

Discuss the following question in groups, list your answers and let your group leader read them to the class.



- What can patriotic citizens do to reduce and then eradicate poverty?
- Do you think that government alone should fight against poverty and backwardness?
- How do you contribute to poverty reduction in your community?

CASE STUDY

Success Story of a Patriotic Farmer

Ato Sado is a farmer in Siraro district, Oromiya Region. He is one of the successful and hardworking farmers who fight against poverty. He successfully cultivated finger millet crops in 2004 and managed to deposit 13,000 birr in the bank. Ato Sado reported that he expected to get more than double of that amount in the succeeding farming season.

Source (adapted from): <http://www.id21.org/insights/insights61/art01.html>



Do you think that Sado is a patriot? Why? Discuss.



Ato Sado: a patriotic farmer

Patriotism and Poverty Reduction

REMEMBER

- ❑ Patriotism is not limited to defending your country from enemies; fighting against our common enemies, such as poverty and backwardness, is also patriotic.
- ❑ Citizens should know the causes of poverty in order to reduce poverty.
- ❑ One of the major causes for the prevalence of poverty and backwardness is our war culture.
- ❑ We have to transform this culture to the culture of resolving our problems peacefully and working together against our common enemy, poverty.

4

LESSON

Voluntarism

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- explain what voluntarism means.
- commit to giving voluntary services to your community.

Do you think that it is possible to solve community problems by giving free services? Who is responsible for giving these kinds of services?

You learnt about volunteering in Grade 9. This means serving others, or your community, for no payment. Each community has needs that should be met and problems that should be solved. As an individual, you need to live in a healthy environment. You want to enjoy peace, security and cooperation. You also need to live in a society protected from diseases such as HIV/AIDS, crime

and the violation of rights. Meeting these and other needs is important to promote the well-being of one's community.

You may have seen many problems in your community. There may be people living with HIV/AIDS, children who have lost their parents, people living on the street and old people who do not have somebody to help them. You may see areas without trees where the soil is exposed to erosion. You may also see areas full of garbage and flies, especially when you live in towns and cities. Everybody wants to avoid these distasteful situations. Our problems can be solved when all of us work together and contribute something for the sake of the community. Volunteering is a civilized way of fighting against community problems. However, the culture of volunteering is not well developed in our country.

CASE STUDY

Voluntary Organizations and Volunteers in the United States

Countries such as the United States and Canada have a very rich culture in relation to voluntary organizations and activities. They have very large number of voluntary organizations and volunteers.

In 1989 there were 98.4 million Americans, 54.4% of adult population of the country, volunteering an average of four hours a week, a total of 70.5 billion hours. (*Civitas 1991: 76*)

Discuss the following questions in groups and list your answers and opinions and share your answers with the class.



- Compared to Americans, do you believe that Ethiopians actively engage in voluntary activities?
- Do you know any voluntary organizations serving the community in your town or village? What kind of services do they give to the community?
- Have you taken part in any voluntary activity to give free service to your community?

Voluntarism

Volunteers can do many things in Ethiopia. They can protect the environment from pollution and clean up and create beautiful surroundings, or work to maintain peace and a peaceful coexistence. They can also contribute in the fight against HIV/AIDS, in giving care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS or by helping street children and old people. They can work to protect the rights of girls and women.

As a citizen you can serve society on a voluntary basis. You can do this individually or by working

in an organization. You read the case of Abebech Gobena in Grade 9. She started helping children and founded an organization that serves many.

You have to remember that economic and social problems can be solved at different levels. Some problems can be solved at the community level. Others could be solved by joint efforts of the community and government and non-governmental organizations. Committing oneself to give voluntary services to the community is a patriotic activity.

CASE STUDY

Tibebe Meko: A volunteer who serves

Sister Tibebe Meko is a volunteer who founded Hiwot HIV/AIDS Prevention Care and Support Organization (HAPCSO) in 1999. She founded the organization with her own money. Sister Tibebe has no children of her own but she founded the organization to help children who need support. Tibebe says: "I have no children but I want to help needy children with the money God has given me; this gives me pleasure!" HAPCSO started its work by helping 25 AIDS patients. Now it is helping over 10,000 children and adults. Parents of most of



these children died of AIDS. HAPCSO trains volunteers who help poor children and AIDS patients.

Tibebe and other volunteers of HAPCSO help children by giving them food, covering their school fees, buying school uniforms and school materials. They also help AIDS patients by cooking food, washing their clothes and taking them to health centres.

HAPCSO provides home-based care for 6,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Over 900 volunteers provide this service.

Source: hapcso@telecom.net.et

Discuss these questions as a class:



- Do you think that the contribution of volunteers such as Sister Tibebe helps to solve some of our problems?
- Do you know other Ethiopians who serve children or other needy people in your area? Try to find one and write briefly about the contribution of that person and share it with the class.

REMEMBER

- Volunteering is serving others or your community with no payment.
- There are many problems that can be solved through voluntary activities.
- Volunteering is a civilized way of fighting against community problems.
- You will feel more positive about yourself if you help others.
- Willpower and commitment to a cause are needed to give voluntary services.

UNIT SUMMARY

Patriotism is love and loyalty to your country. People develop patriotic feelings when treated equally. Respecting the equality of the peoples of Ethiopia is essential to develop a sense of patriotism. You have to fight against discrimination because it is against the notion of equality and leads to conflict. As patriots, it is also important to tolerate diversity and respect the laws of the land.

Patriotism is devotion to promote the public interest or the common good. Common good refers to that which benefits citizens. We are all responsible for promoting public interests. We should understand the true history of our country because it helps us to feel patriotic.

Patriotism is not limited to defending your country from enemies. Patriotic citizens have many duties including keeping state secrets and fighting against terrorism and nationalistic chauvinism. Fighting against our common enemies, such as poverty and backwardness, is also patriotic. Citizens should know the causes of poverty in order to eradicate it. One of the major causes for the prevalence of poverty and backwardness is our war culture. We have to transform this culture to the culture of resolving our problems peacefully and working together to fight our common enemy, poverty.

Volunteering is serving others or your community for no payment. There are many problems that can be solved through voluntary activities. Volunteering is a civilized way of fighting against community problems. You will feel more positive about yourself if you help others.

GLOSSARY

<i>Chauvinism:</i>	Excessive and blind patriotism; it is associated with an exaggerated belief that one's nation is superior to others.
<i>Discrimination:</i>	The treating of some people better than others on the basis of cultural background, sex, etc.
<i>Equality:</i>	A state of being equal in having similar rights, benefits, burdens and opportunities.
<i>Welfare:</i>	The general well-being, happiness and safety of a community.

UNIT REVIEW EXERCISES

Do these review exercises in your exercise book.

Part I – True or false

- The followers of Adolf Hitler killed about six million Jews during the Second World War; this is a good example of discrimination.
- The public interest and personal interests do not go together because, when individuals promote their interests, they go against the common good.

Part II – Multiple choice

1. Which of the following is not important to promote patriotism?
 - (a) avoiding discrimination
 - (b) tolerating diversity of cultures
 - (c) maintaining absolute equality among citizens
 - (d) providing equal opportunities to all
 - (e) none of the above
2. Patriotic citizens keep the secrets of the state. This means that:
 - (a) they do not expose illegal actions of government officials
 - (b) they keep top state secrets such as military strategies
 - (c) they have no right to get information about government policies
 - (d) all government affairs are secrets that should be kept carefully
 - (e) none of the above
3. Leaders such as Hitler are nationalistic chauvinists because:
 - (a) they consider their nation superior to others
 - (b) they invade other countries in the name of national interest
 - (c) they promote extreme nationalism which may lead to war
 - (d) they promote democracy and equality
 - (e) all of the above except (d)
4. Which of the following is not an indicator of poverty?
 - (a) life expectancy
 - (b) death rate of babies under age of five
 - (c) doctor-people ratio
 - (d) population number
 - (e) all of the above

Part III – Short answers

1. List five problems that can be solved by volunteers or voluntary activities in your kebele or town?