

Unit 6

Responsibility

Introduction

In this unit, you will learn more of the ways to shoulder and execute responsibilities. When you execute responsibilities there will be a cost to pay. This may include sacrificing some of your own interests. You will also learn the need to fulfill promises as part of your commitments. In this way, you can promote mutual benefits with others. You will realize that HIV/AIDS has spread throughout the world and requires the concerted efforts of all global citizens.

Lessons

1. Shouldering and Executing Responsibility
2. Costs of Fulfilling Responsibility on Individuals
3. Fulfilling Promises to Promote Understanding in the International Arena
4. Co-operation among Nations for Mutual Benefits
5. The Severity of HIV/AIDS as a Global Pandemic

What you will learn

You will:

- recognize the necessity of shouldering and executing responsibilities.

- realize the cost implications to the person executing responsibilities.
- understand the need for cooperation among countries.
- realize the impact of HIV/AIDS in a global dimension.

Key words and concepts

- Burden
- Community spirit
- Equitable use of resources
- Fulfillment of responsibilities
- Global citizen
- HIV/AIDS pandemic

Mother having responsibility for a growing family



LESSON 1

Shouldering and Executing Responsibility

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

- describe the benefits that individuals get when shouldering responsibilities properly.

What type of responsibilities do you think you have to shoulder in society?

The well-being of society is the basis for the well-being of its members. The opposite is equally true. In society, every person has some responsibilities to shoulder to make life better. For example, you have the responsibility to respect the rights of others. You have the responsibility to work hard to improve your own condition. Treating people as equals and with respect is one of the responsibilities you have towards others. Respecting the norms, values and laws of society and the country are also part of your responsibilities.

When you act responsibly, there are many benefits. A person who fulfills responsibilities will be able to utilize his/her own fundamental rights. However, a person who fails to execute his/her own responsibilities will be unable to use their rights. Fulfilling responsibilities leads to developing a sense of personal independence, self-accomplishment and belief in oneself. Those citizens who are well aware of their responsibilities can use their rights and execute their obligations properly. To be hardworking is one of the responsibilities that citizens have to demonstrate. Hard work helps to improve one's own life and, at the same time, contributes to the

development of the country.

The culture of hard work will allow you to develop knowledge and skill. This in turn enables you to earn a higher income and improve your life. Consequently, the recognition you get through your achievements, and the social status you acquire, will further inspire you to do more. In this way, you develop self-esteem, which can be expressed in self-belief and confidence. Your sense of independence increases as you develop the culture of hard work and this helps to make you a balanced person who is capable of carrying out individual and social responsibilities. All of this is required to make democracy work and achieve development.

? Form groups to discuss your responsibilities in society? Identify a responsibility that each of you will undertake towards your community and the country.



Students supporting their community

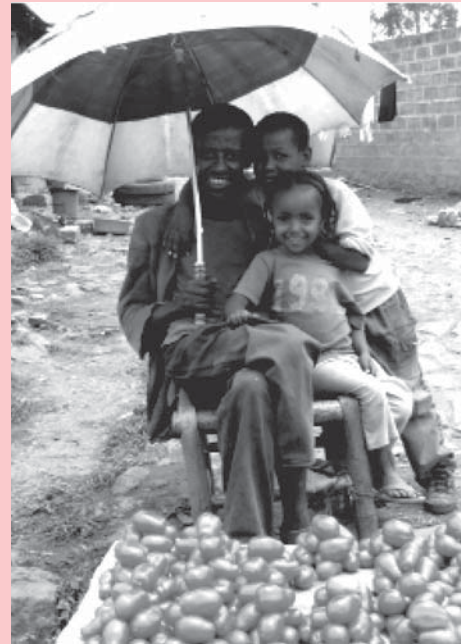
Shouldering and Executing Responsibility

CASE STUDY

A family with good parenting

A couple marry and have a small family. The couple work hard to improve their life and the conditions of their children. Both parents follow up their children's progress and check whether or not their homework is done and see that they stick to their study program. Each child has a role to play at home.

Such parenting has helped the children to develop a good character and sense of responsibility. They respect orders from their parents. They have good relations with classmates at school. They perform well in their grades and have aspirations for the future. They have developed the culture of hard work that will help them in future life. Their parents are, indeed, happy and very rewarded in what they see in their children.



A happy father with his children

? What will be your responsibilities in the future as a father/mother? Share ideas in mixed groups.

REMEMBER

- The well-being of society is the basis for the well-being of its members and vice versa.
- Citizens who are well aware of their responsibilities know their rights and obligations.
- Responsible citizens help themselves and their country.
- To be hard working is one of the responsibilities that citizens have to demonstrate.
- Fulfilling responsibilities develops the sense of personal independence, self-accomplishment and belief in oneself.

LESSON 2

Costs of Fulfilling Responsibility on Individuals

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

- explain the cost one undergoes when executing responsibilities.
- what others could gain when a person executes their responsibilities properly.

What costs do you think you bear when undertaking responsibility as a student?

Social life is the outcome of the interactions of individuals. In the process of these interactions, there are benefits that individuals enjoy and burdens that they shoulder. Citizens can obtain benefits when running a business or getting job opportunities, but they also have the responsibility of paying tax commensurate with their income. On the other hand, citizens' burdens could range from respecting the rights of others to defending the country from external aggression. Some people refrain from taking responsibilities for fear of failure as this can create a psychological burden on them. This could be taken as a cost as far as the individuals are concerned. But failing to undertake such responsibilities on these grounds may lead to an unnecessary delay in fulfilling your duties because throughout your life you will have to take calculated risks.

Fire Brigade workers may lose their lives fighting fire hazards. This is an occupational hazard they often have to face to fulfil their responsibilities. The price paid to preserve the sovereignty of your

country creates the conditions for others to live in peace. This is a type of responsibility that every citizen should be willing to shoulder.

When fulfilling public burdens (responsibilities), some individual interests will have to be sacrificed. You sacrifice your private interests when you realize that the collective good is greater than what is good for the individual. In doing so, the interests of society and of the individual are preserved. This is one of the bases of social life that helps develop community spirit which is nurtured on the basis of collective responsibilities.

? Form groups to discuss how your community or society benefits when fulfilling your responsibilities. Group leaders should present their ideas to the students for further discussions.



Fire Brigade executing their duties

Costs of Fulfilling Responsibility on Individuals

CASE STUDY

Nelson Mandela: Glory and Hope

The following speech was given by Nelson Mandela:

“Our daily deeds as ordinary South Africans must produce an actual South African reality that will reinforce humanity’s belief in justice, strengthen its confidence in the nobility of the human soul and sustain all our hopes for a glorious life for all ...

The time for the healing of the wounds has come...

The time to build is upon us.

We have, at least, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination.

We have triumphed in the effort to implant hope in the breasts of the millions of our people. We enter into a covenant that we shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of the inalienable right to human dignity – a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world...

We understand still that there is no easy road to freedom.

We know it well that none of us acting alone can achieve success.

We must therefore act together as a united people, for national reconciliation for nation building, for the birth of a new world.

Let there be justice for all. Let there be peace for all...The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement!”

Source: World History Connections to Today. Ellis, G.G and Esler, A. 1999



Nelson Mandela

? Form groups to discuss what you learnt from Mandela’s speech? Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for further discussion.

REMEMBER

- Social life is the outcome of the interactions of individuals.
- When fulfilling public burdens (responsibilities) some individual interests will have to be sacrificed.
- You should sacrifice your private interests for the collective good, which, in many ways is greater than what is good for you as a person.
- The sacrifice you make to preserve the sovereignty of your country, is a responsibility necessary for others to live in peace.
- Fulfilling responsibilities is the basis of social life.

LESSON 3

Fulfilling Promises to Promote Understanding in the International Arena

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

- explain how to contribute to maintain international peace.


What do you think Ethiopia can do to strengthen international peace?

Due to the effect of globalization, the world we live in is increasingly becoming smaller. No one country can afford to ignore globalization. However, you need the knowledge and the skills to live in and benefit from this new global reality.

Today, there are more countries having nuclear weapons than was the case forty years ago. It is to be noted that any war involving nuclear weapons could bring an end to the existence of the human race. Given such a reality, human beings have to be united to the common cause for peace and prosperity. Concerning this, many states are contributing peacekeeping forces for the UN to stop civil wars and invasions in some parts of the world. Ethiopia has contributed its forces to the UN peacekeeping missions to different countries in Africa and Asia,

as part of its commitment to collective security.

The role that Ethiopia plays in the international arena can bear fruits when its citizens are well aware of what is going on in the world. This depends on knowledge in politics, and current affairs. There are issues that have international magnitude that affect humanity in general. For example, tackling global environmental crises requires global intervention based on knowledge. Issues like poverty, HIV/AIDS etc. are common concerns to everyone in the world. Dealing with terrorism is a global problem that calls for governments to work together. For Ethiopia to play a role in such matters will require citizens to have the necessary knowledge to contribute in a productive way. Tackling such problems globally unites people throughout the world for a common cause. This is the basis for the development of global citizenship.

 Form groups to discuss the roles you and your country could play to make the world a safer place.

Fulfilling Promises to Promote Understanding in the International Arena

CASE STUDY

UN Ethiopian peace-keeping force in Congo

On 30 June 1960, Belgium granted independence to the Belgian Congo and left immediately after. The Congolese army mutinied. The Congolese government appealed to the United Nations for military assistance. On 14 July 1960, the Security Council authorized the Secretary General to provide the Congo with military assistance. Ethiopia, faithful to her loyalty to the principle of collective security, immediately

responded by providing military assistance to the UN force. Its function was to help the Congolese Government to maintain law and order.

? Form groups to discuss Ethiopia's role in contributing to African peace. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for more discussion.



The Ethiopian Peace-keeping Force on duty — execution of global responsibility

REMEMBER

- ❑ Due to effect of globalization, the world we live in is increasingly becoming smaller.
- ❑ Any war involving nuclear weapons could bring an end to the human race.
- ❑ Human beings have to be united to the common cause for peace and prosperity.
- ❑ Ethiopia has contributed peacekeeping forces to countries in Africa and Asia, as part of its commitment to collective security.
- ❑ Today, there are more countries having nuclear weapons than was the case forty years ago.
- ❑ There are issues that have international magnitude affecting humanity in general.

LESSON

4

Co-operation among Nations for Mutual Benefits

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

- describe how countries of the world co-operate for mutual benefits.

What are the advantages of co-operation among nations?

There are multiple factors that lead countries to co-operate and work together for the common good. States form closer relationships to achieve common objectives. Co-operation could be established during war time or in time of peace. Often, greater co-operation results in greater achievements. The relationship between countries is, not only one of co-operation, but also of competition. Countries compete to advance national interests which could be in trade and commerce. For instance, the Japanese build great vehicles and this has given them the chance to dominate the international car market. Competition has to be supported by co-operation to ease the potential tension that could arise.

Countries also co-operate for the equitable use of natural resources. Cross-boundary rivers create the conditions for countries to have a special relationship. The Euphrates and Tigris rivers govern relations between Turkey, Syria and Iraq. The Blue Nile River sets a special relation between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt. Ethiopia contributes over 80% of the total volume of water to the Nile. During the colonial period, Britain had made an arrangement between Sudan and Egypt for the use of the Nile

River but the agreement unfairly excluded Ethiopia. The agreement remains unchanged to date.

However, it is now time for a new agreement between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt. Such an agreement is necessary for mutual benefits and regional stability.

Countries also co-operate to protect and preserve their natural and historical heritages for the benefits of humanity. Ancient civilizations have left us important heritages that have to be preserved with collective efforts. Our natural environment is a component of the global ecosystem. Its mismanagement could easily lead to environmental crisis that could have adverse effect globally. When countries work together, they can create the synergy to mitigate the ecological crisis. In this regard, Egypt and Sudan can jointly work on afforestation and water management programs to be undertaken in Ethiopia. Such programs will be of benefit to all three countries. This will allow Sudan and Egypt to acquire more water to expand their agriculture and minimize siltation of their dams. These programs also have some benefits for Ethiopia. The soil will be protected from further erosion and thus allow the country to retain more rainwater for better agriculture.

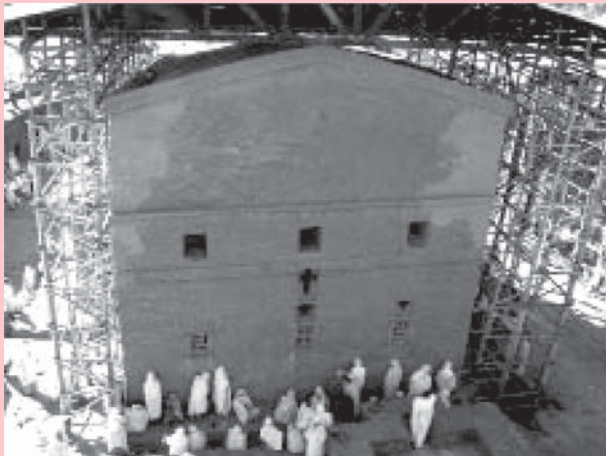
? In what areas of development can Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia co-operate for mutual benefit? Discuss in small groups.

Co-operation among Nations for Mutual Benefits

CASE STUDY

The UNESCO Fund to Preserve the churches of Lalibela

UNESCO in co-operation with the Ethiopian government has earmarked funds to preserve the rockhewn churches of Lalibela from damage. It is helping the Ethiopian government with the money and skills needed to construct roof shelters for the churches. UNESCO is a specialized UN agency that is committed to preserving world heritages from damage. The co-operation between Ethiopia and UNESCO exemplifies that such historical heritages belong to the whole of humanity, not just to a single country or people where they are found.



? Form groups to discuss what the positive impact is of global support for such historical sites and what the negative impact would be if responsibility for them was left with the nation.



The rockhewn churches of Lalibela

REMEMBER

- ❑ Countries form closer relationships when they have common objectives to achieve.
- ❑ Countries also co-operate to protect and preserve natural and historical heritages for the benefit of humanity.
- ❑ Egypt and Sudan could jointly work on afforestation and water management programs in Ethiopia to effectively utilize the Nile waters.

5

LESSON

The Severity of HIV/AIDS as a Global Pandemic

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

- explain the methods of transmission and protection as well as the effects of HIV/AIDS on the international scale.

Describe how severe the HIV/AIDS pandemic is at a global level?

HIV/AIDS is a disease that affects humans irrespective of age, colour, race, religion or occupation. HIV/AIDS patients are more likely to die of infections like tuberculosis, malaria, typhoid and hepatitis. These diseases affect millions in poor countries and

many in the developed ones. It is a global problem that requires global intervention to stop it.

UN agencies, governments and other establishments have to do more in order to help countries combat HIV/AIDS. There are a number of organizations across the world which are working to support AIDS victims in the world. Improving the living conditions of people in poor countries is one way of combating HIV/AIDS at an international level.

? Research and report on the HIV/AIDS problem in your area.

CASE STUDY

HIV/AIDS Prevalence in the world (statistical presentation)

Based on a 2004 statistics, over 60 million adults between the ages of 15 – 49 live with HIV in the world. Out of this number 25.4 million adults and children were in the sub-Saharan Africa. During the same year it was estimated that there were 2 million deaths in this part of the world. There are 12 million orphaned African children. An estimated 2 million children in sub-Saharan Africa were living with HIV at the end of 2007. This figure is more than 85% of all children living with HIV worldwide.



HIV/AIDS — a global pandemic

The Severity of HIV/AIDS as a Global Pandemic



Work in pairs to identify other methods to raise awareness of the disease. Consider what support would be needed to implement some of these ideas e.g., permission, funding and other skills and resources.

REMEMBER

- ❑ HIV/AIDS conspires with infections like tuberculosis, malaria, typhoid and hepatitis to kill its victims.
- ❑ HIV/AIDS is a global problem that requires global intervention.
- ❑ Improving the living conditions of people in poor countries is one way of combating HIV/AIDS at the international level.

UNIT SUMMARY

In this unit, you have learnt what it takes to shoulder and execute responsibility. You have seen how discharging one's own responsibility comes at a cost, for example, sacrificing personal interests and shouldering some burdens.

Responsibility is not confined only to individuals, but involves groups and even governments. Governments have the responsibility to work closely together in order to promote development and mutual trust and co-operation among their populations.

Countries also have a shared responsibility to care for the environment and cultural heritages for mutual benefit.

Combating HIV/AIDS has a global dimension and everyone has a responsibility to try to eradicate this disease.

GLOSSARY

Community spirit:	The sense of sharing the feelings and aspirations of a community in which one lives.
Global citizen:	A member of the international community who shares responsibilities with others.
HIV/AIDS pandemic:	The spread of HIV/AIDS across cultures, race, sex, age, occupation and geographical regions.

UNIT REVIEW EXERCISES

Do these review exercises in your exercise book.

Part I – Multiple choice

- Which one of the following is not part of your responsibility?
 - to help the elders
 - to avoid stigma and discrimination against HIV/AIDS victims
 - to care for public facilities
 - none
- Defending the territory of a country and the security of citizens is the responsibility of the:
 - Government
 - UN
 - AU
 - none
- Which one of the following statements is not correct?
 - the well-being of society is the basis for the well-being of its members
 - the well-being of individuals contributes nothing to the well-being of society
 - a person who fulfills responsibilities will be able to utilize his own rights fully
 - none

4. Which one of the following statements is correct?
- (a) social life is the outcome of the interactions of its members
 - (b) fulfilling responsibilities is the basis of social life
 - (c) when fulfilling public responsibilities some of your interests will have to be sacrificed.
 - (d) all

Part II – True or false

- 1. All countries need responsible citizens.
- 2. As students we have no responsibilities.
- 3. Your responsibility is only to think for your own good.

- 4. School is a place where you learn part of your responsibilities.
- 5. Ethiopia's development rests upon what responsible citizens do for themselves and their country.

Part III – Matching

Column A	Column B
1. Paying tax	A. For common benefits
2. Responsibility of government and citizens	B. A global pandemic
3. HIV/AIDS	C. Citizens responsibility
4. Countries can work together	D. Have to be preserved
5. Cultural and historical heritages	E. Defending the country from aggression