

UNIT 2

The Rule of Law

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

- understand the meaning and significance of constitution and other laws of the land.
- recognize the necessity of the rule of law.
- identify the necessity of school rules and regulations.

2.1 What is a Constitution?

- Have you ever heard the term constitution?
- What is the significance of a constitution?

Constitution is a basic document which states a country's economic, political and social principles. In other words, a constitution states basic rights and freedom of the people. It is the highest law of a country and the source of all other laws of the nation. All laws and procedures have to conform to a constitution of a country.

Ethiopia has its own constitution, which declares federal form of government. It also declares the

supreme authority of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia.

Activity 1

Discuss on the following question:

1. What is a constitution?

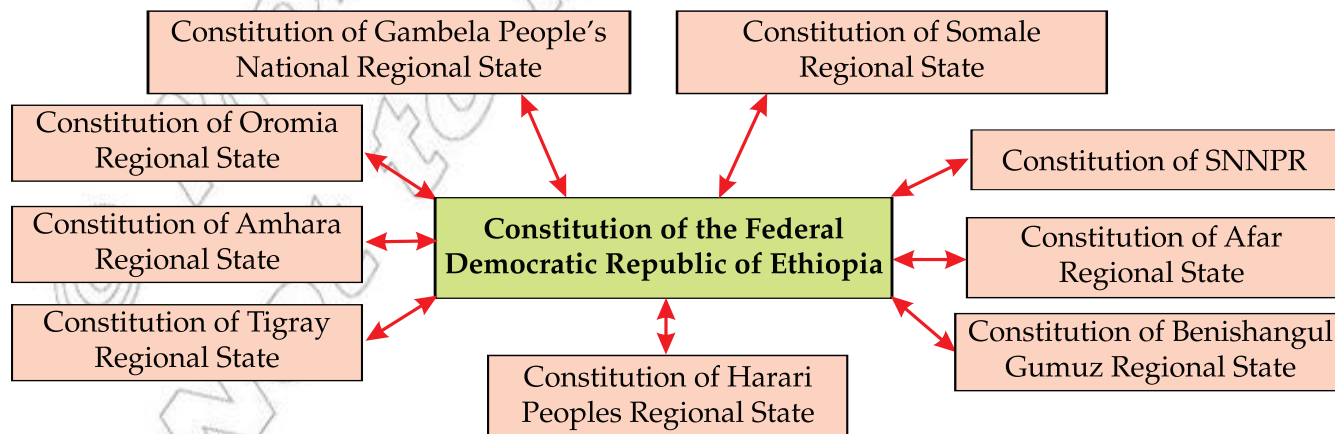
2.1.1 The Necessity of Constitution

- What is the importance of constitution?

Constitution enables citizens to enjoy their rights and discharge their responsibilities. It helps government to carry out its duties and responsibilities effectively. Democratic constitution enables the citizens to be administered by their own representatives.

2.1.2 Constitutions of Regional States

- What do you understand from the following tables?



Picture 2.1. Constitution of regional states

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We have stated that the federal constitution is the highest law of a country. In addition to it, regions have their own constitution to enhance their self-administration. Regional Constitutions are formulated on basis of federal constitution. However, each of the regional constitutions is addressing regional realities of the area.

Activity 2

Debate on the following questions:

1. For what purpose is a constitution formulated?
2. What is a constitution?
3. What is the necessity of a constitution to any nation?
4. Do regional states have their own constitution?

2.1.3 Other Laws and Regulations

- Why is a law formulated?
- What kind of relations are there between a constitution and other laws?

There are a number of laws, rules and regulations other than a constitution. They are formulated on the basis of a constitution, which is the supreme law in the country.

A law is an important instrument for people to live in together on basis of tolerance and mutual understanding.

The following are some of the basic objectives of a law:

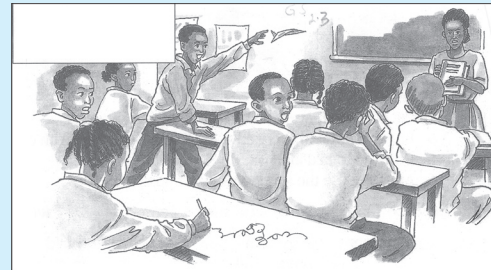
1. Enforcing the practice of basic human and democratic rights.
2. Promoting justice and equality.
3. Settling disputes or conflicts peacefully.
4. Ensuring the stability of peace and security.

2.1.4 School Regulations

Look at the following pictures carefully and answer the questions provided afterwards.



Picture 2.2. Disciplined classroom



Picture 2.3. Indisciplined classroom

- What do you understand from pictures “2.2” and “2.3”?
- In which of those classes is teaching-learning would be more effective?
- In which class do you prefer to learn? Why?

The following can be mentioned as some of the reasons for the necessity of rules and regulations in a school.

1. To have a well-disciplined teaching-learning process.
2. To promote equality among students.
3. To use time appropriately.
4. To control and manage disciplinary problems.
5. To establish a system of effective school leadership and management, etc.

Therefore, in the absence of school regulation and disciplinary rules, there is no respect for students’ rights; disciplinary problems cannot be managed; wastage of time and healthy teaching-learning process cannot be effective.

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Activity 3

Discuss on the following questions:

1. What is the importance of rules and regulations in a school?
2. What would happen if there are no rules and regulations in a school?

2.2 Obeying to the Rule of Law

2.2.1 The Meaning of Obeying the Rule of Law

- What does obeying the rule of law mean?

Obeying the rule of law implies that no one is above the law and even political officials or government authorities are abided by the rule of law. This shows us that all human beings are equal before the law.

Activity 4

Discuss the following questions in group and present a short report:

1. What does the rule of law mean?
2. What is the necessity of the rule of law?

2.2.2 Why are we Abiding by the Rule of Law?

The rule of law enables people to lead a happy and peaceful life and it also guarantees their right not to be violated. Promoting the rule of law in a school enables the school leaders, teachers and students to practice how to be abided by the rule of law. It protects the students' rights not to be violated as well.

If there is no rule of law and obedience to it then:

- the disabled, children, aged, the patients etc., would be victims of problems.
- there would be the occurrence of rape, violation of rights of children, looting, murder etc.

- creation of gangsters and hence the weak would be victims, anarchism would spread easily, no restoration of peace and security etc.

Complaints of Ato Ojullu Uchalla

Agange Primary School is one of the school of Anyuaa zone in Gambella Region. The school was faced loss of student properties. It was difficult to find out a student who does not lose property. This phenomenon was continued for many times. Ato Ojullu has three children in that school. Unfortunately, his children were victim of this problem. All of his children lost their pen, pencil and exercise book at least once in a week. They came home and complain to their father to get another pen, pencil and exercise book. Ato Ojullu was irritated by those repeated action.

One day he decided to visit the school principal to talk about the situation. Then, he came at school and talked with the school principal about his children complaints at home. However, the school principal became reluctant to give attention about the issue that Ato Ojullu rose. The school principal said, "this is the usual action in this school." At this time Ato Ojullu became angry and forwarded his concern of school disciplinary issues by saying "I wonder, if you have a school regulation. If you have one, do you abide by it? You said that this is a usual action. Do you accept this bad action as profitable? You are a responsible person for this school. You have to discipline your students. Do you believe that this school is a place where you produce destructive students?"

In the end, because of Ojullu's concern, the school principal calls all students out of the class. He gave warning for them and explains why Ato Ojullu came at school. Because of his explanation, one of the students identified himself with lots of students property in his bag. All students were surprised and believed that he was the one who committed the crime. They pushed him to explain why he made that action and his benefit.

He asked forgiveness and explained that he did that action for adventure and fun but he admit his mistake and promise not to do again. The school principal asked the students and Ato Ojullu that if

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they want to give excuse for him. They accept and warned that students to never do again. Finally, all students avoided their fear and Ato Ojullu also avoid his grievance about the school principal.

Activity 5

On basis of the above passage, answer the following questions:

1. When you compare your school with the school mentioned in the passage, at what level is it in regard to respecting school disciplines?
2. When Ato Ojullu says, 'I wonder if you have school regulation', and 'if you have one, are you abided by it?' What does he mean by this?
3. How do you see the characteristics of the student who steal their property? Discuss.

2.2.3 The Meaning of Equality Before the Law

- What does the equality before the law imply?

Equality before the law implies that all peoples should get equal judicial treatment without discriminations and biases. Everyone is liable for his/her guilty. In order to live a peaceful and ensure a mutual co-existence, law is necessary. Everybody is equal before the eyes of law. Therefore, students and school communities have to know about the rule of law. To have proper respect and proper application, a law needs due support from the whole society. It also needs the support and close follow up of public officials.

Activity 6

Discuss on the following questions:

1. What does the rule of law mean?
2. Why is abiding by the rule of law important?
3. What does 'all people are equal before the eyes of law' mean?
4. What would happen if the rule of law is not practiced?

2.3 Ethics

2.3.1 What is Ethics?

- Have you ever encountered gratitude or criticism from your families?
- In what situations, have you gotten gratitude?

Ethics is about evaluating right and wrong behaviours. It is a way of expressing acceptable and unacceptable; good or bad; correct or wrong ideas or actions. If we perform acceptable actions then we are supposed to be ethical; if not acceptable action, then we are considered unethical.



Picture 2.4. Good family is the base of Ethics

What do you learn from the above picture?

There are a number of ethical attributes to be practiced at family level.

1. *Respecting your mother and father*
 - Listening to the ideas of your father and mother and putting their advice into practice.
 - Requesting your need on basis of the economic capacity of your family.
 - Welcoming your father and mother by hugging them to show your love.
 - Helping your family in house chores within your capacity.
2. *Respecting elders*
 - Show respect and love for the whole family members.
 - Give due respect for elderly people.

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- Respect and love your brother, sister and other family members.

3. Fulfilling your responsibility

- Keep your personal hygiene in order to prevent disease and look neat (wash your hand, leg, face, hair etc., everyday and take shower at least once in a week, cut off your finger nails, wash your clothes and do not sit on dirty places etc.).
- Be serious and work hard about your studies (do your homework properly, study hard, respect your teachers, learn from your friends too etc.).

Activity 7

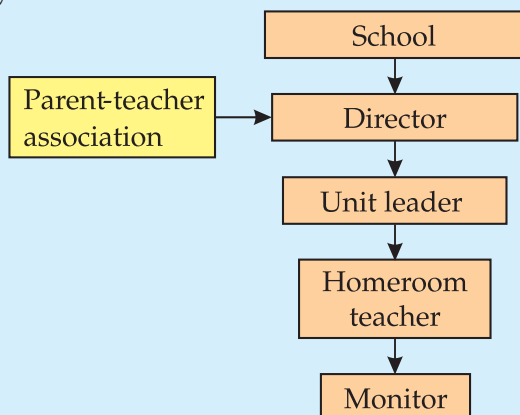
Answer the following questions:

1. What is Ethics?
2. In addition to the ideas mentioned above in this lesson, give to each statement at least three additional examples of good ethical values expected at family level.
 - About respecting one's parents.
 - Concern showing respect for elders regarding keeping personal neatness/hygiene.

2.4 Authority and Power

2.4.1 What is Authority and Power?

- Who has the highest authority and power in your school?



Picture 2.5. Authority and power of school

In any organization or school authority and power shows how different peoples at different positions can carry out their duties and responsibilities.

- What is the significance of limiting power?

Parents are supposed to have the authority to manage and discipline their children. Likewise, directors and teachers have the authority to administer their students. Class monitors have the authority to maintain class discipline and security of their classmates. However, these persons cannot abuse their power. There must be a fair balance between power and responsibility. The higher the power a person possesses, the more responsibility she/he shoulders. For example, a teacher and a director do not have the same power. The director has more power in order to secure the proper management of the school and perform her/his responsibility properly.

Any authority is supposed to practice his/her power properly. If the authority is not practiced this way, then we say power is abused and hence violation of the rule of law. This bad practice harms people and the authority will be responsible for the deed of power abuse.

Activity 8

Discuss on the following questions:

1. What is power and authority?
2. What is the importance of limiting power?
3. What would happen if monitors are supposed to control the class with no restriction of power limit?
4. What would happen if a teacher punishes his/her students with no restriction of power limit too?

2.5 Secret

- Can you ever remember a secret someone told you?
- Have you ever transferred a secret told by somebody to another person?

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Secret is a thing to be held by someone or among friends or within family or even among individuals organized for common goal and that is not expected to be shared for others. If passing on the information to someone else may be harmful or dangerous for that person, then it is much better to keep it secret.

2.5.1 Private Secret

- What is private secret?

Non-confidentiality (a problem of not keeping secret)

Ato Chebeso, the husband of W/ro Batre, has interested to check whether his wife is good at keeping secret or not. After he made her a promise not to tell the secret to anybody else, he said, “You know what, today I have laid an egg” and showed her fresh egg. W/ro Batre was surprised by the event. But she was restless and failed to keep the secret and the next morning told the story to a close friend of her’s that she happened to know that last night her husband laid two eggs at a time. By her turn, the close friend told to her other friend that Batre’s husband had laid three eggs and promised her friend not to disclose the secret. The story goes like that and the villagers got the information and started pointing their fingers at him. Eventually the dissemination of the secret reached to Ato Chebeso himself and regretted on the fabrication of the story and felt sorry on what was happening to him.

Lastly, he reached his wife and asked why she failed to keep the secret. He also criticized her that it is only a hen that can lay an egg, and that it is unnatural to human beings. He also warned her that failing to keep secret may lead to problems, and a good example is the humiliation that happened to them among their community. As a result of this event, trust was lost between Ato Chebeso and W/ro Batre and there was no peace in their marriage. (Source: Ababa Tesfaye and his story-book one)

When secret is shared to someone else without being cautious about it, it has its own risk and danger.

Activity 9

Based on the above story answer the following questions:

1. What happened to Ato Chebeso as he disclosed his private secret to his wife?
2. Should Chebeso have kept his secret to himself or not?

Secret is ethically acceptable value and the measurement for loyalty. Secret can be categorized as private secret, family secret, a secret between friends, public and national secret.

Private secret is an issue kept to oneself. If it disclosed, it may create a problem to oneself or to others. To avoid such problems, it is ethical to be secretive on serious matters.

Secret is the measurement of acceptable ethical values.

Activity 10

Discuss on the following questions:

1. What is the effect of not keeping secret?
2. What do we mean by, “Secret is the measurement of acceptable ethical values”?

2.6 Corruption

2.6.1 What is Corruption?

- Do you expect that there can be a community not affected by corruption?
- What is the role of teachers and student to combat corruption?

Corruption is an action of getting an advantage or a privilege that one does not deserve it. This can

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be done by abusing power and authority. Corruption can occur anywhere and at any place even at schools. The following can be good examples of corruption practiced by the students:

1. Copying exams and homeworks from others.
2. Stealing other students' property.
3. Destroying or stealing school properties.
4. Late coming to and early leaving from school.

Corruptions practiced by teachers are:

1. Partisans to some students and unequal treatment.
2. Adding or reducing students' mark illegally.
3. Improper use of period allotment.
4. Wrong handling of school properties.
5. Being negligent to school rules and regulations.

Activity 11

Answer the following questions:

1. Enumerate some examples of corruption.
2. Mention some of the types of corruption practices committed at school level.

2.6.2 Corruptions Practiced in the School and at your Community Level

- What kind of corrupt practices are there in your community? Can you mention some?

The scope of corruption

Teacher Bilal was much known for her punctuality and good preparation of her lessons in the class. Recently, however, she is not as hard working teacher as she was before. She started coming to the class late and leaves the class early. She is no more teaching in the class properly; her examination is not clear to her students and she never gives back the students' examination paper. She is also known

for giving above 80% grade point to all students. In general, the teacher became a good example for some of the characteristics of corruption at school level.

Activity 12

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

1. What are the problems of teacher Bilal?
2. If you were her director, what advice would you give her?
3. If the teacher does not improve her problems, do you think it will affect her students? How?

Corruption at community level practiced in different ways. For example, if there is villagers' campaign on environmental protection activities and if the leader of the campaign left out his families or relatives not to participate in the campaign, this is of course a good example of corruption because he did a special favour to his families. An other example is when a kebele chairperson forces or abuses his power to get certain advantage from you and your family, and give unnecessary favour to your families by return, it becomes corruption. On the other hand, if a chairperson of kebele, in need of certain advantage, denies you to give desirable advantage, it is also corruption. Furthermore, when you play some kind of game and become winner not fairly but by force or by providing any kind of gift to the referee, it is also a good example of corruption.

Effects of corruption in a school

1. Promotes partial performance in a school.
2. Creates disagreement among students.
3. Creates gap between school administration and students and their parents.
4. Endanger teaching-learning process.
5. Promotes unacceptable ethical behaviours.

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Activity 13

Answer the following questions:

1. Mention some of the examples of corruption committed by students in your school.
2. How does corruption affect your school system?

Summary

Since a constitution is the supreme law of a country, every other law should be formulated in conformity with it. Constitution helps citizens to get their rights and to discharge their responsibilities.

Regional constitution has to be based on federal constitution and also has to address their respective regional realities. In addition to constitution, there are a number of laws, rules and principles in a country. These have to be based on the constitution of a country. One of such a rule or principle is school regulation. It helps to promote healthy teaching-learning process in a school.

Understanding, accepting and abiding by the rule of law in a nation indicate that every citizen is under the law; nobody is above the law of the nation. If there is no respect and observance of the rule of

law, the weak, children, aged people, the sick and the minorities will be the victims in the system.

When everyone is treated equally before the law without difference, it is said to be the rule of law. Authority and power explain the responsibility of different organizations and schools at different levels and also their power of decision-making on different issues.

Confidentiality or secret is some important issue held by an individual or among groups or within family or even among individual with similar objective without sharing to any other party. Private secret is something held by a person for life. Corruption is socially an evil practice that a person attempts to attain for which she/he has not worked on or does not deserve. There are some examples of practicing corruption even in a school between teachers and students.

Key Words

Constitution:	A legal document governing people and government of a given country
Law:	Collection of rules and regulations which are based on a constitution
Ethics:	Control or measurement of human behaviour and which states some behaviour as good while others as bad
Secret:	Something hidden from others and held by an individual or by certain groups
Document:	Something containing ratified decisions
Declaration:	Endorsed decisions

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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. Ethiopia has its own Constitution, which declares federal form of government.
2. The rule of law does not work for public officials.
3. A law is important instrument for people to live in together on the basis of tolerance and understanding.
4. There is no limit of power for school directors.
5. Cheating in exams or homeworks from other students is an example of corruption.
6. Keeping secret is the measurement of loyalty and good ethical behaviour.

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

- | A | B |
|--|------------------|
| 1. An issue kept by an individual or by groups and hidden from others | (A) Constitution |
| 2. The supreme law of a country | (B) Corruption |
| 3. The collection of rules and regulations that is based on a constitution | (C) Ethics |
| 4. An action of a person attempting to get advantage unfairly that he does not deserve | (D) Secret |
| 5. The measurement of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours | (E) Law |
| | (F) Principle |

III. Choose the correct answer for the following questions

1. Which one of the following shows the necessity of the constitution?
(a) Enables citizens to enjoy or practice their rights
(b) Enables citizens to fulfill responsibilities
(c) Enables government to discharge its duties
(d) All of the above.
2. Which one of the following is not the objective of a law?
(a) To enforce human rights
(b) To promote conflicts
(c) To promote fairness and justice
(d) To secure peace.
3. Which one of the following is not true about corruption?
(a) Being greedy
(b) Getting unfair advantage
(c) Attaining personal advantage illegally
(d) Being transparent.
4. An issue or information held by a person for life is known as
(a) Family secret
(b) National secret
(c) A secret among friends
(d) Private secret.

IV. Give short answers for the following questions

1. Mention at least three examples of corrupt behaviours in school by students.
2. Why are there rules and regulations in a school? Give three reasons.