

## Equality

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

- understand the meaning of equality.
- identify equality of citizens and an equal opportunity of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia in detail.
- recognize the meaning of physical disability.

### 3.1 What is Equality?

- What ideas come to your mind when you hear the term equality for the first time?

Equality refers to equal opportunity of rights and advantages of individuals or groups of the same status. On the other hand, it also shows responsibilities to be discharged equally. In democratic system, every citizen has rights and privileges practiced equally. For example, a person by his being human in nature has to get certain rights. Similarly, individual of equal professional status have the right to claim for equal advantages.

Equality in a democratic system refers to the facilitation of opportunity of equal rights and privileges to its citizens either as an individual or a group. Therefore, the right to equality has to be practiced regardless of race, religion, language, etc.

#### Activity 1

Answer the following questions:

1. What does equality mean?
2. On what issues equality is practiced in your family? Explain by examples.

### 3.2 The Rights of Equality of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia



Picture 3.1. Ethiopia is a country of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples

- What do you understand from picture 3.1?
- Mention some of the members of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples in your community on your exercise book.

Ethiopia is a Nation of nations encompassing above 80 different Nations, Nationalities and Peoples. On the basis of the constitution, none of them is superior to another; all have equal right. For example, they have the right to self-administration, use their own language, promote their culture, practice their religion, etc.

#### Activity 2

Discuss on the following questions:

1. What significance is gain, if you respect the different Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of your classmate?
2. Discuss on the practice of the rights of the communities in your area.

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### 3.3 The Right to Self-administration

- What does self-administration mean?

#### The Nuer People

The Nuer people is one of the people of Ethiopia, who live in Gambella people's National Regional State Administrative Council. Gambella region is classified into three zone; namely Anyuua zone, Nuer zone and Majanger zone. The Nuer people like Anyuua and Majanger people administer their zone by themselves. They live with their neighbours of different nations, nationalities and peoples on the basis of mutual respect.

The Nuer people have their own language, culture, and history. They have also the right to preserve their cultural heritages like other ethnic groups of the region such as Anyuua, Majanger, Komo and Opo. Equally with other nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia, the Nuer people have representative in the House of Federation as well as Regional State Council. Because of all the above reason the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Gambella Region develop mutual respect and practice their rights equally.

#### Activity 3

1. What is the significance of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples practicing self-administration? Discuss in groups.
2. How do the people in your nationality live together with the people coming from other nationalities? Discuss.

### 3.4 The Right to Equality and Practice of Language

- Mention some of the languages spoken in your community.
- What is the working (official) language in your community?

As a means of communication all languages of Ethiopia are equal; no language is superior to any other language. In other words, there is no major or minor language. All languages are manifestations of that language user people's identity and the reflection of their culture. Children may learn their first language from their families, communities and societies where they are born. The right to use one's language is constitutionally guaranteed. The right to use one's language includes the right to speak or write and promote as well as using the language as a medium of instruction in the education system.

#### Activity 4

Answer the following questions:

1. What does the right to use one's own language mean?
2. What is the advantage of the right to use one's own language?

### 3.5 The Right to Equal Access of Education

- What is the importance of right to equal access to education? Discuss.

All Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia, their right to equal access of education is guaranteed in the constitution. This right has to be practical to all citizens (males and females, urban and rural) equally. If discrimination is avoided and all citizens get equal access, it is possible to maintain the sustainability of the development of the education system in Ethiopia and score high achievement in education. Equal access has the power to promote national feeling.

#### Activity 5

Discuss on the following questions:

1. How do you explain the right of equal access to education?
2. What is the advantage of promoting equal opportunity of education?

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### 3.5.1 The Right to Equal Job Opportunity

- What does the right to an equal job opportunity mean?

Regardless of gender, nationality, religion and the like, every person has the right to work by his/her own profession and knowledge. Individuals with similar competence have to compete equally and without discrimination for employment. The right to job opportunity should not be hindered because of discrimination, blood relationships and by any other form of unfair advantage.

#### Activity 6

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the meaning of the right to equal job opportunity?
2. What is the significance of promoting the right to equal job opportunity?

### 3.6 The Right to Equality in Schools

- Mention the rights of students in their schools.

#### Wachiga Busha Primary School

Wachiga primary school is one of the schools in Soddo Zuria, in Wolaita. In order to form students' council in the school, representatives were elected from each class and attended a general meeting. After the director has made opening speech, electoral committee has been selected. The committee has designed the guiding principle of election process and announced, "Only males and physically able student are to take part in the election". However, the attendants of the meeting opposed this principle very strongly. Then by majority vote, the committee was forced to revise the principle for the second time. The revised principle then stated, "Every student of the school can be the candidate for election of student council." On the basis of the revised principle, five individuals were elected for council of students.



Picture 3.2. Students in process of voting

#### Activity 7

According to the above passage, answer the following questions:

1. What kind of unnecessary principles observed from electoral committee during the first meeting?
2. "Females and physically disabled cannot take part in election". Is this proper way of thinking? Why?
3. Is there students' council in your school? How many females are there in the leadership?

In a school, the struggle against the discrimination of gender, colour, religion etc, is an example of the practicing of democratic rights. In classes as well as in school compounds, the following rights of students have to be respected. Among these are the right to ask questions, the right to get answers for questions, taking part in extra-curricular activities, the right to participate in issues of their concern, and the right to properly handle and use school properties. On other hand, every student has to carry out their responsibilities properly. For example, respecting school rules and regulations, being exemplary student and carrying out home works and class works on time are some of the responsibilities to be done.

#### Activity 8

Answer the following questions:

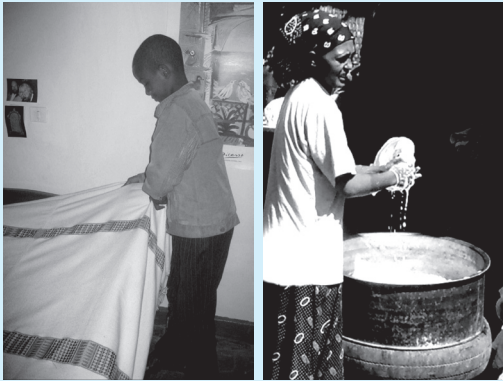
1. Mention some of the rights to be respected in your school.
2. What are your responsibilities to carry on in the school?

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## 3.7 Gender Equality

### 3.7.1 The Equality of Males and Females in all Sectors

- What is the meaning of the equality of boys and girls?



Picture 3.3. A girl and a boy working together

- Do you agree with the idea that girls are able to work any job at any where like boys?

#### The life of W/ro Amina

Ufayse and Dana are grade five students. On one day, they made an interview with W/ro Amina who is a housewife. Please, attend the following interview carefully and discuss on the question stated below.

**Ufayse and Dana** - Where have you been born and brought up?

**W/ro Amina** - I was born in a place called Arbaminch.

**Ufayse and Dana** - As you are a housewife, what is your responsibility at home?

**W/ro Amina** - Usually I do household chores such as caring for my children, cleaning house, cooking food etc.

**Ufayse and Dana** - Can you tell us if you have encountered problems in discharging those responsibilities?

**W/ro Amina** - The critical problem I faced is considering household activities as duties of females

only. Still this opinion is not yet avoided.

**Ufayse and Dana** - Is it to mean that male individuals are not taking part in household activities?

**W/ro Amina** - Yes, almost all household activities are carried by the females.

**Ufayse and Dana** - What is the role of males?

**W/ro Amina** - Concerning my family, our livelihood is based on agriculture. My husband and my boys do not take part in household activities.

**Ufayse and Dana** - Do you mean that in your community women are engaged in harder and more responsibility?

**W/ro Amina** - Yes, women have more job at home, and it is culturally not acceptable to ask the husband for support.

**Ufayse and Dana** - How is it possible to correct this problem?

**W/ro Amina** - Promoting equality between males and females, teaching the society about equality, and providing affirmative actions for females like better education opportunity, etc.

**Ufayse and Dana** - Thank you for your cooperation in the interview!

**W/ro Amina** - I like to thank you for this opportunity too!

### Activity 9

Based on the above interview, answer the following questions:

1. How do you see your family when you compare it with the above interview? Explain the similarity and difference.

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2. Is the lonely contribution of W/ro Amina in the household activities good or bad for her family? Why?
3. How should W/ro Amina's husband participate in the house chores? How about her boys?

Since females are half a society, it is important to accept and respect gender equality. Every citizen has to struggle against gender biases and is expected to accept and support the right of equality of females.

Gender equality implies the equality of males and females in every areas of work. For example, in household activities, education, farming, husbandry, and commerce and in other responsibilities, they all equal to men.

Females are equal to men mentally as well as physically.

### Activity 10

Discuss on the following questions:

1. Please mention works traditionally classified as work of men and female.
2. Can males perform what females do?
3. Can women do what is traditionally considered men's job?

### 3.7.2 Attributes of Equality of Male and Female in Schools



Picture 3.4. Students in the class

- What do you understand from picture 3.4?
- How do you know whether equality of males and females is respected in your school?

Male and female students have equal rights in the schools. For example, the right to participate in extra-curricular activities; to get equal representation in school councils, etc. has to be kept. To promote the right of equality of males and females, teachers, students, school administrative bodies, parents and government have common responsibility.

### Activity 11

Answer the following questions:

1. How many female students are there in grade five? How many males are there also? Which of them is the majority?
2. On basis of the information, what is the factor for girls being larger or fewer in numbers in grade 5? Discuss in group.
3. What has to be done to balance the number of male and female students in a class? If it is balanced, to sustain this balance, what should be done by your school as well as by your parents?

## 3.8 Equality of Culture

- What is equality of culture?

Students! What do you understand by the following picture?



Picture 3.5. A picture showing diversification of cultures

Culture is the way of living. Language and religion are manifestations of culture. It is also expressed by the way of talking, dressing, eating and expressing sorrow and joy.

There are diversifications of cultures in Ethiopia, which are different from place to place. No culture

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is superior to or inferior to any other culture. Culture is not something constant. Culture can be changed with the change in socio-economy development and on natural circumstances. Ethiopian constitution gives equal attention and respect to all cultures.

### Activity 12

Discuss on the following questions:

1. What is culture?
2. What does equality of cultures mean?

### 3.8.1 The Necessity of Promoting Culture

- What is the importance of promoting your own language?

One of the attributes of democracy is the equality of culture. All Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia have the right to use and promote their own culture, language and history. The culture of any nationality should be respected by other peoples of nationality. The unity based on equality and mutual interest can enable us to build common cultural and historical values, which can be transferred to the coming generation.

### Activity 13

Answer the following questions:

1. Mention cultural attributes in your community.
2. Copy the following table on your exercise book and fill up the space based on your own culture.

No.	Healthy Traditional Practices	Harmful Traditional Practices
1		
2		
3		

Some of the traditional practices in different parts of Ethiopia are:

A. Harmful traditional practices

- Female genital mutilation
- Early marriage
- Scratching body for purpose mourning
- Avoiding milk teeth
- Cutting body by sharp material
- Extravagancy
- Abduction
- Avoidance of fingernails of ladies for weeding purpose etc.

B. Good traditional practices helpful for development and progress

- Working in group/Debo etc.
- Hospitality
- Respecting elders
- 'Idir' and 'Iqub'
- Helping the needy ones etc.

### Group Work

Search in group for the information of harmful practices done against girls and children in your area. And write a report of one page only.

### 3.8.2 Physical Disability

#### The meaning of physical disability

- What does physical disability mean?
- Identify situations leading to physical disability and explain them.

Physical disability is the state of being unable to perform some activities that any persons can do naturally. On other way, physical disability is the inability to perform a given duty due to different damages faced.

There are a number of disabled persons in Ethiopia. Though there are certain changes, they

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may face stigma and discrimination in schools, work places, in social life etc. Such kind of discrimination and stigma are unconstitutional and unacceptable attitude in the development of a country. Physically disabled persons have full dignity. Every disabled person can contribute for his/her country and hence people and government have to make support for respecting of rights of disabled peoples.

### Activity 14

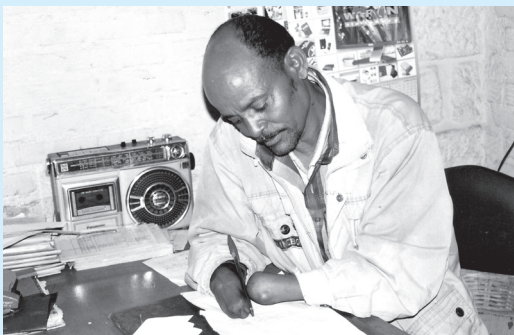
Discuss on the following questions:

1. What kind of supports have to be made for physically disabled persons?
2. What kind of situations should be fulfilled for disabled persons to contribute something to their country?

### 3.9 Expected Supports for Physically Disabled Persons

- What kind of supports do disabled persons need in your community?

Physically disabled persons need support from government, society and humanitarian organizations. Among these supports, it is important to give care, love in the community they live. They should also get material support. For example, visually impaired peoples should get brailled books. If their rights are respected appropriately, they can also contribute in the struggle against poverty.



Picture 3.6. Physically disabled person on work

### Activity 15

Answer the following questions:

1. If there are physically disabled students in your school, what kind of support do they get?
2. What should be of your roles and responsibility to support physically disabled persons?

### 3.10 The Meaning of the Right to Religion



Picture 3.7. Different religions

- What do you mean by religions equality?

Religion is basically about believing in one creator of the world. All religions in the world teach about morality and ethics. The Ethiopians are followers of different religions and there is mutual respect among themselves. Christianity, Islam, and traditional beliefs are the major ones. Everyone has to understand that neither of these religions is superior or inferior to one another and hence all religions are equally important for the believers. Therefore, anybody has the right to practice his/her right to any religion without affecting the rights of others. Any Ethiopian has freedom of religion and belief. This is clearly stated in the Ethiopian constitution.

### Activity 16

Discuss on the following questions:

1. What is a religion?
2. What is the meaning of the right to religion and belief?

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## Summary

The right to equality is the basic right of human beings. When Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia carry out their own issues by their own interest and choice, this is practically implementing what is stated in the constitution. Furthermore, using their language, promoting culture and taking care of their history, also implies respecting of the right of equality.

The practice of getting equal access to education enables us to promote development and progress in our country. The gender equality is important in order to avoid gender bias and discriminations between males and females. Harmful practices should also be avoided. Respecting rights of physically disabled persons is important for whole society.

## Key Words

<b>Right:</b>	A privilege that has to be enjoyed
<b>Culture:</b>	Indicates language, religion, way of life, tradition etc.
<b>Nation, Nationality and People:</b>	Society with common culture, language, history, live in common geographic area
<b>Brail:</b>	Writing material for visually impaired persons
<b>Discrimination:</b>	A deliberate practice of unfair support of advantage by affecting the advantage and privileges of others
<b>Equality:</b>	Making a fair balance or opportunity of sharing benefits
<b>'Debo'l'wonfel':</b>	Rural peoples culture of working in group in order to support each other while enjoying common meals

## 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. Culture also implies the way of life of human beings.
2. Working in group and supporting each other is a good working culture of the Ethiopians.
3. Early marriage can be categorized under good practices.
4. One of the attributes of democracy is the equality of culture.
5. Gender equality is a right that helps to make a discrimination between males and females.



# Equality

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

- | A                             | B                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Respecting elders          | (A) The equality of males and females                                |
| 2. Language                   | (B) The expression of identity of nations, nationalities and peoples |
| 3. Religious equality         | (C) Every person has the right to follow his own belief              |
| 4. Gender equality            | (D) Healthy practice/ethics                                          |
| 5. Physically disabled person | (E) Those who need special support                                   |
|                               | (F) Backward thinking                                                |

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ is working in group in order to support each other and commonly practiced in rural areas.
- Children can learn their first languages from \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sources.

## IV. Choose the correct answer for the following questions

- Which one of the following is the advantage of self-administration of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples?  
(a) To promote development in their area      (b) To respect the right of people  
(c) To live with other people with tolerance      (d) All of the above.
- Which of the following does not show the equality of students in a school?  
(a) Asking questions      (b) Participating in extra-curricular activities  
(c) Imposing personal idea on others      (d) Participating in students affairs.
- An action that affects the basic right and dignity of females is  
(a) Early marriage      (b) Working the work of men  
(c) Female genital mutilation      (d) (a) and (c).
- One of the following is not a kind of supports to physically disabled  
(a) Love and care      (b) Stigma and discrimination  
(c) Providing education materials      (d) Respecting their right of equality.
- Which of the following shows the culture of people?  
(a) Dressing style      (b) Food culture  
(c) Expression of happiness and sorrow      (d) All are correct.

## V. Give short answers for the following questions

- Mention the advantages of learning by first language.
- Mention some important ways to promote and sustain participation female students in your school.