

UNIT 8

Self-Reliance

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

- recognize the concept of socio-economic dependency.
- understand the need to be a self-reliant person.

8.1 The Importance of Self-reliance

Explain the importance of being a self-reliant person from your prior knowledge of grade five lessons and your experiences.

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Activity 1

Answer the following questions according to the poem:

1. What must be done in order to be self-reliant or self-sufficient?
2. From the above poem, which of the phrases express the importance of self-sufficient or self-reliance? Discuss.

8.1.1 Self-reliance

Self-reliance means being self-sufficient. It is the ability to depend on oneself through the effective use of one's power, resources and judgements. Self-reliant individuals are characterized as:

- courageous to take responsibility and fulfill their responsibilities effectively.
- powerful socially and economically. They are free from dependency on ideas and resources.
- self-confident and have the ability to make decisions by themselves.
- having a sense of freedom control and exploitation by any external body.
- self-motivated and responsible.

Generally, self-reliant and independent people are an asset for the development of country.

Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. Be ready for a group discussion and keep to the following steps for discussion:
 - (a) First, select a chairperson and secretarial assistance from your classmates.
 - (b) Second, comment on the importance of being self-reliant or independent.
 - (c) Tell the group secretary to write the main points of each participant on the blackboard.

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- (d) Then, identify those relevant points written on the blackboard.
- (e) Finally, reach a common conclusion related to the importance of self-reliance.

8.2 Dependency

8.2.1 What is Dependency?



Picture 8.1. Student cheating during exam

Questions based on picture 8.1:

- (a) As you can see in picture 8.1, the students are cheating during an exam. What are the possible reasons for cheating and depending on the work of other students?
- (b) What do you suggest as possible solutions to avoid the dependency of one student upon others?

The dependent boy

Ato Esmael has two children named Fetiya and Ahmed. He also fosters a child, Zeinu, who has lost his parents. Ahmed is a weight lifter. He feeds himself well so that he has strong muscles and an erect body. Fetiya washes his clothes, and Zeinu cleans his bedroom. Ahmed gets angry when hand washing water cannot be given immediately in order to eat a meal prepared earlier. In school, he cheats during exams. His friend's fear of his muscles, the reason why they allow him to cheat.

Zeinu, however, does all the chores because he does not want to be dependent on others. With his thirst for education, he studies his subjects and does his homework properly. Then, he goes to Ato

Esmael's Garage and helps by bringing materials for the mechanics. He watches what they are doing. Even though he is proud of Zeinu, Ato Esmael always feels sorry for Ahmed. Then, one day, thinking of how to help Ahmed make the most of his situation, Ato Esmael called both boys and said, "I am getting older, therefore, I would like one of you to take my position in the garage. But, in order to choose one of you, I will give you a test to help me identify who has the best knowledge about the garage.

Zeinu agreed immediately. On the other hand, Ahmed was not confident as he had never seen others working in the garage. He became angry and said, "Dad, I am your son. I couldn't compete with your dependents. Finally, Ato Esmael said, with great sorrow, "it is you who is dependent, not Zeinu." It is clear that Ato Esmael had asked for Ahmed's dependency.

Activity 3

Read the above passage carefully and answer the following questions:

1. Ato Esmael said, "It is you who is dependent, but not Zeinu". What does Ato Esmael want to say?
2. What are the causes of Ahmed's lack of confidence?
3. Who has developed a sense of dependency on the basis of your understanding? Zeinu or Ahmed?
4. What must be done in order to develop a sense of independence and self-confidence in the mind of Ahmed?

Dependency is the opposite of self-reliance. Dependency is the attitude and expectation that other individuals will one's needs. It also refers to reliance on others people's knowledge, money, and power.

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A sense of dependency may occur due to a lack of sense of freedom, sense of pride, a sense of achievement, etc.

A sense of dependency leads to laziness, lack of brainpower thought, etc. These in turn lead to long-term social and economic problems. The more dependent and unproductive people are the higher burden for the country to provide food, clothing, and other essential services. Therefore, good citizens should avoid the sense of dependency and develop the culture of hard work in order to bring about the progress of their country.

Activity 4

1. How could dependency hinder individuals to develop their knowledge?
2. How can sense of dependency cause a lack of self-confidence?
3. A sense of dependency creates lack of independence. How?

8.2.2 Social and Economic Dependency

- Discuss the negative effects of illegal trade, especially contraband:

Questions and answers between a journalist and customs officer:

- Q. What do you think is the harm of contraband?
- A. Low quality and below standard goods and medicines will make their way into the country's markets.
- Q. What else?
- A. Arms that will be used by criminals and addictive drugs cross borders and affect people's health and peace.
- Q. Some people feel that contraband trade makes a country poor and dependent on aid, would you explain this?

A. Yes! Contrabandists do not pay tax. Tax is important for the development of people and a country.

Q. What do you think is the solution?

A. If Ethiopia has to move forward economically, it is important to stop the contraband trade.



Picture 8.2. Contraband affects the economy of the country

Activity 5

Based on the above interview answer the following questions:

1. Try to read and memorize the interview. Act as the journalist and customs officer and then ask and respond by taking turns.
2. Be in a group of six, nominate a secretary and a group leader. After that discuss in detail the economic and social impacts of contraband on a country.

Smuggling

It is very common for us to hear the news of smuggling imported and exported goods in the media. Not only do we hear this but also the penalties the smugglers receive in terms of imprisonment and fines. Why do you think the government has given this much attention? It is because of the following significant reasons:

It is an illegal action to import and export by smuggling. It wastes money that could be collected from tax and currency and be used for social

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services. This consequently causes the country to be economically dependent.

Furthermore, it lets in films, posters, and pictures that can lead to cultural and social crises. It also allows the import of dangerous weapons, which can result in terrorism and crime in the country. Another significant problem caused by smuggling is that it brings to the country goods and food items which are not evaluated and examined by experts, and do not meet the standards of quality for the people who may use them.

We should also note that addictive drugs that are nowadays causing organized crime around the world are traded illegally. Therefore, we must condemn and fight this dangerous act, smuggling, as it is among the biggest enemies of our country's economy and social life.

Activity 6

Answer the following questions:

1. Describe the social and economic impacts of the contraband trade.
2. What are the behaviours of people engaged in the contraband trade?

8.3 Self-confidence

8.3.1 Behaviours of Self-confident People

- Describe the characteristics and behaviours of self-confident people.
- Discuss with your friends the behaviours of self-confident students from your class or other students.

The confident student

When a teacher was announcing the final results to his students, one student, named Hailu, was speaking to another boy who sat beside him. He

said, "The teacher has made a mistake in marking my work."

"Shut up, please" said the student. "The teacher will be angry if he hears you saying he has made mistakes." Being irritated by the student's words he said "I am certain about it! And I can explain this to him!" Then Hailu immediately stood up and said to the teacher, "You have made a mistake with my grade." The teacher replied "Well, class, I have marked the exam paper with great care and registered your scores carefully."

"No, completely not, sir!" said Hailu. "I have attended every lesson properly and I have also accomplished all assignments. In addition, I have prepared for the exam very well. And hence, I did not have any difficulty in working it out. Therefore, I am not expecting this result." Convinced by Hailu's idea, the teacher went back to his office to check the result.

It was after he checked the correct score from the mark list that he decided to apologize to Hailu for his mistake. Finally, the teacher announced that his score was registered as "excellent".

Activity 7

Discuss the following questions according to the passage:

1. Choose from the class two students who act as a chairperson and a secretary. Then, based on the above passage discuss the reasons that make a student self-confident. Remember you have to take notes, in your exercise books while discussing.
2. Say what you would do if you faced similar problem to the brave student?
3. What are the basic reasons that helped the hardworking student's ideas to be accepted by the teacher?

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Self-confidence

Self-confidence is very closely related to self-reliance. A dependent individual cannot be a self-confident citizen. A self-sufficient or reliant person should have the culture of hard work or industriousness. An industrious individual is a self-reliant and self-confident. Generally, self-confident individual has the following qualities:

- Self-confident individuals are free and are confident in themselves and their abilities.
- Self-confident people are not dependent on others to satisfy their needs.
- They are ready for free discussion, express their view and are courageous enough even to

criticize others. They are also ready to accept good criticisms forwarded by others.

- As a result, self-confident people can play a great role for the development of democracy, peace and social and economic change in their country.

Activity 8

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the importance of being self-confident for the enhancement of self-reliance?
2. Describe the typical behaviours and qualities of self-confident people.

Summary

Self-reliance is closely related to an individual's readiness towards holding responsibility and development of a sense of hard work. Being self-reliant or self-sufficient creates the quality of developing self-confidence. It also avoids dependency and enhances a sense of freedom and equality. In contrast, dependency causes inferiority and a lack of confidence in one's ability, power and knowledge.

Dependency at a country level can result in a burden on the country to provide social and economic services to the dependent population. Good citizens are self-reliant and self-sufficient. They have good knowledge about themselves and are self-confident. They are courageous and can play a leading role in common development and the progress of their country. Self-reliant and self-confident people are assets for their country.

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. Self-sufficiency cannot solve the problem of a sense of dependency.
2. A sense of dependency helps an individual to use his ability and power.
3. Helping other people on the basis of our capacity may hinder our self-reliance or self-independence.
4. An individual must completely accept the ideas or views of other people in order to arrive at a common agreement.
5. Self-confident people are those individuals who have full perception or awareness about themselves.

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

- | A | B |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Self-sufficiency | (A) Harming peace and security, and the national economy |
| 2. Dependent student | (B) Self-confident person |
| 3. Fully self-aware person | (C) Dependency of the individual |
| 4. Bribe | (D) The ability of compromise |
| | (E) Cheating during exams |

III. Choose the correct answer for the following questions

- Self-reliance means:
 - Every individual can achieve his objectives through hard work
 - One can generate sufficient income using one's ability and effort
 - One should not be flexible for the sake of material and spiritual benefit gained from others
 - (a) and (b) are correct.
- In order to be self-reliant:
 - One needs a well-known or an outstanding person
 - One needs to be very hardworking
 - One must develop his/her knowledge
 - (b) and (c) are correct.
- Self-confident individuals:
 - Accept the ideas and criticism of other people
 - Are courageous to create new ideas
 - Listen to the ideas of others honestly and express their beliefs freely and clearly
 - Are a basic asset for the development of their country
 - All of the above.
- Which one of the following statements is true about "Dependency"?
 - Dependency is useful to live without suffering
 - A sense of dependency will lead to a feeling of inferiority
 - Dependency is a basic instrument for social and economic development
 - All are correct.
- Which one of the following statement is true about the importance of accepting one's mistakes and the criticism of others?
 - One needs to accept one's mistakes for fear of strong people and their punishments
 - One must accept them for his/her economic advantage
 - One should accept them after comparing and understanding the views of other people
 - One needs to accept for the purpose of gaining the benefit and respect of others.

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

1. An illegal transfer of goods from border areas of the country to central areas is called _____.
2. An individual who completely relies on the views and beliefs of other individuals is called a _____ person.
3. _____ is a gift given to government officials in order to get unfair benefit.

V. Give short answers for the following questions

1. Explain the negative effects of dependency.
2. Describe the importance of self-reliance or self-sufficiency.
3. What are the needs to compromise one's strong beliefs and ideas with others?

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