

1.1.1 The Essence of Citizenship

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- 👁️ *Describe what citizen is;*
- 👁️ *Realize the rights and responsibilities of citizens;*
- 👁️ *Differentiate citizen and citizenship.*

Before discussing about the essence of citizenship, it is necessary to define what it means to be a citizen. A citizen is a person who has specific rights and responsibilities under the law. Citizens are granted specific rights and benefits by the state. Citizens are expected to follow their country's rules and defend it against its enemies in exchange.

As Ethiopian citizens, we have the right to express ourselves, to be protected by the law, and to bear responsibilities such as obeying the law and paying taxes. As a result, a citizen is someone who has the right to be called a citizen.

Citizenship in turn refers to full and responsible membership of the state. In this situation, membership refers to a political society in which members have a reciprocal obligation of duty to the State and the State has an obligation of protection to the member. Therefore, citizenship is a legal status and an identity.

Case Study

In a small village, there were two children. These were children who helped their parents with various tasks and were well-liked by their family as well as the local community.

Teachers who arrived in that small village realized it was time for the children to return to school. As a result, the teachers approached the children's parents and asked them to send their children to school the following school year. After carefully listening to the teachers' ideas, the children's parents stated that they did not agree with the suggestion and did not want to send their children to school. The parents of the children claimed that rather than sending their children to school, it would be far better for them to obtain and continue to receive much more assistance in their daily activities from them.



Figure 1.2:- Discussion between a teacher and parents

Based on the above case study answer and discuss the questions below with a group of five students:

Short Summary note

Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

Rights of Citizens	Responsibilities of Citizens
Right to express oneself (freedom of speech)	Obeying the law
Right to be protected by the law	Paying taxes
Right to enjoy benefits provided by the state	Defending the country against enemies
Right to legal identity and recognition as a citizen	Following national rules and regulations
Right to membership in a political community	Showing loyalty and commitment to the state

Multiple Choice Questions

1. A citizen is defined as:
 - a) Anyone living in a country
 - b) A person who has rights and responsibilities under the law
 - c) A visitor from another state
 - d) A person without legal status

2. Citizens are granted specific rights and benefits by:
- a) Their family
 - b) The church
 - c) The state
 - d) The school
3. In exchange for rights and benefits, citizens are expected to:
- a) Defend their country against enemies
 - b) Ignore the law
 - c) Travel abroad
 - d) Stay silent
4. Which of the following is a responsibility of Ethiopian citizens?
- a) Avoiding education
 - b) Obeying the law and paying taxes
 - c) Ignoring elections
 - d) Refusing government services
5. The right to be protected by the law is an example of:
- a) A citizen's duty
 - b) A citizen's right
 - c) A citizen's punishment
 - d) A government expense
6. Citizenship refers to:
- a) Only living in a country
 - b) Full and responsible membership of the state
 - c) Visiting a country for a short time
 - d) Serving in the military
7. Membership in a political society means:
- a) Members have duties to the state, and the state protects them
 - b) Citizens are free from all obligations

- c) Citizens only pay taxes without protection
 - d) The state has no role in citizens' lives
8. Citizenship can best be described as:
- a) A temporary privilege
 - b) A legal status and an identity
 - c) A personal opinion
 - d) A private matter
9. One of the rights of Ethiopian citizens is:
- a) To disobey the law
 - b) To express themselves freely
 - c) To refuse paying taxes
 - d) To harm others
10. Which of the following shows the difference between a citizen and citizenship?
- a) A citizen is an individual; citizenship is membership in a state
 - b) A citizen is a law; citizenship is a book
 - c) A citizen is temporary; citizenship is eternal
 - d) A citizen has no rights; citizenship has no responsibilities
11. Which of the following is NOT a responsibility of a citizen?
- a) Defending the country
 - b) Paying taxes
 - c) Expressing oneself
 - d) Obeying the law
12. Citizenship creates a relationship between:
- a) Citizens and foreigners
 - b) The state and its members
 - c) Teachers and students
 - d) Parents and children

13. According to the lesson, what must citizens do in exchange for rights?

- a) Nothing
- b) Follow their country's rules and defend it
- c) Only defend the country
- d) Only pay taxes

14. The essence of citizenship includes:

- a) Rights only
- b) Responsibilities only
- c) Both rights and responsibilities
- d) None of the above

15. Why is citizenship considered an identity?

- a) Because it shows who belongs legally to a state
- b) Because it changes every day
- c) Because it is only about culture
- d) Because it depends on age