Unit Four
Justice

4.1 Fairness

4.1.1 *Benefits*

- Are services or commodities that are believed to be good for an individual or group.
- Are provided by the government to help the people include welfare payments paid to people who don't have a job or welfare activities done for street children.
- People also do things that are beneficial for themselves.
- Most countries it is a service that supports those people in need and usually the government provides these benefits.
- In the United Kingdom, for example, the word 'benefit' refers to welfare payments from the government to the people.

4.1.2 Burdens

- The responsibilities that you have.
- In order to get benefits, there are expectations that are required of you. Activities that require more than one person, involve sharing the responsibility when undertaking the activities.
- It also be seen as the contribution of each individual in the achievement of something. If only certain people are doing everything yet everybody is sharing the benefits, it is not fair.
- The people shouldering the entire burden will be exploited and the people who didn't participate are unfairly being benefitted.
- Everybody should benefit according to his/her contribution to an activity.
- The exceptions should be those people who are unable to contribute like the elderly and sick or disabled people.

If the burden falls on just a few people or one person, they may get fed up of benefiting others and there won't be a harmonious relationship among the people involved. Therefore, all the people involved should take the responsibility. The fair distribution of benefits and burdens can be fair only if a person or a group could earn according to their contribution in an activity that brings benefits. This means people from every part of the country should feel the responsibility of development equally and should make their best effort. Similarly everyone in the country should share the benefits according to his/her effort to promote the development of the country. If there are only certain parts of society shouldering the burdens while others reap the benefits, the people shouldering the burden will get angry. This may cause instability.

4.2 Equity of Benefits and Burdens

- It is important that people share the benefits and burdens equally.
- This creates a sense of belonging to a country,
- People live harmoniously when the benefits and burdens are distributed equally.
- This is related to the idea that those who work hard should benefit more.

In the absence of equal distribution of benefits and burdens,

- Those who shoulder the biggest burden and do not get the biggest benefit could be hurt.
- In such cases they may resist and may resort to violent means to restore what is fair.
- Only when the benefits and burdens are distributed fairly will there be harmony.

Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia contribute to the development of their country within their own capacity. In some places people are farmers and produce food items. In other places

there are factories and people produce factory products like clothes, shoes, tables and chairs. The contribution of the various peoples of Ethiopia is very important for all of us. This is because sharing the burden is one of the requirements needed for development. When all people participate in shouldering this burden, and accordingly reap the benefits, their sense of belonging increases and life becomes harmonious. For this reason, many countries have policies that promote income equality among people.

4.3 Analysis of Equitability

The distribution of social services should be fair within a country and everyone deserves equal services. This comes from the idea that all people are equal and deserve the same treatment from the government. Therefore, the provision of social services, including education, health and public administration, should be fairly distributed. In the absence of fair distribution of social service some parts of society would be benefit more than others.

National resources are the wealth of a nation includes natural and other resources are owned by all the people and everyone should benefit from them. So using these resources for the benefit of the people should be done in such a way that everyone can benefit. In order to have a stable and peaceful country, people should feel that the use and distribution of national resources is done fairly.

Ethiopian history is also filled with such type of events. The country was ruled by a monarchy ***before 1974*** controlled all resources and the people had very little chance of benefiting from them. The distribution of social services was biased towards close family and friends of the monarch. There was an imbalance in the distribution of social services between the different regions of the country.

Some regions were very much neglected while other regions enjoyed many benefits. For this reason the deprived regions remained backward and could not develop. There was also an imbalance among the different social groups. The monarch and family, who were believed to have absolute power vested in them by God, enjoyed the produce of the poor farmers. There was no equitable distribution of resources at that time.

After 1974 the Derg came to power overthrowing Haile Selassie I's monarchy. This government was totalitarian with a socialist ideology. Although the government claimed that all the people own the national resources, the few people who were in power engaged in corruption and amassed great wealth. This resulted in the misuse of resources and the people and country remained poor. Therefore, the efforts of a lot of people went into a few peoples' pockets. During this period the distribution of social services was also not fair. Again some regions got the chance to benefit from the resources while other regions didn't.

4.4 Components of the Justice System

Legal instruments of justice include courts, ombudsman and human rights commissions.

Courts are places where the law is interpreted and judges are the people who administer the law in the courts. The law emanates from the constitution and international conventions that the country signs. There are principles that are universally followed like the principles of human rights that are enacted as law in a country. The laws are enacted for the protection of human rights and for the benefit of everyone in the country. Based on these laws, it is easier to ensure the existence of justice since we can all refer to the law when there is some kind of disagreement.

Courts are agencies that interpret law. When people disagree on issues related to law, they go to court and present their cases. They try to show the facts along with the existing law of the country and argue that they are acting in accordance with the law. The courts then examine both sides and study the facts so they are as objective as possible to give a verdict on who has acted in accordance with the law.

Judges are well trained in interpreting and understanding the law. After reviewing the facts presented on both sides they interpret it according to the law and make a judgment. The House of Peoples' Representatives appoint judges to the Federal Courts after being recommended by the Prime Minister. Similarly, the state council appoints judges in the state courts after being recommended by the state judicial administration council.

In order for the law to be the governing body of the country it has to be properly interpreted without interference. In a totalitarian government the judiciary is not independent; it is controlled by the government. It becomes easier for government officials to abuse the legal system. When they commit a crime they could abuse the system so that they will not go to prison. To avoid these types of interference the judiciary system has to be independent.

To this effect the FDRE Constitution, Article 78, states:

1. *An independent judiciary is established by this Constitution* and Article 79:
2. *Courts of any level shall be free from any interference of influence of any governmental body, government official or from any other source.*
3. *Judges shall exercise their functions in full independence and shall be directed solely by the law.*

Traditional courts are those instruments of justice that are locally established by the people and are different from place to place. These courts function side by side with conventional courts. The values and norms of society are reflected in these courts. Usually elders, who are considered to know the values and norms of society, are trusted to make the right decision. Some of the traditional courts operate based on their religion. For example, ***Sharia*** courts operate based on the principles of Islam and decisions are made based on the ***Holy Qu'ran*** and ***Hadith.*** However, in other traditional courts the elders or respected people are trusted to make the right decision without any written documentation.

4.5 Justice and the Judiciary

The judiciary

- Deals with controversies that need to be resolved and sentenced individuals/groups when the law has been broken.
- has a role in sustaining democracy,
- defending the Constitution and
- Upholding international norms and values.
- The upholder of these principles has the responsibility to restore justice whenever these principles are violated and whenever a situation occurs that undermines these elements.
- Will intervene and take the appropriate measures to correct this wrongful act.
- Defend the Constitution.
- Interpreting the Constitution,
- is vested with the power of taking the appropriate measure according to the stated law that is based on the Constitution
- Has the responsibility to defend and enforce it. When there are issues that are disputed with regards to the Constitution they should be taken to the House of Federation.

This is clearly stipulated in Article 83 of the FDRE Constitution which states: ***Interpretation of the Constitution***

1. *All constitutional disputes shall be decided by the House of the Federation.*
2. *The House of the Federation shall, within thirty days of receipt, decide a constitutional dispute submitted to it by the Council of Constitutional Inquiry.*

In order for the judiciary to formally defend these international norms and values they must pass through domestication. ***Domestication*** is a process where the country officially recognizes certain international principles as important and includes them in its own laws. This is usually done by signing international conventions and approving these in the Parliament to make them the law of the land. In Ethiopia the responsibility for signing the international conventions and agreements is given to the executive branch of the government. But this agreement has to be approved by the House of Peoples' Representatives. This approval is called ratification and it must be printed in the official newspaper - *Negarit Gazeta*.

4.6 The Workings of the Court

- **Courts** are agencies of the law and they should be independent without any interference.
- It is when the courts perform their duties independently that they could truly serve justice.
- It is only when there is an independent and properly functioning judiciary that the rights of individuals can be protected.
- The law can be properly implemented when there is an effective institution to interpret the law in day-to-day lives of individuals.
- If the right of an individual is violated that individual has no other legal choice than to come to court for justice.

FDRE Constitution Article 37

- Only guarantee individuals have that protects their rights.
- States the different rights of individuals such as the right to life and right to privacy.
- The courts are there to see that these rights are respected. In the event of violations of these rights of individuals, the courts have a stated system by which they will correct the injustice.

In the absence of the judicial protection of human rights,

- There may be human rights abuses.
- Big institutions or people in government offices could abuse the rights of others and injustice would prevail.

Human rights' abuses take place in different forms. government officials become corrupt

- Using their positions for their own benefit.
- Use military power to take advantage of individuals or groups without the presence of judicial protection.

Individuals could abuse the rights of others by using their money or power. In the absence of an effective judicial system

- There is no guarantee that human rights will be respected.
- People feel insecure about their lives and property.
- Those who are capable may protect themselves with their power.

The protection of human rights by the judiciary is very important. There are other elements that are required from the courts in order for them to function properly.

1. **The courts should treat every person as an individual** and **provide equal treatment.** One way to avoid discrimination is
   - To become non-partisan means being objective.
   - The courts and public officials should provide services free of any political, racial, ethnic, religious or any other prejudice.

- Similarly people from different races and religious beliefs should be treated equally.

2. **The courts and public servants to be objective and not stereotype citizens.**

- Stereotyping is based on a set of factual and fictional beliefs, about a certain group.
- It assumes that all members of a certain group will possess certain traits, often negative.
- Stereotyping leads to a bias against a certain group and their members.
- Bias leads to injustice and brings anger, frustration and hatred.

FDRE Constitution Article 33

Every Ethiopian national has the right to enjoyment of all the rights, protection and benefits derived from Ethiopian nationality as prescribed by law.

4.7 Fairness(Justice)in Taxation

The government requires money to provide different services to its people. They have to pay their dues and demand that social services be provided for them from the government. Hence, citizens have a number of rights and responsibilities as tax payers.The services that citizens demand from their government include education, health and other services such as licenses, identification cards, security services from the police and fire department etc. In addition to demanding these services, tax payers also have the right to information on the government budget. Annually the government presents a budget to the legislative body. After careful deliberation, the legislative body improves the budget and approves it.

This information and process has to be accessible to the public since the tax payer has the right to understand and comment on the budget.

Similarly, at the end of the fiscal year, the government presents to performance of the different government institutions. The governm also reports on how it spent the money it collected from tax payers. Just as tax payers have rights they also have duties. The primary an major duty of tax payers is to pay taxes. In doing so there are othe duties they have to fulfill. First of all they have to honestly an exhaustively give all the necessary information for the finance authority. They have to explain what type of work they do, the income, who their employer is and how frequently they are paid. Th enables the finance authority to levy the appropriate tax that should p to the government.

Some people do not disclose their income and so pay a smalle amount of tax. This is both illegal and unethical. They are denying th government the financial resources it needs for various activitie Evasion of tax means citizens are not fulfilling their civ responsibilities and are stealing from the government. Therefore, on of the duties of tax payers is

- To reveal their proper income.
- To pay the appropriate amount promptly.

It is important that the government gets the tax on time to engage i development activities and provide public services as planned.Sinc all citizens benefit from the activities of the government, they shoul pay tax. Of course there are international principles that guide th collection of tax.

I. The "ability to pay" principle.

- Payment of taxes should be based on people's ability to pay.
- It is only when a person has the capacity that he or she has t pay taxes.
- Those who do not have any income will not be able to pa taxes.

where blacks, Native Americans, women and other minority groups suffered from discrimination. Affirmative actions were aimed at:

- increasing employment opportunities for minorities;
- taking positive steps to insure that employees were not discriminated
- providing extra advantage and opportunities to enroll blacks, native Americans and women in colleges and universities;
- Providing financial assistance to students from minority groups who could not afford to attend colleges.

These kinds of assistance helped members of the disadvantaged groups to achieve more in education and the world of work. Many people agree that affirmative action is important to remedy past discrimination. However, there are people who consider affirmative aetion unjust. There are people who argue that affirmative actions go against the principle of equality. Some people consider affirmative action as reverse discrimination and, therefore, Women have historically suffered from discrimination in many parts of the world. Women have also suffered from discrimination and injustice in Ethiopia. Though women play a crucial role in the family and at the community level, their contribution was undermined. *Women*

- Did not have the right to own land and other non-movable assets.
- Did not have the right to inherit family assets such as land.
- Were regarded as second-class citizens at a national level too.
- Were denied the right to have equal opportunities in education.

The FDRE's Constitution *Article 35 (3)*:

- Gives much attention to equality between women and men.
- Recognizes that women suffered from injustice and discrimination
- Entitles them to remedial and affirmative actions in order to compensate past mistakes.

Tax evasion or fraud is where people do not reveal their total income or pay the appropriate tax. In most cases people engage in tax evasion when they feel their tax rate is too high. Measuring tax evasion is very difficult because people are usually required to report their own income. But they could cheat and understate their earning so that the percentage they pay would be less. Different measures to check whether people are honest about earnings so that the appropriate tax is paid. Because it is a criminal offence, the punishment of tax evasion is usually very severe to discourage people from committing this kind of crime.

Another illegal act of avoiding tax is contraband. Contraband is illegal international trading of goods to avoid a trade tax which denies the government an income. For example, in Ethiopia, where imports are taxed, some people try to import goods illegally through borders.

Tax evasion is different from tax avoidance. They are different because ***tax avoidance is legal*** while ***tax evasion is illegal***. Tax avoidance is the act of changing a business venture or investment to one that pays less tax. This is done when businessmen are smart enough to decide in what type of business to invest. Some sectors are favored by the government so people who invest in them are charged less tax. So tax avoidance is a legal way of avoiding paying taxes. The government levies taxes because it requires money to provide services and invest in development activities. The importance of taxation to the national economy emanates from the importance of government services and development activities in the country. Especially in a developing country like Ethiopia, the importance of tax collection for government revenue is paramount.

The government has the role of creating a conducive situation for the private sector to accelerate growth. This incorporates building

infrastructures including electric power, and communication infrastructures such as roads and the like. It also facilitates growth and development by making its services to the public efficient. This includes issuing licenses, maintaining security and enforcing the rule of law. These are components that are vital for the development process.

In order to do all these things the government requires money. The major source of money for the government is tax from the people. Some developing countries also receive grants and aid to do all the above necessary things; but grants and aid are not predictable and depend on the benevolence of other governments. If a government could manage to collect more funds for its activities from taxes, permanent projects could be predictably planned and executed. This is

Tax laws are promulgated mainly to monitor the fair collection of tax to maintain income equality of people. *Ethiopian Tax Laws 2004*

Criminal Code

Article 349: Unlawful Refusal to Pay Public Taxes or Dues.

(1) Whoever, being duly ordered to pay the taxes or dues prescribed by law, whether in kind or in cash, and validly assessed by the competent authority, refuses to pay, though able so to do, taxes on land, property or different kinds of income, or any other due or tax whatsoever, is punishable, without prejudice to the payment of the tax or due, with simple imprisonment for not less than one year and fine.

(2) Where the refusal is accompanied by threats, violence, or assault, by the display or use of arms, or by disorder or revolt, the punishment prescribed by the relevant provisions shall apply concurrently (Art.85).

Article 350: Incitement to Refusal to pay Taxes.

(1) Whoever incites another, by acts, gifts, speeches, threats, or in any other way, to refuse to pay the taxes or dues prescribed by law, is punishable with simple imprisonment from one year to three years and fine.

(2) Where the case is more serious, as a result of the spread of the crime, the punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment from three years to ten years and fine.

Where the crime is punishable under a more severe provision, such as incitement to riot or to the overthrow of authority, the punishment may be aggravated in accordance with the relevant provision prescribed for concurrent crimes (Art. 85).

4.8 Crime and Justice

There are different types of justice, one of which is ***corrective justice*** which deals with correcting unjust acts. One of these unjust acts is crime. According to ***John Stuart Mill***, crime is the wrongful use of power or wrongful aggression against someone. So, corrective justice controls wrongful aggressions and misuse of power over others.

Aggression is often caused

- When there is inequality of power between individuals.
- This inequality could be caused by situations or nature.

The instrument through which corrective justice is dispensed is called Criminal Law. There are different types of crimes. These include: genocide, drug trafficking, terrorism, deliberately transmitting diseases and corruption.

1. **Genocide**:
   - Is the act or attempt to exterminate/make extinct a clan, family or people.
   - It comes from the Greek words '***genos***' meaning ***clan***, family or people while '***occidio***' means ***total extinction*** or extermination.

- Is committed with the intent of exterminating a group of people based on their specific characteristics or identities.
- Is the worst of the crimes because it involves taking the lives of people.
- Results in killing people, not because they did something bad, but because they belong to a certain race or follow a certain religion.
- Do not differentiate adults from children,
- The cruelest type of crime of all.

2. **Drug Trafficking**: -
   - The crime of using, distributing / circulating narcotic drugs.
   - Causes a serious damage to people's health.
   - Addictive and excessive use of them can cause serious damage to the brain and certain organs of the body.
   - It affects their social life with others.
   - People who use or are addicted to narcotic drugs will not have a normal relationship with others.
   - The economic problem they pose.
   - People who use drugs require a lot of money to buy them. As a result, they compromise their basic needs like food, clothing and shelter in order to fulfill their addiction.
   - A criminal offense which affects the social and economic health of a country.

3. **Terrorism** is:
   - The deliberate act of endangering the lives of people or property, or denying the freedom of a person or group of persons.
   - It is done to force or coerce either the government or the people to do something or stop doing something. Instead of convincing the people and the government to take a certain

action or not to take a certain action, terrorism resorts to violence to achieve a goal

- It harms innocent people who are unaware of the situation.
- It could be a lot of damage to lives and property.
- One example is that undertaken by religious extremists who destroy themselves and others.

4. **Deliberate Transmission of Disease:**
   - Expansion of incurable diseases.
   - The most common of these is HIV/AIDS. Some carriers of the HIV lose hope and, out of resentment, they try to infect other people.
   - Is considered as a crime of homicide which is the deliberate murder of an individual.
   - Treated as a serious crime.
   - In the Ethiopian Penal Code there are two major articles that are related to the deliberate transmission of disease. The first one, **Article 503 of the penal code**, criminalizes any kind of deliberate transmission of communicable diseases. The other one is **Article 521** that relates to the criminalizing of the causing of death of a human being, no matter what the means.
5. **Corruption:**
   - The abuse of public office for private gain. People entrusted with operating and managing public office or resources are supposed to treat all people equally according to the stated law and procedures of the enterprise.
   - Some officials abuse their responsibility and use it to personal benefit or to benefit their family or friends.
   - An international phenomena and no country is totally free of it.
   - It has a lot of negative effects
     - It hinders the development efforts of a country.

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     - Reduced investment because, when investors come to invest in a corrupt system, they will be required to pay the corrupt officials to get the necessary services.
     - Reduces public confidence in the civil servants. This causes friction between the public and the government.
     - It undermines the rule of law because corrupt officials tend to do things illegally against the interests of the public.
     - Sometimes the officials in the legal system become corrupt and fail to take the necessary actions to uphold justice.

Thus corruption is an evil that countries need to fight to the best of their abilities. Measures are usually taken by different countries to minimize the act of corruption through

- the promulgation of the appropriate laws and increasing the scale of punishment
- Creating awareness among people about their rights and encouraging them to reveal corrupt activities by officials is also important.

Fighting corruption is something that requires the concerted efforts of all people. In Ethiopia, the Federal Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission has been established to investigate, prosecute, check and prevent corruption. Article 408 of the criminal code defines corruption as: *Corrupt Practices.*

Any public servant who, directly or indirectly, seeks, receives or exacts a promise of an advantage for himself or another, in consideration for the performance or omission of an act, in violation of the duties proper to his office, is punishable with simple imprisonment for not less than one year, or rigorous imprisonment not exceeding ten years and fine not exceeding twenty thousand Birr.

When a person is accused it does not automatically mean that he/she is an offender. It just means that he/ she is suspected of committing a crime and the judiciary is responsible to check whether he/she is in

fact a criminal or not. **This is done through conducting a public trial.** The rights of the accused person include:

- Have a right to a public trial. This gives the accused the assurance of a fair and transparent trial where he/she could voice their arguments so the truth eventually emerges. If that person is found guilty through that process then it means he/she is convicted.
- Has is the right to full notice of the charge. This means the accused has the right to receive full information about the details of the charge brought against them in the language they understand. These include the date and place where the said offence was committed. This will allow the accused person to justify and bring evidence to the trial.
- The accused is the right to presumption of innocence until proven guilty through trial. Therefore, the accused person has to be treated with the same respect and dignity as any other person.
- The accused is the right to present adequate evidence of innocence. In order to find out the truth of the matter all evidences that inform the situation from both sides are needed. In order to find this information, the accused should have the right to present adequate evidence that shows his/her innocence. Without this right the trial would not be fair.
- The right to counsel. People may not have the proper knowledge about the legal system and how they should defend their case. Under these situations the trial may become unfair. In order to avoid this, the accused has the right to appoint a counsel of their choice and, if they cannot afford to hire one, the state will assign one to them at its own expense.

The right to an interpreter is the right to have a translator present when the court process is conducted in another language.

- The right to appeal is a right to go to a higher court to reverse decision already made by the law court. This is to give a secon chance to the accused to prove their case and rectify mistake judgments stated in *Article 20 Rights of Persons Accused*

Unit Four Review Exercise

Part I- Multiple Choices

1. The three branches of the government created by the constitution are
   A. constitutional, elected, and appointed
   B. federal, state, and local
   C. executive, legislative, and judicial
   D. military, courts, and bureaucracy
2. Which of these is a role of the Legislative branch?
   A. Veto Laws C. Make the Laws
   B. Inspect the Laws D. Enforce the Laws
3. Which one of the following is a requirement of distributional justice? People who are
   A. Similar in their need or capacity should be treated in equal terms
   B. different in important ways should be treated equally
   C. different in their needs or capacity should be treated the same way
   D. similar in their needs and capacity should be treated in different ways

Which of these is NOT a job of the Supreme Court?
A. To make the laws.
B. To judge the law using the Constitution.
C. To interpret the laws.
D. To make decisions about law for the whole country

Which of the following is a national resource?
A. gold and minerals
B. the money in the Bank

C. the people
D. All of the above

6. The establishment of an independent judiciary is necessary for the development of democracy in a country because that body would
   A. prepare the law of regional states
   B. make laws without the interference of the other branches of state
   C. take measures for the revision of the constitution
   D. check the proper usage of power by other branches of state
7. Which of the following is a benefit for an individual?
   A. welfare payments by a government
   B. earnings from doing work
   C. doing house work
   D. a and b
8. In Ethiopia the appointment of. judges for the Federal Supreme Court is made by:
   A. the Prime Minister
   B. the State Judicial Council
   C. the House of Peoples' Representatives
   D. all of the above
9. In the absence of equal distribution of benefits and burdens
   A. violence prevails C. promotes growth in a country
   B. a few people get rich D. all except c
10. Which of the following is the role of the judiciary in a democracy?
   A. upholds democratic principles
   B. defends the Constitution
   C. interprets the law of the land
   D. all of the above
1. Which of the following is the deliberate destruction of life and property to force one's objective on others?

   A. Genocide
   B. Deliberate transmission of diseases
   C. Terrorism
   D. all of the above
12. Which of the following is a right of an accused person?
   A. the right to counsel
   B. the right to disregard the order of the court
   C. the right to appeal
   D. all of the above
13. Stereotyping:
   A. is a combination of factual and fictional beliefs about a member of a group
   B. leads to bias
   C. leads to frustration and violence
   D. all of the above
14. Equality of benefits and burdens is categorized under
   A. Court justice C. corrective justice
   B. Procedural justice D. distributive justice
15. Which one of the following is true about the essence of the independence of judges?
   A. They should not be tried for what ever crime they may commit
   B. they shouldn't be removed from their positions
   C. they should be exempted from taxes
   D. they should only be directed by the law

Part II - True or false

16. Non-partisan means discriminating based on political, racial and religious views.
17. A person should be benefited according to the burdens he or she is shouldering
18. The courts should have non-partisan belief but should use stereotyping in their decision-making.
19. Without judicial protection the rights of individuals could be guaranteed.
20. Progressive taxation is part of the principle of vertical equity.
21. People who use drugs require a lot of money to buy them.
22. Terrorism the abuse of public office for private gain. .
23. There is no difference between tax evasion and tax avoidance.
24. *Corrective justice* which deals with correcting unjust acts. One of these unjust acts is crime.
25. Thus corruption is an evil that countries need to fight to the best of their abilities.

Unit Five
Patriotism

5.1 The Bases of Patriotism

History is a narration about the past based on facts. Every historian should use facts to write history. Even though most historical accounts are based on evidence, some of them can be misleading and far from the truth. This is because some writers use certain facts and even create evidences to construct history that is not true for whatever reasons.

It is important to study history in order to understand the present. Knowing what has happened in the past can help us to understand and solve current problems. True history teaches us values whereas fabricated history creates false impressions that are used to mislead us. This is why we say that understanding the true history is important in order to develop a sense of patriotic feeling towards our country. You have to search for the true history of Ethiopia to have clear understanding of the past and develop the sense of patriotism.

The role of a historian is to get closer and closer to the truth of the past. This requires gathering facts and evidence from reliable sources then refining and interpreting them with care. History can be distorted because historians have different world views, political interests and motives. So there may be biased and exaggerated historical accounts to create a false impression and mislead people. You need to avoid these kinds of problems to know more about the history of your country.

You can do this by reading a variety of historical accounts written by different historians. By doing this you can compare and contrast different historical perspectives and have a broad understanding of the