

Introduction

Citizenship is defined as, the condition of being vested with the rights, duties, and responsibilities as a member of a state or nation. According to Fogelman, "Citizenship is about who we are, how we live together, and what kind of people we want develop as our future generations. Hence Citizenship Education deals with the issue local, national and even global level". Citizenship refers to the relationship between the individual and the state and among individuals within a state. Citizenship education is the preparation of individual to participate as active and responsible citizens in a society. Citizenship is a wide-ranging subject that can be taught in its own right, or through other curriculum subjects and activities. This book is intended for students training to teach Citizenship as a first or second subject, and will also be immensely helpful to experienced teachers who have opted to take responsibility for this exciting subject. Social and moral responsibility: Pupils learning from the very beginning self-confidence and socially and morally responsible behavior, both in and beyond the classroom, towards those in authority and towards each other.

Objectives of citizenship education:

- Becoming informed citizens.
- Developing skills of enquiry and communication.
- Developing skills of participation and responsible action.

Citizenship provides opportunities for pupils to develop the key skills of:

- Communication, through researching, discussing and sharing information and ideas about a wide variety of social, political and community issues.
- Application of number, through examining statistics to consider the ways they are used and abused in a variety of social and political contexts.
- Information Technology, through using and applying ICT to analyze issues, events and problems.
- Working with others, through sharing ideas, formulating policies and taking part in responsible action in communities.
- Improving own learning and performance, through reflecting on their own and others' ideas and achievements, and setting targets for future involvement and improvement.
- Problem solving, through becoming involved in political and community issues.

Citizenship provides opportunities to promote:

- Thinking skills, through helping pupils to engage in social issues that require the use of reasoning, understanding and action through enquiry and evaluation.

- Financial capability, through developing pupils' understanding of the nature and role of money in society and developing skills in its use.

Why Teach Citizenship?

The principal justification for citizenship education derives from the nature of democracy. Democracies need active, informed and responsible citizens – citizens who are willing and able to take responsibility for themselves and their communities and contribute to the political process. These capacities do not develop unaided. They have to be learnt. While a certain amount of citizenship may be picked up through ordinary experience in the home or at work, it can never in itself be sufficient to equip citizens for the sort of active role required of them in today's complex and diverse society. Citizenship education means generating citizens that are always interested to participate in national and community affairs and in recognizing their rights as well as accepting civic responsibilities. Therefore, even in developed countries, most of which have democratic political systems already, people and governments continuously endeavor to make the best of citizenship education.

What are Its Essential Elements?

Citizenship education involves a wide range of different elements of learning, including:

1. Knowledge and understanding: About topics such as: laws and rules, the democratic process, the media, human rights, diversity, money and the economy, sustainable development and world as a global community; and about concepts such as democracy, justice, equality, freedom, authority and the rule of law.
2. Skills and aptitudes: Critical thinking, analyzing information, expressing opinions, taking part in discussions and debates, negotiating, conflict resolution and participating in community action.
3. Values and dispositions: Respect for justice, democracy and the rule of law, openness, tolerance, courage to defend a point of view and willingness to: listen to, work with and stand up for others. Learning skills, knowledge and values are generally learned simultaneously rather than in isolation. For example, in presenting and explaining the findings of a survey to local council officials, young people will be building up their knowledge of local government and its functions at the same time as honing their skills of presentation.

On the other hand, there are eight essential components of good Citizenship education:

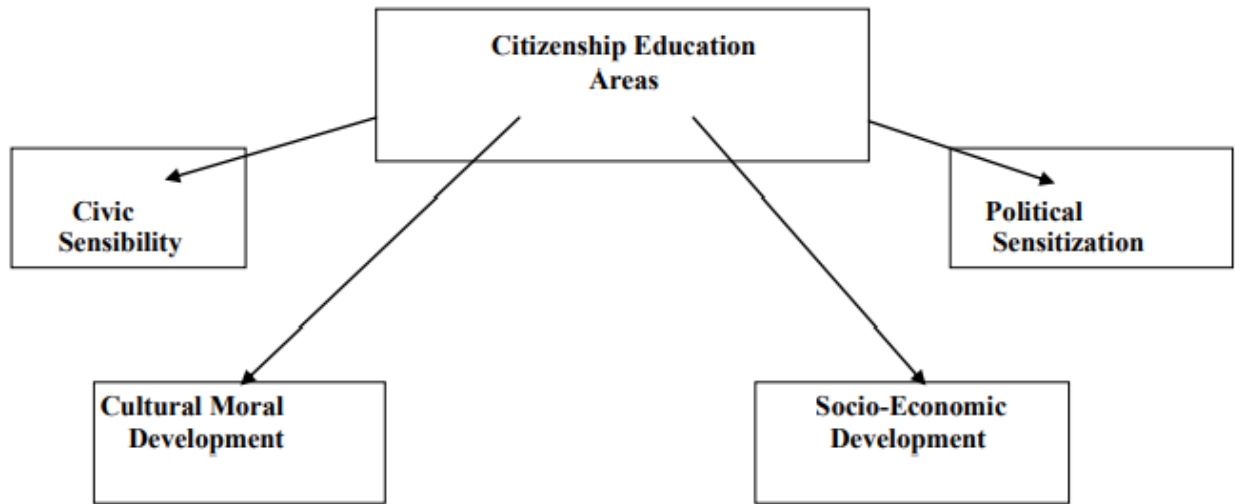
- 1- The nature of community.
- 2- Roles and relationship in a purist society.
- 3- The duties, rights and responsibilities to being a citizen.
- 4- The family, gender equality.
- 5- Democracy in action: process and concept of social justice.

6- The citizen and the law.

7- Work, employment and leisure.

8- Public service.

The literature review revealed that there are four components of citizenship education that are very important:



Citizenship education would be seen as covering all the above mentioned values focusing on the knowledge and skills. The study contents that students should be aware of the roles, rights and responsibilities of citizens, understand political processes of mediation, consensus building and decision making. Furthermore students should also know about current events, how media can influence public opinion and how money and corporate sponsorship can influence media. This study goes further to argue that students should know about major historical events and trends and should examine history through multiple perspectives. Students should also view political, social and economic issues through multiple perspectives. This would help them develop the necessary skills are critical thinking solving and decision making, debating, social and political skills. . The main contribution of education is to transmit the democratic, common culture and stands of citizenship education. Therefore the primary goal of education is to prepare students in each generation to accept the responsibilities of effective citizenship.