

Citizenship Education and Community Engagement

Ms Mehlah Jabeen

What is in this Chapter

- What is Citizenship Education
- How it was started
- Why there is a need to introduce this subject at University Level
- What are its benefits to the learner and the society

What is Citizenship Education

If you are online, follow the links of the videos to know what the students think about Citizenship education.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59IUqc0JSSQ&t=19s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuKzq9EDt-0>

Defining Citizenship Education

- Citizenship Education is teaching or promoting those skills that help people to become active and responsible citizens in a society.
- These skills help the person to understand Rule of law, democratic process, Critical thinking, Personal role with rights and responsibilities.
- Citizenship education is a way of providing background knowledge and skills to the young generation so that they may understand their role in future for a democratic and tolerant society

Defining Citizenship Education

- Citizenship education gives people the knowledge and skills to **understand, challenge** and **engage with** democratic society including politics, the media, civil society, the economy and the law.
- 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.

Themes in Definition

- **Initial themes of Citizenship education were**
- Information of political issues
- Increased awareness about democracy
- Enhancing participation in political and social life
- **Further it Added**
- Involvement in discussion decision making process
- Equality
- Human rights
- Cultural diversity

History of the Citizenship Education

- Ancient objective of the education system
- Formal Efforts: Boys Scouts
- Impact of World War-2
- Case of France and England
- Introduction of Citizenship Education as subject in 1998
- A compulsory subject in British Primary Curriculum; 2002
- **Other Countries ??**

Why there is a need to introduce this subject at University Level

- Creating a sense of rights and responsibilities
- Religious and political intolerance
- Alien Youth – Less understanding and involvement in democratic process
- Being an agent of change in local regional, national and international level
- Critical thinking to save them from several anti social agents

How does it benefit young people?

- It helps them to develop **self-confidence, socialization and a sense of activity**
- It gives them a **voice**: in the life of their schools, their communities and society at large.
- It enables them to **make a positive contribution** by developing the knowledge and experience needed to claim their rights and understand their responsibilities

What are its benefits to the society

- Citizenship brings benefits for schools, other educational organizations and for society.
- For **schools** /educational organizations, it helps to produce motivated and responsible learners, who relate positively to each other, to staff and to the surrounding community.
- For **society** it helps to create an active and responsible citizenry, willing to participate in the life of the nation and the wider world and play its part in the democratic process.

