

Education for Democracy



Some food for thought...



“...the ignorant and unlettered should be disenfranchised of the right to vote.”

“I know of no safe depository of the ultimate power of the society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but *to inform their discretion.*”

What is Civic Education?

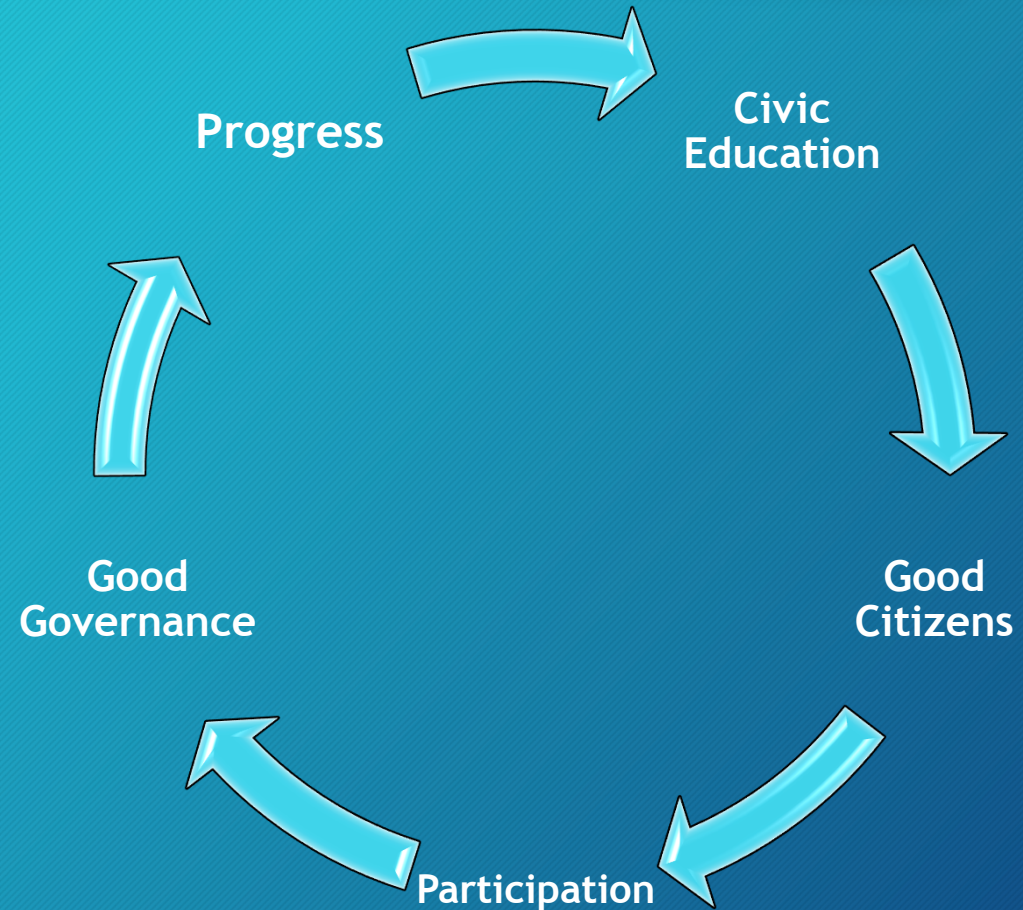


- Civic Education is learning for effective participation in democratic and development processes at both local and national levels.
- It is an important means for capacity development on the societal level by empowering people for effective civic engagement.

What is Civic Education?



“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. **The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.**”



Guide to Civic Education



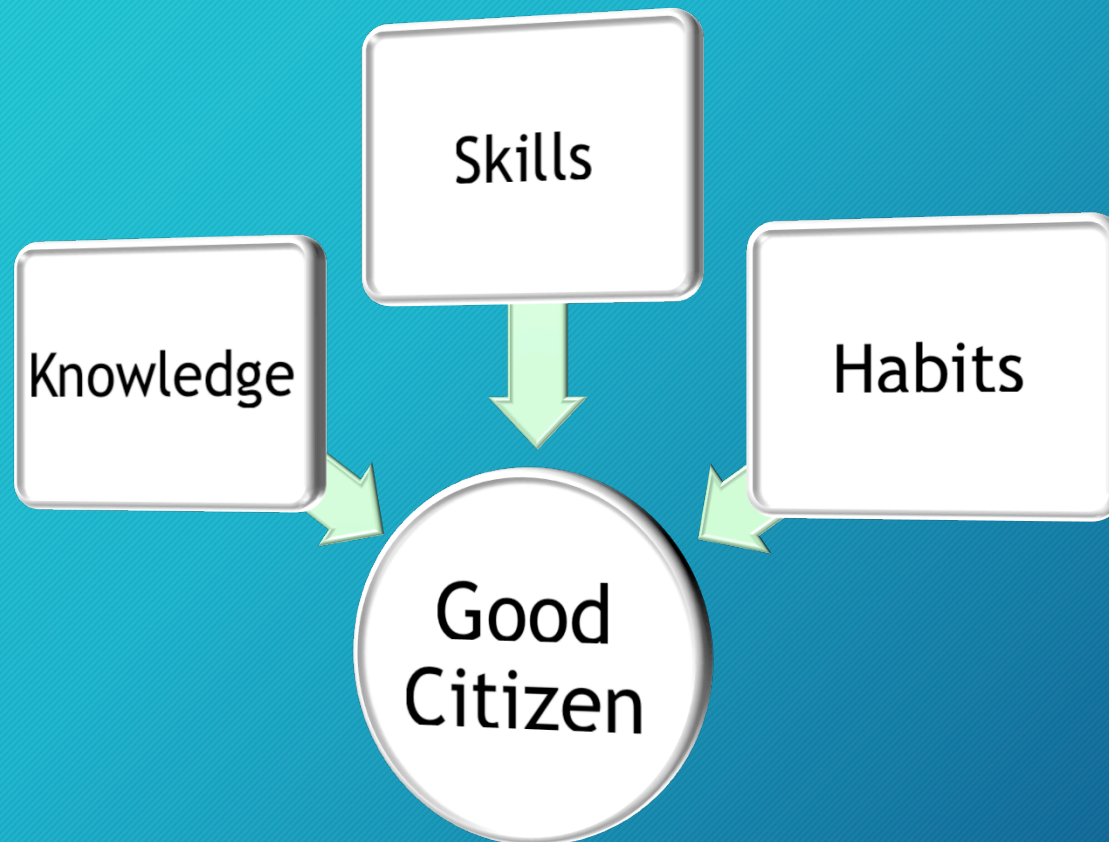
- 1) Effective Civic Education *takes time*.
- 2) Design *frequent* programs that develop habits over time.
- 3) Focus on themes that are immediately relevant to people's daily lives
- 4) Make sure methods are participatory.

It takes a village to raise a good citizen



1. Government (politicians)
2. Civil Society
3. Media
4. Schools
5. Parents
6. Community

What makes a good citizen?



Civic knowledge



Understand
history, the
political system
and the rules of
the democratic
process

LOCAL HISTORY,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SYSTEM, LOCAL
POLICYMAKING,
LOCAL DYNAMICS

Understand the
roles, rights and
responsibilities of
citizenship.

Civic Knowledge



- Help students make sense of the information they obtain
- Using knowledge for informed participation in civic and political processes

Civic skills



Reading

Listening

Questioning

Writing

Articulate
Position in
Public

Civic skills



Building
coalition/
support

Joining
groups

Managing
Conflicts

Examining/
analyzing
issues

Research

Civic skills



Voting

Lobbying

Petitioning

Civic Habits



“Habit is stronger than reason”

Civic virtue is the cultivation of habits

Civic habits



“Habits of the heart”:
moral responsibility,
self discipline, and
respect for the worth
and human dignity of
every individual

Civic dispositions towards the public sphere include: public spiritedness, civility, respect for the rule of law, critical mindedness, and willingness to listen, negotiate, and compromise are indispensable to democracy's success.

Your Task List



- ✓ Help students make sense of civic knowledge
- ✓ Knowledge to skills; skills to habits.
- ✓ Civic education to participation.

What kind of citizen?



Justice-oriented citizen

Participatory citizen

Personally-responsible citizen

Table 1
Kinds of Citizens

	Personally Responsible Citizen	Participatory Citizen	Justice-oriented Citizen
DESCRIPTION	<p>Acts responsibly in his/her community</p> <p>Works and pays taxes</p> <p>Obeys laws</p> <p>Recycles, gives blood</p> <p>Volunteers to lend a hand in times of crisis</p>	<p>Active member of community organizations and/or improvement efforts</p> <p>Organizes community efforts to care for those in need, promote economic development, or clean up environment</p> <p>Knows how government agencies work</p> <p>Knows strategies for accomplishing collective tasks</p>	<p>Critically assesses social, political, and economic structures to see beyond surface causes</p> <p>Seeks out and addresses areas of injustice</p> <p>Knows about social movements and how to effect systemic change</p>
SAMPLE ACTION	<p>Contributes food to a food drive</p>	<p>Helps to organize a food drive</p>	<p>Explores why people are hungry and acts to solve root causes</p>
CORE ASSUMPTIONS	<p>To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must have good character; they must be honest, responsible, and law-abiding members of the community</p>	<p>To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must actively participate and take leadership positions within established systems and community structures</p>	<p>To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must question and change established systems and structures when they reproduce patterns of injustice over time</p>



“The corner where you are and whose rights and wrongs you know at first hand is a large enough field for your best endeavors at making the world a better place”