



What Is This Module About?

Did you know that all people have equal rights? Whether we are rich or poor, male or female, young or old, we all enjoy equal rights. No one has more rights than others.

Did you know also that every right we enjoy has a corresponding responsibility?

It is important that you know what your rights are. This helps to ensure that you enjoy such rights. As goes the common saying, “Fight for your rights!” It is equally important for you to know the duties and responsibilities that go with each right.

In this module, we will study some basic human rights and the responsibilities that go with them. These will be discussed in three lessons, namely:

Lesson 1 — *The Right to Free Basic Education*

Lesson 2 — *Women’s Rights*

Lesson 3 — *Civil and Political Rights*



What Will You Learn From This Module?

In this module, you will learn about your different human rights. The exercises and examples given will help you understand the topic better. So please study each lesson and perform each activity carefully and patiently. If you do, at the end of the module, you should be able to:

- ◆ discuss the right to education and its corresponding responsibilities;
- ◆ discuss the rights of women and their corresponding responsibilities; and
- ◆ identify the civil and political rights of Filipinos and their corresponding responsibilities.

After studying this module, try to apply the knowledge you have learned in your daily life. Hopefully, this will help make your life easier and more comfortable, and will make you a better citizen as well.



Let's See What You Already Know

Before studying this module, take this simple test to find out what you already know about the topic you will study.

Choose which among the items below are human rights. Put a check mark (✓) in the blank if the item is a human right, and put an X-mark (X) if it is not.

Examples:

1. Each citizen has the right to have a family of his own.

2. Every citizen has the right to steal to become rich.

Item No. 1 above is a human right, so a check was placed in the blank. Item No. 2 is not a human right, so an X-mark was placed in the blank.

1. Each human being has the right to life.

2. Every person has the right to work or become employed.

3. Each person has the right to free public education in the elementary and high school levels.

4. If he/she wants to, a person has the right to use and even sell prohibited drugs.

5. Every employer has the right to pay his/her employees whatever salary he/she likes.

6. Every person who commits a crime should be punished by being sentenced to life imprisonment.

7. Every person has the right to choose any religion he/she likes.

8. Every child has the right to be protected against all kinds of neglect, cruelty and abuse.

9. Each citizen has the right to live freely and safe from harm.

10. All persons have the right to own property.

Well, how was it? Do you think you fared well? Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 25 to find out.

If all your answers are correct, very good! This shows that you already know much about the topic. You may still study the module to review what you already know. Who knows, you might learn a few more new things as well.

If you got a low score, don't feel bad. This means that this module is for you. It will help you understand important concepts that you can apply in your daily life. If you study this module carefully, you will learn the answers to all the items in the test and a lot more! Are you ready?

You may go now to the next page to begin Lesson 1.

The Right to Free Basic Education

In this lesson, you will study about an important basic right of children. This is the right to be educated. Think of your family, neighbors and friends. Are all the children able to study? What about your adult neighbors? Were they able to finish at least elementary and high school? If not, then they are denied their right to free basic education.

In this lesson, you will learn more about the right to free basic education. You will also study some situations in which this right is violated, and why this happens.



Let's Read

Below is a conversation between two friends, Nora and Myrna. Read what they are saying.

“Mareng Nora, your Pareng Nonoy and I really wonder how you are able to send your three children to school. You only have your *sari-sari* store to help you meet your daily expenses.”

“I don’t pay their tuition fees, that’s why,” replied Aling Nora. “I don’t even buy books for them. The school provides everything except papers, pencils, ballpens and notebooks.”

“Good for you, but who pays for the school fees?”

“Mareng Myrna, have you forgotten about the provision in our Constitution?”

“What about it?” asked Myrna. “Has there been a change in our constitutional provisions in the last ten years that I’ve been out of the country?”

“None so far. What I am referring to is the provision for free basic elementary and secondary education, which ensures that education in public schools are free.”

“You mean you send your children to public schools?” asked Myrna.

“Yes, what’s wrong with that? We have many good public schools with very good teachers. Oh, Mareng Myrna, you have changed a lot,” said Nora with a sigh.

“Mareng Nora, you’re so defensive. I didn’t mean to offend you. I’m just wondering why someone who graduated from a very prestigious private school sends her children to public schools,” explained Myrna.

“Times have changed. It’s so expensive to study in private schools today. Your Pareng Noel died early, so I have to be practical just to be able to send my children to school. My eldest son is graduating from college next year. My second son is in third year high school, while the youngest, little Joana, is graduating from elementary this year,” Nora said, a smile lighting up her face. “If it were not for free basic elementary and secondary education, I won’t be able to give my children proper education.”

“So now you are beginning to appreciate the value of education! I can still remember when we were in high school. You always cursed Mrs. Cruz, our teacher in Social Studies, whenever she asked you to cite a certain provision in the 1935 Constitution,” said Myrna teasingly.

“Those were the days, my friend. It seems that fate has taught me a lesson,” replied Nora with a smile.



Let’s Review

Encircle the letter of the best answer.

1. What is the story about?
 - a. Friends who have not seen one another for a long time.
 - b. The importance of access to free basic elementary and secondary education.
 - c. The situation that has taught Nora a very important lesson in life.
 - d. A comparison between private and public schools.

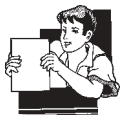
2. What human right is being discussed in the story?
 - a. The right of every citizen to free basic elementary and secondary education.
 - b. The right of everyone to free quality education.
 - c. The right of parents to choose between private and public schools for the education of their children.
 - d. The right to live a good and peaceful life.

3. According to the story, why is access to free basic elementary and secondary education important for everyone?
 - a. Education provides greater opportunities for an improved quality of life.
 - b. Individuals who have availed of free basic education have better job opportunities in government offices.
 - c. Educated people are more respected than uneducated ones.
 - d. It helps parents of low- and average-income families to send their children to school.

4. According to Nora, what does the constitutional provision on access to free basic education specifically provide?
 - a. It provides free tuition for pupils and students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools.
 - b. It provides equal opportunities for every Filipino citizen to avail of free and continuing education throughout life.
 - c. It prohibits public and private schools from collecting tuition fees from their enrollees in the elementary and high school levels.
 - d. It provides for free education from kindergarten to college level.

5. What do you think would happen if all parents considered elementary and secondary school education compulsory for their children?
 - a. Even the children of low- and average-income families would be obliged to finish basic education at least up to the high school level.
 - b. Parents will not allow any of their children to enter college anymore.
 - c. Parents will be forced to enroll in the formal secondary school.
 - d. Everybody will enroll in college.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 26. If you got all the correct answers, very good! This shows that you have already realized the importance of free access to basic education. We shall study in the next section the constitutional provision that mandates this.



Let's Learn

Article XIV, Section 2 of our Constitution provides that “the State shall establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels.”

Ideally, this is what our government intends to provide all the citizens of our country. But because of our very limited national budget, it seems that the government cannot respond to the educational needs of the entire school-age population. A report on human rights in the Philippines in 1996 stated that some 2.1 million children of

school age were not accepted into the formal school system in 1996 to 1997 because of inadequate school facilities. About 26.45% of the country’s barangays still do not have elementary schools. Most of us are thinking that one of the most pressing problems in education is its declining quality. In reality, this is not so, because the most basic problem is access to basic education.

What do you think should our government do to solve the problem of shortage of school buildings, facilities, teachers and even teaching-learning materials?

Discuss your ideas with your Instructional Manager or Facilitator, barangay officials, friends, or family members. Do they share your views? Why or why not?



Let's Try This



Children working in the streets

Look at the picture above. Study it carefully, then answer the following questions. Here is an example.

“What do you think are the dangers involved in these kinds of work?”

One answer might be: “The children shown in the picture may get into vices like drugs and drinking. They may also become prostitutes. This may happen because they work near a disco house and they appear to be poor.”

Now here are the questions for you to answer:

1. In your opinion, why are many young people forced to work?

2. Do you think that the children in the picture still have time to study?

3. Children who work at an early age are deprived of what right?

4. Suppose that a person was not able to go to school when he/she was young. What are some of the difficulties he/she might experience as an adult due to his/her lack of education?

5. Do you know of any government program that gives free education to anyone who wishes to study? Are there any similar programs run by some private organizations? Give some examples that you know about.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on pages 26–28.



Let's Remember

Every child has the right to be educated. Therefore, every child should have access to free basic education in the elementary and secondary levels. Being poor should not stop any child from enjoying this right.



Let's Think About This

Do you think children everywhere get equal opportunities to access free quality education? Think of your answer before proceeding.



Let's Review

Fill in the blanks with the correct answers. Choose the answers from the words or phrases inside the first box.

dream	go to school or study	prostitution	bad people
work	drugs or vices	play	

The Rights of Children

Even children have rights.

They have the right to (1) _____, to have fun and enjoy their childhood. But in our times, many children do not enjoy this right. Instead, they are forced to work.

Because they are poor, their parents force them to (2) _____. Because of this, they cannot (3) _____. If this continues, they may remain illiterate or ignorant all their lives.

If they work on the streets, children who do not go to school often face the danger of falling into the hands of (4) _____. There is also the possibility that the children may become involved in (5) _____.

I wonder, when can these children regain and enjoy their full rights once more?

After answering the exercise, look at the right answers in the *Answer Key* on page 28.



Let's Remember

The State has the duty to protect and promote the right of all citizens to access quality education at all levels. Therefore, the State shall take appropriate steps to make such education available to all, especially by means of free public basic education at the elementary and secondary levels.

On the other hand, it is the responsibility of every individual to enjoy his/her right to free basic education in a way that would not only benefit himself/herself or his/her family but also the nation as a whole. This responsibility applies equally to men and women, boys and girls alike.

In relation to what you have studied in this lesson, you may wish to read another NFE A&E module, titled *Children's Rights*, which discusses in detail the rights of children.

Women's Rights

Are you familiar with the rights of women? Do you know that women have rights like men do? Do you know that women are, in fact, equal to men in most aspects, except perhaps physically?

Sadly, this is not understood by many people in our present society. As a result, women are often abused, discriminated against or treated as inferior to men. This is very unjust. To correct the situation, we must first of all be aware of women's rights. Then, we must help ensure that these rights are enjoyed by women — ourselves (if we are women), our female friends, family members, co-workers and acquaintances. This is what you will study in this lesson.



Let's Read

Because I'm Only a Woman

Elena Cortez wanted to work as a “gasoline girl” in a station in Novaliches. She was interviewed by the owner. Here is a portion of the interview.

Mr. Perez (owner): I'm very sorry, Ms. Cortez. I cannot hire you for this kind of work because it is for men only.

Elena: But sir, I can do the work very well. In fact, I'm used to doing men's work. I am very good at car repair and even in driving. I have successfully completed the car mechanics trade test of TESDA. I'm sure that I can handle whatever task you will give me in this gasoline station.

Mr. Perez: I'm really sorry. I cannot take you in. As I said, the work is for males only. Why don't you apply somewhere else? Maybe you can find another work more suitable to a woman.



Let's Review

Answer the questions below.

1. What is the story about?

2. Elena has the required work experience and trade test certificate to work as a “gasoline girl,” but why wasn’t she hired for the job?

3. Do you know of other examples of employers who do not like to hire women even though these women are able and willing to work?

4. If you were Elena, what would you do? Why?

5. What do you think are the reason(s) why there is discrimination against women in our society, particularly why employers prefer to hire men rather than women in their companies?

6. Give some rights that many women in our society do not enjoy.

Compare your answers with the ones found in the *Answer Key* on pages 28–29.



Let's Read

Do you know that there are both international and national laws that recognize women's rights? Read about them below.

Women's Rights

- ◆ The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women proclaimed by General Assembly Resolution 2263 (XXII) of 07 November 1967 asserts the principle of non-discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms set forth therein without distinction of any kind, including any distinction as to sex.



- ◆ Article 135 of the Labor Code of the Philippines states that: "It shall be unlawful for any employer to discriminate against any women employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment solely on account of her sex."

The following are considered acts of discrimination:

- Payment of lesser compensation, including wage, salary or other form of remuneration and fringe benefits, to a female employee as against a male employee, for work of equal value; and
- Favoring a male employee over a female employee with respect to promotion, training opportunities, study and scholarship grants solely on account of their sexes.
- ◆ The Philippine Constitution of 1987 recognizes the fundamental equality of women and men.
- ◆ Republic Act No. 6725, which was approved on May 12, 1989, strengthens the prohibition on discrimination against women with respect to terms and conditions of employment, promotion and training opportunities.
- ◆ Republic Act No. 7192 also known as the "Women in Development and Nation Building Act" provides equal opportunities for women in all military schools of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police.

It also provides equal rights in entering contracts and loan agreements and in joining social and cultural clubs. Household managers can also avail of social security services through their working spouses or husbands. Moreover, Republic Act No. 7192 ensures that a substantial portion of foreign assistance funds be allocated to support programs for women.

These laws, however, have yet to be fully implemented. As of now, the systems by which they are implemented are still not perfect, and the government is refining such systems.

Weak implementation of these laws may be attributed to the lack of awareness by men and women of women's legal rights.



Let's See What You Have Learned

Write **True** or **False** in the blank.

- _____ 1. A construction company should not hire women.
- _____ 2. A wife who nags her husband deserves to be beaten.
- _____ 3. Women in the army and in the police force are always lower in rank than their male counterparts.
- _____ 4. Women are suited for the home only.
- _____ 5. Working women in the Philippines should be provided with safe and healthful working conditions.
- _____ 6. Women are of a lower class compared to men.
- _____ 7. Women can be candidates in elections.
- _____ 8. Today, many Filipino women are leaders in the fields of sports, science, politics and in the film industry.
- _____ 9. A true Filipino woman should always do what her husband or boyfriend says.
- _____ 10. Women, like men, also have the right to express their feelings and to do what they want.

Have you answered all the questions above? If so, compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on pages 29–30.

If you got all the correct answers, very good! It shows that you are already aware of women's rights and privileges. Now, read the *Let's Remember* section on the next page to further strengthen your knowledge about this topic.



Let's Remember

- ◆ It is the right of women to be given as much opportunity as men to find employment. An applicant's gender should not be used as a basis for hiring or rejecting him/her.
- ◆ It is also the right of women to be promoted at work. This right suggests that women can be leaders in any field they choose.
- ◆ Women have the right to be free from prostitution, rape, abuse by their husbands and other acts of cruelty and injustice.
- ◆ Women have the right to good health in order that they can become productive members of society.
- ◆ Women (and young girls) have the right to education.
- ◆ It is the right of any pregnant woman employee who has rendered an aggregate service of at least six months for the last twelve months to avail of maternity leave of at least two weeks before the expected date of delivery, and another four weeks after normal delivery with full pay based on her regular or average weekly wages.

If you would like to learn more about women's rights, read the NFE A&E module titled ***Fighting for Women's Rights*** which discusses issues surrounding women's rights in more detail.

Civil and Political Rights

This lesson is all about the civil and political rights of an individual. It also discusses the corresponding responsibilities that go hand in hand with these rights.



Let's Read

My Vote Counts

May 11, election day. Today, persons of the right age will vote for the local officials of their choice. Hector is in Precinct 12, standing in a queue as he waits for his turn to vote.





Let's Review

Based on the illustration on the previous page, answer the following questions.

1. If a person has the right to vote, does he/she also have the right to sell his/her vote?

Yes _____ No _____

Why? _____

2. What would happen if most people sold their votes?

3. In your opinion, what responsibility goes with the right to vote?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 30. If your answers are similar to those given, congratulations! This shows that you already know the importance of properly exercising the right to vote.



Let's Read

Read this dialogue between two close friends.

Hi, Rita. It's good to see you today. Can you please lend me one thousand pesos? We ran short of money and I need to buy rice and milk for my baby.

Azon, I only have enough for my family. I suggest that you go to the Mayor. He is giving away rice, canned goods and money. Just make a promise that you will support him in the coming election.



Let's Review

Answer the following questions about what you have just read.

1. What was Azon's problem?

2. What did Rita suggest she do?

3. In return, what does the Mayor expect her to do?

4. If Azon will follow Rita's suggestion, and everyone else will do the same thing, what will happen to our society?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on pages 30–31.



Let's Study and Analyze

All citizens of the Philippines have the right to vote provided they meet the following qualifications:

- ◆ They must be at least 18 years of age.
- ◆ They must have resided in the Philippines for at least one year. They must also have resided in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least 6 months before the election. This is provided in Article V of the Philippine Constitution.

The right to vote is not enjoyed by citizens in all countries of the world. There are countries wherein people are not given the chance to choose their own leaders. No elections are held. The people have no right to voice out their opinion on how their government should be run. They have no influence in decision making. The citizens are totally helpless.

We Filipinos, therefore, are very fortunate. We enjoy the right to vote. But remember, every **right** has a corresponding **responsibility**. We are given the **right to vote**, therefore, we must be responsible enough to protect and **value** this right. We should, therefore, **choose the right person** from among the candidates. We should not get involved in vote buying or in the selling of votes. Most importantly, we should not allow politicians to use us. Let us be vigilant. We should vote wisely and honestly. We should also respect all the rules promulgated by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to protect the secrecy of the ballot.



Let's Read

Are you familiar with the situation depicted in the picture below?



Mang Goryo has been arrested upon the order of the mayor because he was handing out election materials in support of an opposition mayoral candidate.

Mang Goryo's arrest is a violation of his human rights. As human beings, all of us have the right to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. We also have the right to a fair trial and public hearing, and the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. No person should be detained solely because of his/her political beliefs and aspirations.

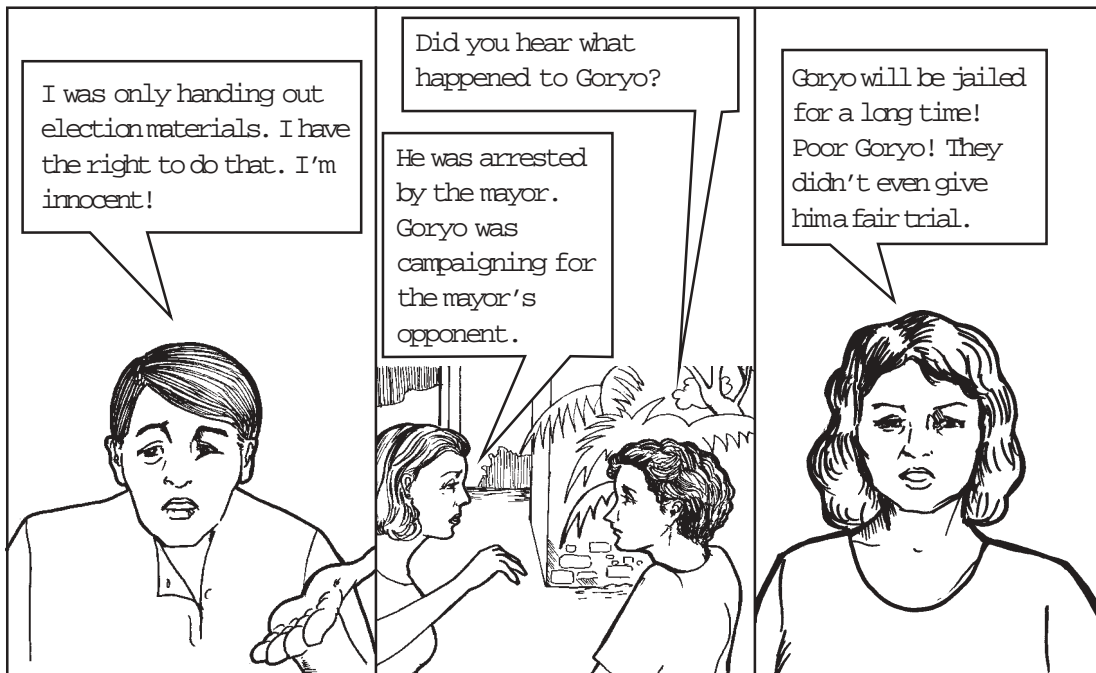
Yet, political and civil rights violations continue to occur, though not as often as before. According to the 1996 Human Rights Report in the Philippines, there were 184 political prisoners as of December 1996. There were also cases of involuntary disappearances as well as massacres.

There is, however, an increase in the number of human rights violations by the police in the course of their campaign against criminality. In fact, the police topped the Commission of Human Rights' list of alleged perpetrators of human rights violations. These violations include murder, execution, torture, disappearances and illegal detention.



Let's Try This

Read the comic strip below, then answer the questions that follow.



1. Does the mayor have the right to have Goryo arrested for political reasons?

2. What constitutional right of Mang Goryo was violated?

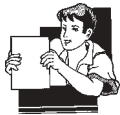
Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 31.



Let's Remember

The Philippine Constitution has the following provisions in Article III, which identify the Bill of Rights for every Filipino citizen.

- ◆ Section 14 (1) provides that no person shall be held to answer for a criminal offense without due process of law.
- ◆ Section 14 (2) states that in all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty and shall enjoy the right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him/her.
- ◆ Section 18 states that no person shall be detained solely by reason of his/her political beliefs and aspirations.



Let's Learn

What we have discussed in this module are just a few of our human rights. There are other rights that have not been discussed here. Those rights include:

- ◆ The right to choose one's religion. This gives us the right to freely practice any form of worship or spiritual belief, provided we do not endanger public safety or national security. It requires us also to respect other people's rights to freely practice their beliefs.
- ◆ The right to express your own opinion and to be able to express it freely. However, this right should be exercised carefully and, therefore, should not be abused.
- ◆ Any person under investigation for committing an offense, who cannot afford the services of a lawyer, must be provided with one to defend him/her during the trial.



Let's See What You Have Learned

Read each of the following statements and tell whether it describes a **right** or a **responsibility**. Write **RT** if the statement describes a **right** and **RY** if it describes a **responsibility**.

- _____ 1. Ana decided to participate in the activities of the so-called “Born Again Christians.”
- _____ 2. Mang Teroy reads the propaganda leaflets of every candidate to make sure that he chooses the right one during election time.
- _____ 3. Elena called up the radio station to air her views about the performance of some of the leaders in our country.
- _____ 4. The Alliance of Concerned Religious Leaders met at the Liwasang Bonifacio before they proceeded to Malacañang to plan for a very peaceful rally.
- _____ 5. Mario sought the help of the Public Assistance Office because he could not afford the services of a private lawyer.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 31. If you got all the right answers, congratulations! You know now your civil and political rights and your responsibilities as a Filipino citizen.

These rights, and many others, are stated in our Constitution. Every Filipino should enjoy these rights equally, whether he/she is rich or poor, man or woman, educated or not. Thus, it is but right that we should **fight for our rights** no matter who we are and whatever the cost may be. But in fighting for our rights, we must make sure to remember the corresponding responsibilities for each.



Let's Sum Up

Well, you have almost completed this module. Congratulations! I hope you have learned a lot from it. Remember that:

- ◆ Every Filipino, whether male or female, young or old, has the right to access quality education at all levels. The government has the duty to provide free basic education at the elementary and secondary levels.
- ◆ Every Filipino is in turn responsible for availing of his/her right to education to benefit not only himself/herself and his/her family but also the nation as a whole.
- ◆ Women have rights to good job opportunities, promotion at work, education and good health, in the same way that these rights are enjoyed by men. Women also have the right to be free from prostitution, rape, domestic abuse and other acts of cruelty and injustice. In addition, pregnant women who are employed have the right to avail of maternity leaves.
- ◆ Filipino residents who are at least 18 years old have the right to vote.
- ◆ Everyone has the right to his/her own political beliefs and aspirations.
- ◆ Everyone is entitled to due process of law.



What Have You Learned?

Study the situations below and then answer the questions that follow.

1. Marcia, a 15-year-old girl, is the eldest among five children. They have no father, and their mother is frail and sickly. As such, Marcia works as the breadwinner of their family. She earns money as a waitress in a restaurant. Her younger brother, 13-year-old Edwin, also helps support their family by working as a shoeshine boy. Both Marcia and Edwin work for about 8 hours daily.

Are Marcia and Edwin being denied some of their basic rights? Which right, if any, is being denied them? Explain your answer.

2.

Donna and Jun have been married for five years already. They do not have a child yet. At home, Donna gets bored because she doesn't have much to do. She has been pleading with Jun to allow her to find some work so she can spend her time more productively. But Jun refuses. He believes that women should stay at home. Besides, he says, there is no need for Donna to work because he is earning enough to sustain them. Donna is disappointed because she really wants to work.

Is Jun right in refusing to allow Donna to work? Explain your answer.

3.

Felipe, a barangay official and a relative of the mayor, says: "Mayors and elected officials are important people. They are respectable individuals who were duly elected into office by the people. They also have big responsibilities and lots of work to attend to. As such, we must not get in their way. We should always respect their decisions and actions. They always have good reasons for what they do, and we should never question them."

All the people in the room clapped and cheered after hearing this speech. But Rodrigo was quiet. He disagreed with what was said. He thought, if the mayor did something wrong or unlawful, then surely, we should protest!

Whom do you agree with, Felipe or Rodrigo? Explain your answer.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on pages 31–32. If your score is:

0–1 You should study the entire module again.

2–3 Good! This means you have understood the contents of the module.

Here ends our module, my friend. I hope that you have learned much about human rights. Remember what Sarah Grimke, a leader in the struggle for women’s right to vote, once said:

The most perfect social system can only be attained where the laws which govern the sexes are based on justice and equality.

Let us all therefore respect the rights of women, children and all people in general in order to have a humane, peaceful and just society.



Answer Key

A. Let's See What You Already Know (*page 2*)

1. 4 Article III, Section 1 of the Philippine Constitution states that “No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.”
2. 4 The International Bill of Human Rights recognizes the right to work and the right to equal pay for equal work (Articles 22–27).
3. 4 Based on the United Nations Human Rights Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, every individual has the right to free primary education, and accessible education at all levels. Article XIV, Section 2 of the Philippine Constitution provides that “the state shall establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels.”
4. 8 Under Philippine law, involvement in the buying or selling of prohibited drugs is a punishable offense.
5. 8 Payment of wages or salaries should be in accordance with the law in order to ensure the payment of fair and reasonable wage rates.
6. 8 Any person who commits any crime will be given the just punishment depending on the type of crime committed.
7. 4 The United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has given every individual the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his/her choice provided, however, it does not endanger public safety or national security.
8. 4 The Law on the Convention on the Rights of the Child bans discrimination against children and provides for special protection against sexual abuse, exploitation and all forms of cruelty and neglect.
9. 4 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to liberty and security. Everyone should enjoy freedom from fear.
10. 4 The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “Every individual or person has the right to own, trade and dispose of their property freely, and not be deprived of their means of subsistence.”

B. Lesson 1

Let's Review (pages 4–5)

1. **(b)** is the best answer because the story highlights how Nora was able to send her children to school.
2. **(a)** is the correct option since all Filipinos have the right to free basic elementary and secondary education. Option (b) is not correct because it does not specify up to what level of education is free. Option (c) is also not correct because the story did not say anything about choosing between private and public schools. Option (d) is also incorrect since this right was not discussed in the story.
3. **(d)** is the best answer because the story shows how this right has helped Nora send her children to school with her meager income.
4. **(a)** is the correct answer, since options (b), (c) and (d) are not included in our constitutional provisions.
5. **(a)** is the best answer, since options (b), (c) and (d) are not likely to happen.

Let's Try This (pages 6–7)

1. Below are some reasons why many children are forced to work and so they cannot go to school:
 - a. Their families are poor and cannot afford the cost of school uniforms, school supplies, transportation and other related expenses.
 - b. They have no parents.
 - c. The school is very far from their home.
 - d. Their parents do not want them to study in school because the children are needed at home or at work.
 - e. The children have learning difficulties and cannot cope with the schoolwork expected of them.
 - f. Sometimes either the father or the mother is dead, hence the one who is left with the children shoulders the parenting responsibility single-handedly. This parent may thus end up neglecting his/her children.
 - g. Parents want their children to earn so as to increase their family income.
 - h. Both parents do not have permanent jobs to support the basic needs of the family.

- i. Parents are sickly and so they cannot afford to work.
- j. Some parents have a negative attitude about schooling and so they would rather have their children spend time working than attending school.

You may have listed some other reasons why children are forced to work.

2. It will be very difficult for these children to study because they may have no more time for school. Most of their time is devoted to working.
3. The children are deprived of the right to be given proper basic education.
4. Adults who did not finish school may encounter some of the following difficulties:

- ◆ Difficulty in finding work
- ◆ Not being able to help their children with their schoolwork
- ◆ Difficulty in filling out forms when applying for a job or filling out required government forms
- ◆ Difficulty in understanding and protecting their human rights
- ◆ Increased risk of being involved in crimes

You may have listed other reasons not included here.

5. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports has several programs which offer free education. Some of them are listed below:
 - ◆ Elementary and secondary public schools offer free education, although there are still costs (like those of books and uniforms) to be covered by learners.
 - ◆ The NFE A&E system is a free alternative elementary and secondary education program for out-of-school youth and adults aged 15 years and above from selected parts of the country. NFE A&E learners have access to self-instructional learning modules which they may study alone, with friends, at home, at work, or in a learning center at a time and place of their own choosing. They may also avail of the services of an Instructional Manager to help them if they experience learning difficulties. NFE A&E learners who successfully take and pass an NFE A&E exam will be issued an elementary or secondary

certificate which is comparable to that received through the formal school system.

- ◆ The Bureau of Secondary Education has a program called Out-of-School Adults (OSA) High, which offers free high school for adults who were not able to finish secondary level education. The OSA program is implemented in a limited number of schools around the country.
- ◆ The “Tuloy Aral” program of the National Capital Region (NCR) provides out-of-school youth and adults a chance to study academic subjects at the high school level in selected NFE learning centers and schools.
- ◆ Project Effective and Affordable Secondary Education (EASE) is a program of the Bureau of Secondary Education that provides alternative high school education to students enrolled in public schools who cannot come to school regularly.

You may have also listed other programs that are not included in the above list.

Let's Review (page 8)

1. play
2. work
3. go to school or study
4. bad people
5. drugs, vices or prostitution

C. Lesson 2

Let's Review (page 11)

1. The story is about a woman who wants to work as a “gasoline girl” in a station but was rejected by the employer because she is a woman.
2. She was not accepted or hired for the job because the owner said that the work is for boys or men only.
3. Your example might be similar to the following:
 - a) Some employers do not hire female janitors
 - b) Some employers do not want to hire lady guards
 - c) Some employers do not hire females for construction work

Your answers will depend on your experiences.

4. I would apply at other gasoline stations. If they still wouldn't accept me, then I would consider other jobs. However, I would try to initiate a campaign against the discrimination of women. I might approach our barangay chairman or some other local government official who I think has some influence to help raise the awareness of employers on the equal rights of women and men in terms of employment.

You may have other answers in your list.

5. Some reasons why there is discrimination against women:
- ◆ Many people mistakenly believe that men are more intelligent and capable than women.
 - ◆ Our society has a “pro-macho” kind of thinking. We generally praise men and underestimate women.
 - ◆ Many Filipinos believe that women should stay and work at home.

You may also have other answers in your list.

6. Some rights that women do not always enjoy:
- ◆ The right to work in any job that she wants
 - ◆ The right to choose whom to marry
 - ◆ The right to make decisions; or be involved when the family, office or school makes decisions
 - ◆ The right to express her own opinions
 - ◆ The right to get elected in public office, which is generally occupied by men

Let's See What You Have Learned (page 13)

1. **False.** Article XIII, Section 3 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the state shall afford full protection to local and overseas workers, and promote equality of employment opportunities for all.
2. **False.** Article 6 of the International Bill of Human Rights states that no one is to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
3. **False.** Article 135 of the Labor Code of the Philippines states that “It shall be unlawful for any employer to favor a male employee over a female employee with respect to promotion, training opportunities, study and scholarship grants solely on account of their sexes.”

4. **False.** This is a very traditional belief about women. In reality, there is no law prohibiting women to work outside their homes.
5. **True.** Based on Article 132 of the Labor Code of the Philippines, “The Secretary of Labor shall establish standards that will ensure the safety and health of women employees.”
6. **False.** All humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
7. **True.** Women also have the right to vote and to be elected during any public election.
8. **True.** Women are as intelligent and capable as men.
9. **False.** Husband and wife have equal rights even in making decisions regarding family matters.
10. **True.** Women, like men, also have the freedom of expression. Men and women are equal in dignity and rights.

D. Lesson 3

Let's Review (page 16)

1. No. It is wrong to sell one's vote. When a person is given the right to vote, he/she should value and protect this right.
2. People who are insincere and corrupt will be elected. These people are not likely to have any intention of serving the public. Also, the rich will be given an unfair advantage and will most likely win in elections because they have the money to buy votes.
3. A person who is given the right to vote has the following responsibilities or duties:
 - ◆ To vote for the deserving or worthy candidate
 - ◆ To use his/her right by voting or showing up on election day
 - ◆ To value and not to give away or sell his/her vote

Let's Review (page 17)

1. Azon had no money to buy rice and milk for her baby.
2. Rita suggested that she go to the mayor because he is giving away rice, canned goods and money.
3. The mayor expects her to vote for him in the coming election.
4. From his actions, the mayor appears to be a corrupt official who buys the people's votes. If everyone will vote for him, then he will stay in power (as mayor or as another government official). This

means that the people will be electing leaders who are corrupt and dishonest. As a result, it is the people themselves who will suffer.

Let's Try This (page 19)

1. The mayor does not have the right to have Mang Goryo arrested and put to jail for political reasons. Anyone who is arrested should be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and should be promptly informed of any charges against him. This is in accordance with Article 9, Part III of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
2. Section 18 of the Philippine Constitution states that no one shall be detained by reason of his beliefs and aspirations.

Let's See What You Have Learned (page 21)

- RT 1. Ana enjoyed her right to exercise religious freedom and worship.
- RY 2. Every citizen has the responsibility to think carefully and choose wisely before voting for a candidate during election time.
- RT 3. Elena used her freedom of expression or the right to express her views to discuss current issues in the country publicly.
- RT 4. They enjoyed the right of the people to assemble peaceably and petition the government for redress of their grievances.
- RT 5. When a person cannot afford the services of a private lawyer, it is his/her right to be provided with a public lawyer who will defend him/her in a trial.

E. What Have You Learned? (pages 22–24)

Your answers should be similar in thought with the ones below:

1. Yes indeed, Marcia and Edwin are being denied some rights. As children or teenagers, they have the right to be educated, but they are not enjoying this right at the moment. Instead, Marcia and Edwin are forced by circumstances to work full-time. Hence, they have no time to study.
2. I think Jun is wrong in denying Donna's request for her to work. Women have the right to work or to do what they please provided that they do not harm other people or violate any laws in the process.
3. I agree with Rodrigo. Elected officials, like everyone else, are subject to the laws of the land. They are not above the law. Their position does not exempt them from the law. When they commit any wrongdoing, they should suffer the consequences.



Glossary

Aggregate Collective; total

Arbitrary arrest The capture or arrest of a person by legal authorities for no legally valid reason

Compulsory Mandatory, enforced, or required by law

Declining Decreasing, deteriorating or becoming poorer in quality

Detention Imprisonment or confinement of a person as punishment

Discrimination The act of treating someone or something differently based on very general classifications such as race or gender

Due process of law A course of proceedings carried out through rules or devices that are in accordance with the law of the land

Formal school The socially recognized and accepted educational institution through which citizens acquire their basic education

Grievance Complaint; cause of distress

Inadequate Lacking; not complete

Mandate A command or order

Massacre The cruel act of killing many persons who are usually helpless or unresisting

Perpetrator Person who commits or carries out a crime

Queue A line of people or things waiting for their turn to be attended to or to proceed

Redress Compensation for wrong or loss; reparation

Shortage Lack of inadequacy



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