You are truly a unique being. You are endowed with various capabilities and skills. It may be that you have so far not got the opportunity of identifying or making use of these capabilities and skills. So, work towards it immediately without delay. Identify the talents that are exclusive to you. Among these talents there may be eloquence, dancing skills, sports skills or ability to remember. When you have identified these capabilities that are as valuable as gems and polished them, you will certainly be a unique and special person. These intellectual gems will adorn the new paths open for you, preparing the background for your personal development and personality development, facing challenges successfully and working towards effective targets. Similarly, by studying this chapter, you will acquire the skill necessary to act with dedication as a member of the global village, by maintaining your identity as a Sri Lankan.

1.1 Personal Capabilities and Skills

The invitee who appeared before the viewers on Rupavahini programme "Kivida Ruwan Dora" was Sanduni Upeksha the Head Prefect of Swarnamali Vidyalaya, Rathmalyaya, who was placed first at an international art exhibition. Now let us pay attention to the conversation Sanduni had with the presenter.

Presenter :- During the previous occasions our viewers had the opportunity of learning much about you through newspapers. You are certainly a unique person. You are a girl with
skills extending over a wide range. Apart from various aesthetic skills you display talents in literature too. And also you are the Head Prefect of the school. In the midst of all these activities and responsibilities how did you manage to come so far in the field of aesthetics?

Sanduni :- First of all, I recognized my capabilities properly. My parents and teachers guided me well in this regard. Moreover, I made maximum use of information found in books, electronic media and from resource persons. Above all these, I keep myself constantly involved in practice.

Presenter :- How was the background created for you to reach international level in the field of Art?

Sanduni :- Well, I studied not only the paintings of the artists like Michelangelo and Picasso, but also their biographies. The help I received from my Art teacher was immense. With that knowledge and experience I was able to mount several Art exhibitions.

Presenter :- Sanduni, you have also won a foreign scholarship. It is clear that this talent in you will help you in your future career and also success in life. A large number of your peers who watch this programme must be anxious to hear about your experiences. What is the message you can give them?

Sanduni :- First of all, identify the field of studies in which you display special talents or capabilities. Develop this talent with dedication. Every second you devote to improving your talents will help you to build your personality, self-esteem and also to succeed in your future career. On no account should you under-estimate yourself. You too may have your own weaknesses. Many great men achieved greatness and fame subsequently by highlighting their talents and suppressing their weaknesses. This is clear from the characters of world famous scholars like Einstein, Isaac Newton and Tolstoy.
It took a long time for people to identify their talents. What I wish to tell you is, do not wait until time brings your talents to the surface. Try to bring them to the surface by yourself and make an effort to give yourself and the rest of the world something wholesome.

It was clear, that Sanduni who featured in the Rupavahini discussion, had not only aesthetic talents, but was also endowed with language skills, leadership skills, the ability to face challenges and also research capabilities. You too have unlimited strengths and capabilities exclusive to you. Observe the following diagram and identify for yourself in which range your capabilities are spread.

For your additional knowledge...

According to the **Theory of Multiple Intelligence** propounded by Professor Howard Gardner people have various intellectual capabilities. It is called Multiple Intelligence. The following is a diagram of how it looks.

Every person has the above intelligence capabilities and often one or several of them are exclusive to one individual. This will be clear to you from a study of the following biographies.
★ Sri Chandraratne Manawasinghe is a poet, author, orator, politician. His distinguished personality was built as a poet.

★ Albert Einstein was a Professor of Physics as well as an accomplished violinist.

★ Galileo Galili who was talented in Mathematics and Logic was also a skilled writer. "The Messenger of the Stars" was one of his works.

Even if you are endowed with capabilities and skills, it is not beneficial to confine them to one frame. It is essential that you possess the quality of self-awareness or are able to understand yourself properly. You may have heard of world famous personalities full of talents, whose lives were a failure for lack of self-awareness. This will be clear to you from the following newspaper headline.

Owing to the use of prohibited stimulants the runner loses the Olympic World Championship.

It is also important for you to understand the actual nature of life in its proper perspective and through it build self discipline and virtuous behaviour. You will be able to reap the best results of your capabilities only by penetrating into the nature of life and relating them to your capabilities.

Now focus your attention on the characters of the following personalities who combined their intellectual capabilities with the reality of life.
Mahagama Sekara - the Artist

Mahagama Sekara who was endowed with various talents gave a message about the reality of life through his creations. The true to life characters we come across in his novels such as Manomandira, Tunmanhandiya are those which he identified by penetrating into life. He was not only a novelist but displayed his talents as a new style poet, lyricist and a translator. It was by combining his talents with life experiences and the deep insight that he had to penetrate into life that he built a great personality through the field of art.

Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan

The talents of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan as a lawyer, clever orator as well as a politician are highlighted on account of his ability to see society and his fellow citizens, in a fair, unbiased and cordial manner. He was a Tamil leader who toiled day and night to gain independence for Sri Lanka from the British yoke. He was against vice, irrespective of ethnicity or religion. Although a Hindu by birth, he patronised Buddhism and showed a keen interest in Christianity by even writing books such as "St. John", "St. Matthews."

Geoffrey Bawa - the Architect

Honoured by the renowned "Aga Khan" award Geoffrey Bawa was known as the "Environment Friendly Architect". He designed all his architectural creations so as not to cause any harm to the balance of the environment. On account of this he was recognized as an architect who maintained the rhythm of life and nature in a balanced state. He distinguished himself as a reputed personality since he combined human qualities such as self awareness and sensitivity to the environment with his talents. The parliament of Sri Lanka is one of his creations.
Blend your talents and life's experiences and be a dignified individual.
Apply your talents for the progress of humanity free of ethnic, religious and caste differences.
Use your capabilities to appreciate nature and make it meaningful.

Activity I
Identify the personalities associated with the following descriptions from those given within brackets.
(D.W. Wimalasurendra, Alfred Nobel, Senarath Paranavitana, Arthur C. Clarke, Lance Armstrong)

1. He acquired a wide knowledge by reading Science fiction from his early days. Through this knowledge and capabilities he came to be known as the "Father of Satellite Technology". He was a distinguished citizen of our country.

2. It was he who copied the "Sigiri Graffiti" and interpreted them for us. He deciphered and explained the Brahmi script found in ancient caves and interpreted the moonstone, guardstone and the dagaba(shrine) for the entire world. He had mastered a number of languages including Sinhala, Pali, Sanskrit, Tamil and English. He was the first Sri Lankan Commissioner of Archaeology, in the Department of Archaeology which was established in 1890.

3. After his father's death, he grew up amidst untold harassment and torture by his step father. He who excelled in cycling, won the Tour de France cycle race that is the most prestigious cycle race in the world, on seven consecutive occasions. He achieved this, accepting the cancer he suffered from and which weekend him day by day as a challenge.

4. He who watched a waterfall that passed through mountains and cliffs conceived the scene of an island illuminated by a hundred thousand lamps. This idea influenced him in the construction of the Laxapana Power Plant (Wimalasurendra Power Plant). He was given the honorific title of "Father of Hydro Electricity".

5. He worked at his father's explosive factory after giving up his studies due to economic hardships. It did not take a long time for him to realise the danger in these products. Due to an explosion in the factory, he lost both his brother and father. The vast wealth he earned was later devoted to make awards for distinguished and world famous personalities as world prizes.
1.2 Let us learn from life’s experiences

If we are able to divert all our experiences in life—both pleasant and unpleasant to future success we will be making maximum use of our intellectual capabilities. Our home, school as well as the broad society beyond, bestows on us a vast amount of experiences. Intellectuals utilised the harsh experiences, that caused them physical and mental agony, and made valuable creations and bestowed them on the world at large. This was how literary masterpieces like *Megaduta* and *Oliver Twist* saw the light of day.

The Jewish girl Anne Frank’s name is world famous. It was because of the diary (Ann Frank’s Diary) she wrote based on the sad experiences she underwent. On account of the regime of terror of Hitler’s Nazi army, she had to spend her childhood in a dark dungeon. She mentioned about herself in this diary as a small bird with clipped wings. This girl compiling her experiences as a book, added a few new pages to history.

It was the experience he gained from his father’s carpentry workshop that paved the way for Dr. W. D. Amaradewa to become a veteran musician. It was by handling the violins that were brought there for repairs.

Similarly, it was the bitter experiences he had through the Czarist regime in Russia that paved the way for the great doyen of world literature Leo Tolstoy to produce a number of very successful literary creations.
In the same manner, it was the experiences **Louis Braille** had as a blind pupil, that paved the way for him to create at the age of 15, a complete alphabet for the blind, enabling them to read and write properly.

You may have heard of **Charles Dickens** who wrote the children’s novel, David Copperfield and **Charlotte Bronte** who wrote Jane Eyre. If not for the bitter experiences Charles Dickens and Charlotte Bronte had in their childhood, you would not have had the opportunity to appreciate such literary classics.

Recollect that you had pleasant experiences as well as bitter ones in your life. Make these experiences a prop for a successful life without making them an excuse for sighing and sobbing. Try to create things of quality to offer to the world. Then you will be able to be an individual who has succeeded in life.

### 1.3 Gateways of knowledge to the Global Village

Today you are living in a society which is constantly moving in search of knowledge. A society will develop by adapting itself effectively to the innovations and changes that occur in the changing world. There are several media that help us towards this. Some of them are indicated below.
To make use of all these media intelligently, you should have the necessary self understanding and the intellect. That means you should have the ability to choose what is suitable for your culture and avoid unnecessary things.

**Let us discover the world through books**

It is clear from the following statements that life’s experiences as well as good books help to enhance your capabilities.

- Reading books is an exercise for the brain – *Sir Richard Steele*
- **English version**
  
  First be a slave to knowledge  
  Knowledge will be your slave – *Munidasa Kumaratunga*

*Sinhalay version*

-කොළඹ කටයුතු කරන අපයකයි  
-ස්මත්වය වන අපයකයි – මුණිදස කුමාරතුංගය

*Tamil version*

-කொலத்தை கறுவது அம்மகனது  
-முற்ப்பது வந்து முற்ப்பது – முணிப்பா குமாரத்துங்கா

- There are only a handful of books suitable for reading. By reading them man will be complete – *Francis Bacon*
- First of all read the best books. Otherwise you will never get the opportunity of reading them – *Thoreau*
- Real men live among the pages of a book – *E.M. Forster*

Be interested in reading only good books written on various subjects whenever possible. Books help you to polish your mental capabilities as well as move along the path of life successfully.

Observe this cartoon.

The message this gives is that the person who acquires knowledge through books will never be mentally confined.

Fig. 1.12

Until you get proper knowledge from books, you too will remain a prisoner within this universe.
1.4 Challenges are linked to life

Most of the artistic masterpieces as well as scientific creations were the outcome of the challenges all their creators faced in life.

A rainbow cannot appear in the absence of a cloud or a storm. Similarly challenges are necessary for the sustenance of life.

Poverty was a strong challenge for the Russian author Maxim Gorky. Similarly the Russian government that prevailed that day too was a challenge to his creative ability with the stylus. He overcame these challenges by bequeathing to the world a number of literary masterpieces acclaimed all over the world such as Mother, World without the Sun, Sun Children and Deep Sea. Although he died a T.B. patient amidst untold hardships he underwent while in prison, he bequeathed to the world much food for thought.

"Although a person can be imprisoned, his thoughts cannot be imprisoned" was the message he left to the world.

The laboratory with all the science equipment which Thomas Alva Edison had built over a long period spending all his wealth was burnt within a moment. He did not sigh or regret in this loss. What he said was “I shall build all of it from tomorrow morning”.

When you also face such a destruction you should start rebuilding “from this moment” and "not tomorrow morning".
When frustrated over the failure at an examination or for any other reason, those who try to escape from life are cowards who lack self-confidence and are unable to face such challenges.

Certain challenges we face in life cannot be controlled by our own selves. In such situations what we should do is to adapt ourselves to them.

"We cannot stop the wind blowing. We can watch the direction of the movement of the wind and accordingly change the course of our life."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of reading</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>The meaningful message you extracted from the book</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Collect information under the following topics on celebrated personalities such as Martin Wickramasinghe, G.B. Senanayake, Anton Chekov, Nelson Mandela. Their capabilities, challenges in life, outstanding creations, awards received.

**1.5 Let us enter the Global Village**

Manjitha, Sadushan and Rifan are friends studying in Grade 9. The following is a friendly chat the three of them had during the interval one day.

Sadushan :- Today the match between our Cricket Team and the New Zealand team will be played at Lords cricket ground. Therefore let us do the Mathematics homework exercise now. Then we will be able to watch the match.

Manjitha :- Yes, we will be able to watch the live telecast from 2.00 p.m. onwards.
Rifan :- England is a very far off country. Isn’t it? However, we will be able to watch the match being played there from our homes. Even the very light tap of the bat on the ground the batsman makes, before he hits the ball can be heard here. It is as if we are there at the spot.

Manjitha :- Now the world has got closer! Due to the advancements in communication technology, countries of the world are getting closer at a faster pace.

Sadushan :- The world is getting closer …? Some countries are thousands of kilometers apart. Not only that, there are seas, oceans and deserts situated in between.

Rifan :- That is true! Even though different countries are situated far apart the inhabitants of all those countries have been attempting to live in harmony and co-operation from ancient times.

Sadushan :- It is true that on account of colour, language, religion, ethnicity and thoughts, people differ from one another. Moreover they live in different parts of the world. However, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that people are similar on account of their rights. Hence they can live and work in harmony.

Rifan :- Even though the people in the world appear to be different, now it is clear that there are much more similarities than the differences they display.

Manjitha :- Yes, not only in games like cricket, in matters like trade, the setting up of international organizations, the tourist industry, providing assistance in development activities and disasters, we can notice the amity among people in various countries belonging to different cultures. It looks as if the entire world is one village. They have information about each other and know each other’s interests.
Rifan :- Globalization means the close action involving all the countries of the world in this manner. Isn’t it?

Sadushan :- On account of globalization, the knowledge and technology that have become exclusive to different cultures can be harnessed for the development of people of the entire world.

According to the above conversation, even though the people of the world belong to different cultures, it is clear that they work in harmony. This means, with the technological advancement today, the entire world is able to work as one single village.

Different countries of the world working close to each other socially surpassing geographical distance is known as ‘globalization’.

Globalization has its advantages as well as disadvantages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ Development of tourism</td>
<td>★ Accelerated exhaustion of resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Exchange of knowledge about new cultures</td>
<td>★ Increase in environmental problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Expansion of the labour market and the emergence of new employment opportunities</td>
<td>★ Spread of diseases such as AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Expansion and improvement of efficiency in international trade</td>
<td>★ Spread of threats such as terrorism and drug trafficking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Allegations that strong cultures shine while the weaker ones recede</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Culture is the sum total of knowledge, rituals, arts, law, traditions, beliefs, production, evaluations and the practices, habits and capabilities man acquires as a person living in society”

- E.B. Tyler

“To what state does the sun belong? To what state does the moon belong? To what religion does water belong? To what caste does the wind belong? To what race does the earth belong? Man must exist at a place which transcends all these states, frontiers, religions, castes and races. There he will encounter truth.”

- Pramuk Swami Maharaj – India

Activity III

“Although globalization operated from ancient times, it is only recently that we notice its accelerated development.” Can you agree with this statement? Discuss the reasons for your answer with the teacher.

1.6 Let us highlight the dignity of Sri Lanka within the Global Village

The following are some sentiments expressed by a visitor to Sri Lanka. Read this report carefully and pay attention to how you can contribute to enlightening Sri Lankan pride within the global village.

The wonderful heritage of Sri Lanka

“In my opinion a person inclined to experience the quality of natural beauty and the splendour of a rich culture, he/she is recommended a visit to Sri Lanka. A tropical island in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka is a pleasant land magnificent in many cultural and environmental aspects, unique to her. This country is a tourist paradise. The attractive coastal strip is rich with an abundance of resources. I was fortunate enough to watch the beauty of fauna with the forests covering several climate features. The central hills and valleys, waterfalls and rivers revealed a beauty which I have not experienced earlier.”
As in other nations of the world, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka too possesses the national flag, national anthem, emblem, national tree, national flower, national bird and national game, all of which are symbols of our national identity. Moreover, the culture of Sri Lanka displays its exclusive identity.

Sri Lankans are a cordial and hospitable nation. They also claim a proud history. Sri Lanka's hydraulic civilization which is over two thousand years old with its environment friendly irrigation technology, architecture and other creations of art are marvellous. How our ancient rulers such as King Mahasen and King Parakramabahu the Great managed rain water with their farsighted vision and converted the large extents of land in the Dry Zone into fertile paddy fields is an example for the present generation too. For this reason Sri Lanka was called the *Granary of the East*. It was in recognition of this distinguished irrigation technology that, the headquarters of the International Water Management Institute has been established in Sri Lanka.
The food of the Sri Lankans is fresh, delicious and rich in nutritional value. Vegetables, fruits, cereals, spices, varieties of green leaves grow abundantly on Sri Lankan soil. The fish and meat preparations with spices added have an unforgettable taste. It is also worth studying the techniques involved in the processing of these items of food.

The system of indigenous medicine should be mentioned as a priceless legacy of Sri Lankans. This medical practice, based on natural herbal extracts, is capable of providing people’s physical, mental and spiritual health. Archaeological evidence confirms the existence of an advanced technology in indigenous medicine from ancient times.

The classical literature as well as folk literature of Sri Lanka are interesting and meaningful. They highlight the creative skill of the people.
Coconut based products, gems, jewellery, cane-ware and reed-ware are among the local industries of Sri Lanka. Further, wood-carvings and masks can be identified as other special artistic creations. **Sri Lanka Tea** is a world famous commodity.

![Fig. 1.23 - Wood carvings](image1)

![Fig. 1.24 - Reed ware](image2)

Another characteristic of Sri Lankan society is the unity that is built on the diversity found in a multi-cultural society. People belonging to various religious and ethnic groups live in harmony as citizens of Sri Lanka.

![Matara Mosque](image3)  ![Munneswaram Kovil](image4)  ![Madhu Church](image5)

In the past too Sri Lanka was a nation which had earned the esteem of foreigners. This is clear from the following statements made by foreigners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The giant size tanks and irrigation works are perhaps exclusive to Sri Lanka</td>
<td>R. L. Brohier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The most pleasant landscape created on earth by god</td>
<td>Jowam Rebeiro (Historical Tragedy of Ceylon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This tiny island is a paradise on earth</td>
<td>John D. Margnoli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The people of this country are decent. They are fond of hospitality</td>
<td>Robert Knox (An Historical Relation of the Island of Ceylon in the East Indies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serendib (Fertile land)</td>
<td>The Arabs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity IV
1. Imagine that you are going to prepare a newspaper article about "World Heritage Sites" of Sri Lanka. Name the places relevant to the facts that you present in your article.

2. English version
   On this earth - which is eternally green
   Even the stick discarded - sprouts sprigs and grows again.

Sinhala version
   "කොහෝ භූමි  මක්කු මක්කු මක්කු - යෝජත් කොස්ස ඔත්කරවීම"
   කොහෝ භූමි  මක්කු මක්කු මක්කු - යෝජත් කොස්ස ඔත්කරවීම.

Tamil version
   வெளியான குறுக்கியே பெருந்தை என்பது மனிதரின் ராணுவத்தில்
   செய்த செய்திகள் மனிதனின் நுணவக்கால நோக்கங்களை முன்னர் மேளைத்திருக்கின்றது.

Briefly describe the feelings that occur in your mind about our country after you have recited the above verse.

1.7 Wherever on earth accept wholesome things as such

Man who became civilized in the distant past should be remembered with due respect and honour for taking the first step towards the rapid development of the modern world. For example, the discovery of fire during the hunting age and the discovery of the wheel during the farming age, have expanded up to space exploration in modern times. These discoveries and triumphs were not confined to one race or one nation and all the people on the globe enjoy their results. Accordingly, it is clear that favourable characteristics of any culture can be employed creatively to foster another culture.
The civilizations that contributed towards human development

The cultural aspects of civilizations that existed thousands of years ago, were not confined to those civilizations alone, but were valued also by the people of other countries. The discoveries made then were advanced in later ages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civilization</th>
<th>Some legacies bestowed on the world</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indus Valley Civilization</td>
<td>Town planning, architecture, ornaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesopotamian Civilization</td>
<td>Mapping the earth, Mathematics, Astronomy, Calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hwang Ho Civilization</td>
<td>Ornamental clay pots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nile Valley Civilization</td>
<td>Pyramids, construction technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maya and Inca Civilizations</td>
<td>Town planning, chocolate drink</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The cultures of the countries, in which the main religions emerged, were not confined to those countries alone. Moreover, the literary masterpieces which should be used for character development, are accepted universally for educational purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion/philosophy</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Book containing the philosophy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist philosophy</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Tripitaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Vedic literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>Holy Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>Holy Quaran (Al Quaran)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People the world over engage in foreign travel to worship at their religious centres and also to study the cultures around them. For example, places such as Buddha Gaya, Thirupathy Kovil, the Vatican and Mecca represent world cultural heritage.

To whatever culture, science, artistic creations or literary works belong, they cross their frontiers and become subject to experiments and appreciation by people who belong to other cultures. The services rendered by scientific discoveries are not confined to the countries of their origin, but can benefit the people of other countries too.
Creations such as the world famous statues, sculptures, paintings and constructions were a pride for the countries of their origin, while they formed a legacy for the entire world.

Exemplary characters are acclaimed by the entire world community.

The distinguished creations in the spheres of writing, films, drama and lyrics have resulted in a large number of fans and audiences throughout the world.

There are also qualities in certain people in the world which set an example to those in other countries. How the people of Japan which was devastated after the Second World War worked courageously and with dedication to make it a major industrial nation of the world, earned the praise of the entire world. Further, the feeling
of patriotism the Indians displayed in the national movement which they launched against imperialism, resulted in their freedom from colonialism.

1.8 Let us build co-existence through interdependence

Anuradha is a small school girl. She lived with her grandfather, mother, father and younger brother. One day her grandfather took seriously ill all of a sudden. Her mother called one of her neighbours, got him to stop a van that was passing by and told him about the grandfather’s condition. The driver of the van was willing to help them. Aunt Kanthi of the adjoining house offered to look after her small brother and the house until they returned home. Anuradha, her mother and a neighbour left for the hospital with grandfather. After the grandfather was admitted to hospital, the hospital staff attended on him in earnest. This helped him to recover quickly. Her mother made it a point to thank the hospital staff and all those who helped them.

You too might have to face situations similar to the one cited above. If the neighbours did not help in these circumstances what would the situation have been? If the hospital staff did not come forward to attend to and treat grandfather what would have happened?

Man is born to the smallest social unit called the family. Further, since his childhood is long, it is essential that he gets the affection and protection of the other members of the family. Similarly when he is young and old, he has to solicit the assistance of his relatives, friends, neighbours and other institutions.

This means that man maintains relationships with others throughout his life. Man lives at times depending on others and on other occasions feeding and helping others. No person can spend his life in isolation by himself. In our day to day life we get the opportunity of helping various people and soliciting their help on occasions. This implies that there exists an interdependence among men. On account of this interdependence people live by fulfilling their tasks in co-operation. Thus co-existence builds up within the human society.

Interdependence and co-existence originate within the family.
The following news headlines represent several occasions when interdependence and co-existence among various nations of the world were expressed. It is noticed that the people of other countries are sensitive to the pleasant or unpleasant experiences the people of one country faced.

Man is a social animal by birth. That is why concepts such as group feeling, collective responsibility and unity have been highly acclaimed in human society. Man is born to the smallest social unit called the family. Here the development or success of the family is the success and development of its members. For this development to take place the family and all the activities within the family in which they live should occur with the co-operation of the family. Within the family the characteristic of interdependence or dependence on one another is strongly highlighted.

Within the school too, by promoting co-existence the anticipated objectives can be achieved. Moreover, in the locality we live, among neighbours and at places of work, we notice interdependence, co-operation and co-existence. Co-existence among the ethnic and religious groups within the country is the basis for peace and development. As a country there is interdependence with the other countries of the world. On account of this, various nations of the world co-exist globally, through various organizations, agreements and diplomatic relations.

**Activity V**

Imagine that you have been elected the President of a Children’s Welfare Society operating in your locality. List the points that should be included in a speech you are to deliver explaining the objectives of this society.
Interdependence gives rise to ties as well as conflicts. There were two such major conflicts in world history. During these conflicts the people were subjected to disastrous experiences. Hence there emerged the need for a broad foundation to prevent the recurrence of such conflicts again among mankind and to implement co-existence globally.

For example, owing to the destruction caused to humans throughout the world as a result of the Second World War, the United Nations Organization was established with the objective of building world peace, bringing about co-existence and minimizing international conflicts.

![Fig. 1.32 - Logo of the United Nations Organization](image)

**Activity VI**

You are given the opportunity of delivering a speech at the morning assembly in school on the topic “Let us achieve success in the activities of the school through interdependence and co-existence.” Mention the content of your speech.

### 1.9 Let us adorn life with assertive qualities

Pupils of Grade 9 in Upulwila Maha Vidyalaya prepared for the Life Competencies and Citizenship Education lesson after the bell rang at the end of the interval. Sugath who saw the teacher coming to the class threw his food wrapper through a window close by without putting it into the waste-paper basket. Then Pradeep who was seated in the row behind got up immediately and pointed out Sugath’s misdeed straight away saying “You did a wrong thing. To put litter, there are separate dustbins in our class. Do not litter the compound.” Sugath rushed to the compound, picked the wrapper and deposited it in the relevant waste-paper basket.

The teacher who entered the classroom praised Pradeep with the remark, “Pradeep, you set an example to others. Speaking that way is a feature of assertiveness. Similarly it is also a good quality for someone to admit his fault and offer to correct it.” Rasika who was listening to the teacher questioned her, “Teacher what is the meaning of the word “assertiveness”? “Children, assertiveness is one quality we should develop in ourselves. Today, I have come prepared to speak about “assertiveness”.
The following are a few instances where one has to act firmly.

- When an injustice has occurred.
- When there are false allegations.
- When forced to act against one's conscience.
- When talking with an enraged person.
- When one has to criticize another.

Before working purposefully with others, one should inculcate the quality of firmness in oneself. **Developing firmness in oneself means, when one conceives of committing an illegal or unethical act, one suppresses those unwholesome thoughts through the emergence of contradictory thoughts within oneself.** By following firm habits, avoiding aggressive and demeaning behaviour a mature personality can be built.

**Assertiveness is a firm statement of one’s ideas, needs or expectations morally, so as to suit a harsh and challenging occasion, fearlessly, sincerely, directly and according to one’s conscience.**

**Qualities that should be developed to achieve assertiveness**

- Being aware of one’s capabilities, strengths and weaknesses
- Understanding one's rights and those of others
- Avoid being unnecessarily humble and subordinate
- Maintaining dignified physical posture
- Taking decisions without being impulsive
- Developing socially accepted qualities of character that can be exemplified
- Acting in accordance with rules and regulations
- Trustworthiness
- Valuing selflessness
- Development of communication skills to express ideas briefly and clearly

**Working purposefully to suit the occasion is a good leadership quality.**
A person becomes one who works positively through the control of his thoughts to achieve success in life, by rationally observing the people and objects or incidents faced in life and identifying the beneficial aspects of those experiences. To develop thoughts that benefits oneself as well as others and act accordingly, is a characteristic of a perfect man. You may have heard that "Every dark cloud has a silver lining". What is the message it conveys? It is that what we see externally as unacceptable, have good qualities hidden in them. Contemplate on the good qualities of everything you encounter, every person and every incident. Act according to it. Then you will be able to inculcate positive thoughts about life. We must develop in ourselves the ability to follow a firm policy without being subject to negative characteristics such as fear, anger, craving, mental deception in implementing the decisions taken rationally.

A king was defeated seven times in his war with his enemies. He gave up hopes and lived in exile. While he was repenting, he observed a spider weaving a web. Every time the web broke, it weaved the web again and finally succeeded in completing it. The King who observed the spider’s act rationally started thinking afresh about himself. The result he achieved by acting according to a new plan was triumph.

### Activity VII

If you happen to face the following situations how would you act firmly?

1. When one of your colleagues suggests that you cut a period in school.
2. Meeting a group of school children who were writing names on the seats of the bus.
3. You being accused in class for an offence not committed by you.
4. While you are engaged in religious rites in the evening, your brother operates the television at a high volume.
5. A colleague in the class avoiding the cleaning up activities on the day assigned to him.

### 1.10 Let us succeed in life guided by wholesome ideas

A person becomes one who works positively through the control of his thoughts to achieve success in life, by rationally observing the people and objects or incidents faced in life and identifying the beneficial aspects of those experiences. To develop thoughts that benefits oneself as well as others and act accordingly, is a characteristic of a perfect man. You may have heard that "Every dark cloud has a silver lining". What is the message it conveys? It is that what we see externally as unacceptable, have good qualities hidden in them. Contemplate on the good qualities of everything you encounter, every person and every incident. Act according to it. Then you will be able to inculcate positive thoughts about life. We must develop in ourselves the ability to follow a firm policy without being subject to negative characteristics such as fear, anger, craving, mental deception in implementing the decisions taken rationally.

A king was defeated seven times in his war with his enemies. He gave up hopes and lived in exile. While he was repenting, he observed a spider weaving a web. Every time the web broke, it weaved the web again and finally succeeded in completing it. The King who observed the spider’s act rationally started thinking afresh about himself. The result he achieved by acting according to a new plan was triumph.
Imagine the moral that you can get from this story. Although we can be deprived of most of what we have, we will not lose everything. Therefore, by developing wholesome thoughts and by acting on firm policies rationally, you too will be able to create a bright future.

Summary

- Every individual is one endowed with unlimited capabilities.
- These capabilities can be developed through life’s experiences, training, use of electronic media as well as books and periodicals.
- An individual has to face various challenges when achieving success in life.
- Life can be made successful by facing the challenges in life purposefully.
- It is the responsibility of all of us to act so as to protect the Sri Lankan identity within the global village, as a good citizen.
- Assertiveness is a good quality that we must develop in ourselves.

Assignment

1. Assuming that you are assigned the task of describing the ancient irrigation technology of Sri Lanka to a group of tourists, prepare a report containing the technological features you choose and their locations.
2. Imagine that you are to represent the inaugural ceremony of a World Children’s Day celebration. Deliver a speech under the following aspects so as to display the Sri Lankan identity.
   - Language
   - Dress
   - Way of greeting/salutation
   - Cultural aspects selected
   - Content of the speech you are delivering