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RELEVANT LINKS

FACT SHEET

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Global citizenship is about being meaningfully involved in the processes of governance and globalisation, making decisions about who to vote for and what to consume, being informed about global agreements and transactions, and developing an understanding of how communities and nations meet their responsibilities and exercise their rights.

A GLOBAL CITIZEN IS SOMEONE WHO

- Understands how people are connected both locally and globally.
- Knows how society works.
- Knows where he/she stands and what kind of impact he/she has on the world.

Global citizenship is emerging as a growing area of interest, in part as a response to awareness of global issues such as the 'war on terrorism', food security, growing poverty and refugees amongst others. The following is a quote from Oxfam on global citizenship.

"In Oxfam's view, global citizenship goes beyond simply knowing that we are citizens of the globe, to an acknowledgement of our responsibilities both to each other and to the earth itself. Global citizenship is an outlook on life that everyone can have, at any age, anywhere in the world."

The Challenge of Globalisation, Oxfam, 2003.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP?

- Knowledge and understanding: of social justice and equity; diversity; globalisation and interdependence; sustainable development; peace and conflict.
- Skills: critical thinking; ability to argue effectively; ability to challenge injustice and inequalities; respect for people and things; cooperation and conflict resolution.
- Values and attitudes: sense of identity and self-esteem; empathy; commitment to social justice and equity; value and respect for diversity; concern for the environment and sustainable development; belief that people can make a difference.

Sometimes people refer to 'the global village', an idea that infers that as one big global community we are all in it together and share common values and needs. There is also the idea that globally people are very diverse and that the forces that are tending to unite them are focussed on money and power. These two ideas don't necessarily cancel each other out because in some ways the world is now a very inter-connected place, and yet there is an enormous amount of diversity in the ways people live their lives.

If global citizenship was taught as a topic in school it would include many areas of interest, for example human rights, multi-cultural studies, peace and future studies, and environment and development education. Each of these contributes to the overall picture of being a citizen in a globalised world.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF GLOBALISATION.

Globalisation is a shorthand way of referring to the expansion of global relationships, the organisation of social, cultural and economic life on a global scale, and the growth of a global consciousness. It is important to note that 'globalisation' is a disputed term and that people use it in many ways. It can refer to processes such as trade arrangements, different ideas and theories, or even ways of thinking about global change.

Globalisation could be illustrated by the picture of someone eating Kentucky Fried Chicken while listening to the latest pop star, wearing Nike shoes and logged onto the internet. She/he might have an aunty living in Singapore and might be of a family of recent migrants. These are the symbols of globalisation that represent the issues that concern the global citizen: trade, consumerism, migration, sustainability and cultural identity.

(Please see the Globalisation fact sheet on this website for more information).



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SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE GLOBAL CITIZEN TO ASK.

- How is the world just or unjust?
- Is injustice inevitable?
- How am I linked to others throughout the world?
- Where does our country fit in?
- What can I learn from others? Share with others?
- Why do we need to link local and global issues?
- How can I/we help to improve things?
- What are others doing and how can I get involved?
- What are our visions and values for the future?

SOME ACTIONS A GLOBAL CITIZEN COULD TAKE.

- Join in with, and talk to, others.
- Become an aware consumer.
- Get the media involved.
- Use the democratic process.
- Challenge the claims of companies that say they are behaving ethically.
- Buy Fair Trade and community trade/locally made products.

FOR FURTHER EXPLORATIONS

RELEVANT LINKS

www.citizenship-global.org.uk

www.takingitglobal.org

www.stats.govt.nz

www.globalissues.org

www.wto.org

www.unesco.org

www.worldwatch.org

BOOKS

The No-Nonsense Guide to Globalization.

Ellwood, W. 2001, New Internationalist Publications Ltd., Oxford, UK.

The Youth Guide to Globalisation

Solomon, B and L. Scuderi, 2002, Oxfam, UK.

Take It Personally

How Globalisation Affects You and Powerful Ways to Challenge It.

Anita Roddick, 2001, Thorsons, London.