

## HOW TO FOSTER SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH SOCIAL STUDIES?

*by:*

**Alma Mendoza Sico**

*Teacher III, Pablo Roman National High School*

As high school students progress through their education, equipping them with more than just academic knowledge becomes increasingly vital. Amid complex and interconnected global issues, teaching social responsibility is essential to their learning experience, particularly within social studies subjects and contemporary issues.

Social studies subjects, especially when addressing contemporary issues, provide a unique and dynamic platform for teaching social responsibility (National Council for the Social Studies, n.d.). Covering a wide array of topics, from human rights to environmental sustainability and global politics, social studies equips students with the knowledge and critical thinking skills to engage with complex issues (Ahrari et al., 2013). These subjects resonate with high school students as they observe the relevance of these topics in their lives and the world around them.

To effectively instill social responsibility, a range of strategies can be employed within the context of social studies. Interactive learning encourages students to participate actively in discussions, debates, and collaborative projects, giving them a sense of agency and responsibility. Service learning opportunities enable students to apply their knowledge and skills to address real-world problems, demonstrating the direct impact of their actions on their communities. Using case studies and real-world examples, educators make the concepts tangible for students, showcasing the consequences of social responsibility and its absence. Guest speakers and experts in fields related to contemporary issues provide students with a broader perspective and inspire them to take action. Teaching media literacy equips students to critically evaluate

information sources, recognize bias, and differentiate between reliable information and misinformation, empowering them to make well-informed decisions. Ethical dilemma discussions engage students in thoughtful debates about the moral implications of various choices related to contemporary issues. Fostering global awareness encourages students to appreciate different cultures and grasp the world's interconnectedness. Empowering students to initiate and lead projects, awareness campaigns, or community service activities related to contemporary issues allows them to take responsibility for their passions and drive change in their communities.

In the end, integrating social responsibility within the framework of social studies subjects, mainly when focusing on contemporary issues, is a pivotal step in shaping the future of society. Educators are equipping high school students to become active, empathetic, and responsible global citizens by nurturing a sense of duty, ethical obligation, and informed decision-making. The versatile realm of social studies provides a powerful medium for exploring multifaceted issues and helps students connect with the world around them while understanding their role in it. Through interactive learning, service opportunities, real-world examples, and critical thinking, educators can empower students to engage with contemporary issues responsibly and empathetically, ensuring they are prepared to address the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Ultimately, teaching social responsibility in high school through social studies is instrumental in cultivating a more informed, empathetic, and socially responsible generation of citizens poised to contribute positively to their communities and the world.

#### *References:*

Ahrari, S., Othman, J., Hassan, S., Samah, B. A., & D'Silva, J. L. (2013). Role of social studies for pre-service teachers in citizenship education. *International Education Studies*, 6(12), 1-8.

National Council for the Social Studies. (n.d.). National curriculum standards for social studies: Chapter 2 – The themes of social studies.

<https://www.socialstudies.org/national-curriculum-standards-social-studies-chapter-2-themes-social-studies>

depedbataan.com  
The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan