

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Learning Intention: To understand the role of subsidiarity as a right in accordance with Church teaching and scripture.

What does the principle of subsidiarity involve?

Every societal task is always assigned in the first place to the smallest possible group that can perform it. A group at a higher level may assume responsibility only if the smaller association is not capable of resolving the problem. If the smaller association needs help, however, the higher level must help. For example, if a family has problems, the State can intervene only if the family or the parents are overburdened and cannot resolve them. This principle of subsidiarity is supposed to strengthen the freedom of the individual and of groups and associations and prevent too much centralisation. Private initiative should be encouraged, because being able to help oneself is an important component of the dignity of the human person.

DOCAT What to do? (2016) n95

ACTIVITY

1. Describe a time when you were left to work out a solution to a problem on your own, before someone else stepped in to help. Why was it important that you had an opportunity to work towards a solution?
2. Using the above paragraph from DOCAT, explain why communities should have a right to make decisions that affect their lives, rather than let government bodies make decisions for them.
3. In the Subsidiarity and Participation film, it highlights the equal importance of participation alongside subsidiarity. "*Participating is not only a right, but a responsibility*". Research and make a list of initiatives that you could participate in that would make a positive difference in your school and local community. Create a social media post to promote involvement in one of these initiatives.
4. Describe some reasons people may be hesitant or unwilling to participate in matters that affect their lives and the lives of others.
5. Read the scripture passage 2 Thessalonians 3: 10-13 and explain what it says about the importance of participating and taking action.