

- **What is socialization and Importance of Socialization in Society?**
- **What is socialization and its agents?**
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- **What is socialization and factors of socialization?**

What is socialization?

The human infant comes into the world as biological organism with animal needs. He is gradually moulded into a social being and he learns social ways of acting and feeling. Without this process of moulding, the society could not continue itself, nor could culture exist, nor could the individual become a person. This process of moulding is called 'Socialization'. It is through the process of socialization that the new born individual is moulded into a social being and men find their fulfilment within society. Man becomes what he is by socialization.

Definitions of Socialization:

Bogardus defines socialization as the "process of working together, of developing group responsibility, of being guided by the welfare needs of others."

According to **Ogburn**, "Socialization is the process by which the individual learns to conform to the norms of the group."

Ross defined socialization as "the development of we feel in associates and their growth in capacity and will to act together." Through the process of socialization, the individual becomes a social person and attains personality.

Functions of Socialization

- It converts humans from biological being to social being
- It contributes in personality development
- It helps to become disciplined
- It helps to perform different roles
- It establishes knowledge and skills
- It contributes in the stability of social order
- It transmits culture from one generation to other
- It creates right aspirations in social life

Agencies/agents of socialization

Agents of socialization help a person to get socially involved and gain acceptance in the society he/she lives in. These agents form the very base of the social order, and it is with their aid that an individual and society interact with each other.

1. **The Family**
2. **The School**

3. The Playmates, peer group or Friends:
4. Work place socialization
5. The Mass and Social Media
6. Religion
7. The Books
8. The State

1. The Family:

Definition of Family

- **G.P. Murdock:** Family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction and procreation of children.
- **Biesanz and Biesanz:** “Family may be defined as a woman with a child and a man to look after them”.
- **Clare:** “Family is a system of relationship existing between parents and children”.
- **Nimkoff:** A family is more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without children of man or a woman alone with children.
- **Horton and hunt:** “It is a type of Kinship grouping which provides for the rearing of children and for certain other human needs.”
- **Elliot and Merrill:** Family is a biological social unit composed of husband, wife and children.

<i>Functions of family</i>	
Family provides INSTRUMENTAL FUNCTIONS Material Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foods • Clothing • Shelter Instrumental support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Supervision • Hygiene • Health care • Education 	Family provides COGNITIVE/AFFECTIVE FUNCTIONS Social support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cared & love • Valued/Esteemed(Respect) • Communication • Shared values • Companionship Socialization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transmit Values • Connection to world Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coping Skills (how to handle) • Life Skills <p>**Esteemed is respected, having respect or admiration from others while valued is having a value.</p>

Functions of family in socialization:

The parents or family are the first to socialize the child. They are not only closely related to the child but physically also they are nearer to him than others. From the parents he learns his speech and languages. He is taught societal morality. He learns respect for persons in authority. In the family he learns a number of civic virtues (public moralities).

The child gets his first lessons in cooperation, tolerance, self-sacrifice, love and affection in the family. The environment of a family influences the growth of a child. The psychologists have shown that a person is what he becomes in a family. In a bad family the child learns bad habits whereas in a good family he acquires good habits.

An important cause of juvenile delinquency is bad family environment. At the time of mate choice, the parents also try to find out the family history of the boy and girl in order to know their good and bad points. The relationship between the parents and the child is one of constraint.' The parents are older than he and have the power to command obedience.

In case the child does not follow the rules, he may be coerced of the parents it is the mother who first begins the process of socialization. The family continues to exercise its influence throughout life. There is a vast literature on family to describe its role in society.

According to Handel, The child's first exposure to the world occurs within the family. Some essential developments occur through close interaction with a small number of people –none of whom the child has selected. Within in the family the child learns to

- Think and speak
- Internalize norms, beliefs, and values
- From some basic attitudes
- Develop a capacity for intimate and personal relationship
- Acquire a self-image.

R.K Merton stated that *"It is the family which is a major transmission belt for the diffusion of cultural standards to the oncoming generation."*

2. The School:

The school is the second agency of socialization. In the school the child gets his education which moulds his ideas and attitudes. A good education can make the child a good citizen, while a bad education can turn him into a criminal. Education is of great importance in socialization. A well-planned system of education can produce socialized persons.

In school children are under the care and supervision of adults who are not relatives. For the first time, many of the child's relationships with other people are impersonal .rewards and punishments are based on performance rather than affection. Although a mother may cherish any picture that her child creates, a teacher evaluates her students by more objective standards. Slowly children are taught to be less dependent emotionally on their parents.

How do schools socialize students?

The socialization process in school involves more than reading, writing and arithmetic underlying the formal goals of the school is the 1. Hidden curriculum and 2. Schools have

1. Hidden curriculum

- The informal and unofficial aspects of culture that children are taught in preparation for life.
- The hidden curriculum teaches children discipline, order, cooperation and conformity.

2. Schools have

- Rules and regulation to cover almost all activities
- How to dress, how to wear one's hair, which side of the hall to walk on, when to speak in class
- Teachers reward children with praise and acceptance when they recite the "right" answers behave "properly", or exhibit "desirable" attitudes.

3. The Playmates, peer group or Friends:

The child's peer group composed of individuals of roughly the same age and interests is the only agency of socialization that is not controlled primarily by adults. A child may belong to a play group in the neighbourhood, a clique at school and after school club or sports team.

The playmates and friends also are an important agency of socialization. The relation between the child and his playmates is on the base of equality. It is based on cooperation and mutual understanding. They are mostly of similar age, as told above, the child acquires something from his friends and playmates which he cannot acquire from parents.

From them he acquires cooperative morality and some of the informal aspects of culture like fashions, fads, crazes, modes of gratification and forbidden knowledge. The knowledge of such things is necessary from the social point of view.

To take an example, the knowledge of sex relations is considered in our society something undesirable for a youth till he gets married- If such knowledge is banned strictly until marriage, the performance of numerous functions of sex life may be difficult after marriage. This knowledge the child acquires from his friends and playmates.

How do peer groups contribute to socialization?

In the family and at school, children are subordinated to adults. In the peer group young people have an opportunity to engage in give and take relationships.

- Children **experience conflict, competition and cooperation** in such groups.
- The peer group also gives children experience in **self-direction**.
- They can begin to make their **own decisions**.
- **Experiment with new ways** of thinking, feeling and behaving; and engage in activities that involve self-expression.
- Children **learn to be different from their parents** in ways that help to develop **self-sufficiency**.
- This helps develop the **social flexibility** needed in a mobile, rapidly changing society.

4. Work place socialization:

As the individual grows into an adult person, work becomes part of life individual join workplace after completion his/her schooling. Occupation brings about reality in front of the person as the individual earns for survival to fulfil his ambition.

- Occupational socialization deals with the people as well as with the field.
- Personals goals and basic needs are fulfilled
- The individual learns to cooperate, adjust with others at the work place.
- Discipline continues and if she/he violates the rules it may cost the loss of job.

Wilbert Moore has divided occupational socialisation into four phases:

(a) Career Choice:

The first phase is career choice, which involves selection of academic or vocational training appropriate for the desired job.

(b) Anticipatory Socialisation:

The next phase is anticipatory socialisation, which may last only a few months or extent for years. Some children inherit their occupations. These young people experience anticipatory socialisation throughout childhood and adolescence as they observe their parents at work. Certain individuals decide on occupational goals at relatively early ages. The entire adolescent period for them may focus on training for that future.

(c) Conditioning and Commitment:

The third phase of occupational socialisation takes places while one actually performs the work-related Role. Conditioning consists of reluctantly adjusting to the more unpleasant aspects of one's job. Most people find that the novelty of new daily schedule quickly wears off and realise that the parts of the work experience are rather tedious. Moore uses the term commitment to refer to the enthusiastic acceptance of pleasurable duties that come as the recruit identifies the positive task of an occupation.

(d) Continues Commitment:

According to Moore, if a job proves to be satisfactory, the person will enter a fourth stage of socialisation. At this stage the job becomes an indispensable) art of the person's self-identity. Violation of proper conduct becomes unthinkable. A person may choose to join professional associations, unions or other groups which represent his or her occupation in the larger society.

5. The Mass and Social Media

The mass media are impersonal communications aimed at a vast audience. The term "media" comes from Latin meaning "middle". Suggesting that media serve to connect people.

Mass media arise as communication technology (first newspapers and then radio, television, films and the internet) spreads information on a mass scale.

Mass media are means of communication designed to reach the general population. They include such things as

- Television
- Radio
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Movies
- Internet etc.

GEORGE GERBNER Argues in his theory that watching television frequently can make people believe that the reality projected on the television is factual. **Mass media socializes an individual regarding the existing patterns** of society thereby supporting status quo however media being an important power instrument can even defy existing social arrangements and can therefore act as an agent of social change.

- T v provides the practical training of role play and imitation and plays a part in the mental and personality growth of an individual
- All means of communications give awareness about the environment to the individual and provide social information providing him with more alternatives in the selection of role behaviour and thoughts.
- It makes one understand one's culture more and gives a facility to compare it with other cultures and increase one's ability of amendment to remobilize himself.

In today's society years before children learn to read, television watching is a part of their daily routine. As they grow children spend as many hours in front of a television as they do in school or interacting with their parents. This extensive television viewing shows no signs of change despite the facts that, **according to research the more children watch television the slower their cognitive development, the more passive they become the less they use their imagination and the higher their risk of obesity.**

Television and the other mass media develop our lives with entertaining and educational programming. Media also increase our exposure to diverse cultures and provoke discussion of current issues. At the same time the power of the media especially television to shape how we think remains highly controversial. Provides additional analysis of the effect of media on social development.

Television shows, movies, popular music, magazines, Web sites, and other aspects of the mass media influence our political views; our tastes in popular culture; our views of women, people of colour, and gays; and many other beliefs and practices.

6. Religion

Religion has been an important factor in society. In the early society religion provided a bond of unity. Though in modern society the importance of religion has diminished, yet it continues to mould our beliefs and ways of life. In every family some or the other religious practices are observed on one or the other occasion. The child sees his parents going to the Masjid/ temple and performing religious ceremonies. He listens to religious sermons which may determine his course of life and shape his ideas.

7. The Books

In literate societies another important agency of socialisation is the printed word in books and magazines. Our cultural world—experiences and knowledge, values and beliefs, superstitions and prejudices—is expressed in words.

8. **The State:**

The state is an authoritarian agency. It makes laws for the people and lays down the modes of conduct expected of them. The people have compulsorily to obey these laws. If they fail to adjust their behaviour in accordance with the laws of the state, they may be punished for such failure. Thus, the state also moulds our behaviour.

Problems in Socialization agents:

One of the reasons for the increasing crime in society is the failure of the socializing agencies to properly and adequately socialize the child. The modern family faces a crisis today and suffers from parental maladjustment which adversely affects the process of socialization. The educational system is full of draw backs.

The school is no longer a temple of education. It is a place where boys and girls learn more of drugs and alcohol and less of cultural heritage. The onslaught of urbanization has abolished the neighbourhood system and snatched playmates from the child who now plays with electronic games than with the neighbourhood children.' Similarly, religion has a lesser hold in an urban social and state authority is more disobeyed than obeyed.

It need not be said that to have socialized being these agencies should function in an efficient manner. The modern society has to solve several problems of socialization and for the purpose it has to make these agencies more active and effective.