

SOCIALIZATION



INTRODUCTION

- Most human actions are social, either in their causes or in their consequences.
- Even solitary actions such as crying or brushing our teeth are ultimately social. We cry because someone has hurt us. We brush our teeth because our parents (or dentist) told us it was important.
- Social environment probably has a greater effect than heredity on the way we develop and the way we act.
- Through Interactive process (socialization) individuals learn the basic skills, values, beliefs and behavior patterns of a society

- ***Socialization***- the lifelong process of learning to become a member of the social world
- ***Interaction*** - the basic processes of socialization through which a child is shaped into a human being, learns its culture, and becomes a member of a society
- ***Social self*** - the changing perceptions we have of who we are as a result of ongoing socialization, from birth to death.

DEFINITION

- Socialization refers to a process in which an individual accepts a given set of cultural norms and becomes a member of a given society.
- Every society has its unique pattern of social behavior. The process by which an individual learns the behavioral patterns of the society he lives in, thus transforming himself from a natural man into a socialized man, is called socialization.
- Socialization is the lifelong process of social interaction through which individuals acquire a self-identity and the physical, mental, and social skills needed for survival in society(Kendall, 2008)

DEFINING SOCIALIZATION

- Anderson and Parker: “Socialization is a learning process of development of habits, attitudes and traits that differentiate individual from one another.”
- Lundberg, “Socialization is a process of interaction where the individual learns habits, skills, beliefs and standard of judgments which are necessary for effective participation at social groups and communities.”
- Macionis, J.J: “Socialization refers to the lifelong social experience by which people develop their human potential and learn culture”

SIGNIFICANCE OF SOCIALIZATION

- Socialization is significant to individuals and society
- it is essential for the individual's survival and for human development. The many people who met the early material and social needs of each of us were central to our establishing our own identity.
- Socialization is also important for the survival and stability of society. Members of a society must be socialized to support and maintain the existing social structure.
- Socialization enables a society to "reproduce" itself by passing on its culture from one generation to the next.

Agents and Agencies of Socialization

- Agents and agencies of socialization are the persons, groups, or institutions that teach us what we need to know in order to participate in society.
- In general, **Agents** are people involved in our socialization while **Agencies** represent the organizations involved in our socialization.
- Institutions pass on expectations about appropriate social behavior:
 - Family
 - Media
 - Peers
 - Religion

The Family

- Families introduce children to the expectations of society. The kind of human being that we become depends greatly on the particular society and social groups that surround us at birth and during early childhood.
- How parents define and treat a child is crucial to the development of the child's sense of self.
- Through close interaction with parents and small number of others, child:
 - Learns to think and speak
 - Internalizes norms, beliefs, and values
 - Learns gender roles
 - Develops capacity for intimate and personal relationships
 - Begins to develop a self image...*

- Studies show that families socialize their children somewhat differently based on race, ethnicity, and class (Kohn, 1977; Kohn et al., 1990; Harrison et al., 1990).
- Social class (as measured by parental occupation) is one of the strongest influences on what and how parents teach their children.
- Working-class parents, typically emphasize to their children the importance of obedience and conformity. On the other hand, parents from the middle and professional classes , socialize their children in a way to make their own decisions and to be creative.

GENDER SOCIALIZATION:

- Parents raise their daughters and sons quite differently as they interact with them from birth.
- Parents help their girls learn how to act and think “like girls,” and they help their boys learn how to act and think “like boys.” That is, they help their daughters and sons learn their gender (Wood, 2009).
- For example,
 - they are gentler with their daughters and rougher with their sons.
 - They give their girls dolls to play with, and their sons guns.
 - Girls may be made of “sugar and spice and everything nice” and boys something quite different, but their parents help them greatly, for better or worse, to turn out that way.

Socialization is not a unitary process

Different categories of people will participate in socialization in different ways:

One of the most important of those differences is gender

Most differences between sexes are cultural, not biological.

GENDER SOCIALIZATION: Learning cultural expectations of masculinity and femininity

From birth, parents treat girls and boys in “gender appropriate” ways. As they grow up, boys and girls face different expectations, are assigned different tasks, and learn about typical male and female domestic and occupational roles.

2. THE SCHOOL

- Structured - the emphasis is on acquiring skills that enable the students to fit into a larger society
- Most socialization is deliberate: schools teach specific knowledge and skills, they also have a profound effect on children's self-image, beliefs, and values. As children enter school for the first time, they are evaluated and systematically compared with one another by the teacher.
- Schools socialize children by teaching them their formal curriculum but also a hidden curriculum.
- The formal curriculum is the "three Rs": Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic.

The Hidden Curriculum consists of the informal and often subtle messages about social roles conveyed through classroom interaction and materials.

Respect Authority.

Sit in rows, please their teachers,

Positive history of the country's past.

Sing songs to praise their country.

- There is also a hidden curriculum that schools impart, and that is the cultural values of the society in which the schools are found.
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- Respect Authority.
- Sit in rows, please their teachers,
- Positive history of the country's past.
- Sing songs to praise their country.

Extracurricular activities teach ; teamwork, practice

Unintentional/ unstructured socialization – some teachers and peers become role models for students

Peer groups are abundant in school

3. PEER GROUP

- A peer group is a group of people who are linked by common interests, equal social position, and (usually) similar age.
- The first peer group is the neighbourhood play group; with little or no choice
- Later in life, peer groups become more influential in school and the workplace; Unlike the neighbourhood playgroups, in the school the child gets to choose his own friends.
- Peers influence our tastes in music, clothes, and so many other aspects of our lives. We often want to obtain same valued material (such as toys, wrist watch or cell phones) which our peers possess.

- We rely on them for fun, for emotional comfort and support, and for companionship.
- Peer also offer a chance to discuss interests that adults may not share with their children or permit (e.g. music, drugs etc).
- Unlike families and schools, peer groups provide children and adolescents with some degree of freedom from parents and other authority figures.
- Peer Pressure; To be accepted by our peers we often behave certain ways– we try to be the kind of person we think they want us to be
- Desire to fit in - there's a focus on group interests and acquiring skills needed to fit into a subculture (underage smoking, delinquency)

4. MASS MEDIA

- Mass media; Forms of communication that reach large audiences with no personal contact between those sending and receiving the information – TV, newspaper, radio, films, magazines, Internet, etc...
- Profound impact on both children and adults
- Electronic media- the most influential
- 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, Mullah, and Khwaja-sara; and many other beliefs and practices.

- Commercials can greatly influence our choice of soda, shoes, mobile sim service, soap, shampoo, dress, and countless other products
- Studies have also shown that exposure to violence in the media can contribute to aggressive behaviour, insensitivity to violence.

- The media function as socializing agents in several ways:
 - (1) they inform us about events;
 - (2) they introduce us to a wide variety of people;
 - (3) they provide an array of viewpoints on current issues;
 - (4) they make us aware of products and services that, if we purchase them, will supposedly help us to be accepted by others.

The process of Resocialization

- **Resocialization**- the process of abandoning one or more social positions in favor of others that are more suitable for a newly acquired status
- Resocialization is the process of learning a new and different set of attitudes, values, and behaviors from those in one's background and previous experience.
- Resocialization may be voluntary or involuntary.

