

Socialization as a Process of Learning

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
19	Socialization as a Process of Learning	Make an analysis how day care centres vis-à-vis family have their share of influence the process of socialization particularly in urban areas.

Summary

Socialization is the process by which a new individual is accepted as a member of the family, community and society at large. This is a continuous and comprehensive process which holds a special significance in the discipline of sociology. It continues throughout the life of an individual.

Concept and Meaning of socialization

Socialization involves the lifelong process of learning and instilling the values and socially approved ways of behaviour. It can be called a process of growing up in a society which a child acquires through its growth in age.

It is also influenced by cultural norms, traditions, values and different cultural patterns of the group to which the individual belongs.

Herein, the child imbibes the cultural patterns, learns to perform its roles and thereby makes efforts to adjust himself to the social order.

Assimilation and Socialisation

- The relationship between socialization and assimilation is very close. The process of learning and instilling the values in socially approved ways known as socialization is followed in a normative pattern through the process of assimilation.
- The process of assimilation enables the new members of society to behave in ways that are in accordance with the values of the group. It includes identification with parents like the 'mother' and the 'father' and then sharing a common identity.
- Finally, the child differentiates himself from his parents, develops an 'identity' and thereby integrates his parents to the social system in a new enlarged manner.

Enculturation and Socialisation

- Enculturation refers to the transmission of cultural patterns and values from one generation to the next. Enculturation takes place consciously or unconsciously and ensures cultural continuity.
- Enculturation ensures that the younger generation do not adopt the cultural practices of the other groups.
- Hence, the process of socialization ensures that the existing values are imbibed by the newcomers so that these values are further strengthened and continued.

Agents of Socialisation

The agents of socialization aid in the learning process which is the result of authoritarian and egalitarian forces.

Family

Through family, the **child acquires** knowledge, behaviour, manners and internalizes all these patterns and learns to adjust or conform to the norms of the family

Peer Group

Peer group interaction shapes the self and identity formation. Acceptance and rejection by peer group is very important for socialization. They learn dominance, leadership, negotiation, cooperation

Religion and the Legal Authority

Religion binds people into a set of belief and practices. It shapes the collective identity of people by determining customs, rituals, language, dress, beliefs. It Also teaches differences, similarities, feeling of us and them

Media

Mass media is a vehicle for spreading information on a massive scale and reaching to a vast audience. It Shapes likes, dislikes, interests and contacts.

School

From school, individual learns disciplines, constructs, develops behavioural and cognitive skills. Educational institutions teach punctuality, timetable, exams, sharing same space, modelling ideal behaviour, punishment and reinforcement

Elements of Socialization

There are various elements of socialization through which the process of learning occurs.

The elements of socialization include-

- **Communication**
- **Role identification**
- **Role Performance**
- **Culture**
- **Norms and values**

Role of Socialization in Personality Development of an Individual

Personality traits are acquired in the child in the formative years of life, and the process of socialization helps the child to internalize the affection, emotions, values and sentiments through his interaction with parents and siblings. In the process, the child learns to perform different roles and occupy a corresponding status and a set of rights and duties. The number and nature of roles increases when the individual interacts with peer group and teachers in school and he then slowly identifies himself with the community and society at large. The elements of socialization regulate the behaviour of the child in consonance with approved norms and values. Thus, the process of socialization largely plays a dominant role in the character formation and personality development of the child.

Evaluate Yourself

1. Explain the meaning of Socialization in your own words.
2. Describe how family is playing an important role in the process of socialisation?
3. Elucidate the relationship between assimilation and socialization with examples.
4. Justify how peer group plays an important role in socialization?