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SOCIALIZATION: THE EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS

Socialization is strongly connected to development. Humans need social experiences to learn their culture and to survive [1]. Through socialization, people learn to identify what is important and valued within a particular culture. The role of socialization is to acquaint individuals with the norms of a given social group or society. It prepares individuals to participate in a group by illustrating the expectations of that group. Socialization prepares people for social life by teaching them a group's shared norms, values, beliefs, and behaviours.

Socialization is the process whereby an individual learns to adjust to a group or society and behave in a manner approved by the group or society. According to most social scientists, socialization essentially represents the whole process of learning throughout the life course and is a central influence on the behaviour, beliefs, and actions of adults as well as of children [2]. Socialization is very important for children, who begin the process at home with family, and continue it at school. They are taught what will be expected of them as they mature and become full members of society. Socialization is also important for adults who join new social groups. Broadly defined, it is the process of transferring norms, values, beliefs, and behaviours to future group members.

Socialization is the social processes through which new members of society develop awareness of social norms and values and help them

achieve a distinct sense of self. It is the process which transforms a helpless infant into a self-aware, knowledgeable person who is skilled in the ways of a society's culture [3]. An individual becomes a member of society when he interacts with other individuals. For living in society, a person requires some specific methods and techniques to effects his social life and become a proper member of society.

So, it is the socialization process which moulds a baby into a social person of society. When an individual comes to the new world, he faces many social problems for which social control is necessary. An individual learns language, culture, values, norms, attitudes and behaviours, which moulds his personality and becomes a social being. Individual learns more about culture and transmits these norms to the next generation. Socialization is a process by which culture is transmitted to the younger generation and men learn the rules and practices of social groups to which they belong. It is the process by which individuals are taught what society expects of them and how they are supposed to behave in society.

Socialization is normally discussed in terms of primary socialization, which is particularly intense and takes place in the early years of life, and secondary socialization, which continues throughout the life course.

Primary socialization for a child is very important because it sets the ground work for all future socialization. Primary socialization occurs when a child learns the attitudes, values, and actions appropriate to individuals as members of a particular culture. It is mainly influenced by the immediate family and friends.

Secondary socialization refers to the socialization that takes place throughout one's life, both as a child and as one encounters new groups that require additional socialization. Secondary socialization refers to the process of learning what is the appropriate behaviour as a member of a smaller group within the larger society.

Socialization takes place through various agencies, such as the family, school, peers, mass media, public opinion, and religion. Each of them plays a major role in the socialization and, ultimately, the education process. From the moment a child is born, his or her education begins.

At first, education is an informal process in which an infant watches others and imitates them. As the infant grows into a young child, the process of education becomes more formal through play dates and preschool.

Formal education plays a large role in the socialization of students. Starting with the preschool years, children are taught to behave in certain ways, many are gender-specific, and long-lasting effects such as a negative self-image and the development of eating disorders are discussed here [4].

Every civilized society, therefore, has developed a set of formalized agencies of education, such as schools, colleges, and universities, which have a great bearing on the socialization process. It is in the educational institutions that the culture is formally transmitted and acquired. Once in grade school, academic lessons become the focus of education as a child moves through the school system. But even then, education is about much more than the simple learning of facts.

In terms of socialization, the modern system of mass education is second only to the family in importance. It promotes two main socializing tasks: homogenization and social sorting. The educational institutions not only help the growing child in learning the language and other subjects but also instil the concept of time, discipline, teamwork, cooperation and competition. Through the means of reward and punishment, the desired behaviour pattern is reinforced.

The function of the school has considerably changed in the rapidly changing environment. The traditional function of imparting the basic skills is now no longer considered to be adequate to meet the present challenge. An educational institution is a very important social and the means by which individual acquires social norms and values, like the values of achievement, civic ideals, solidarity and group loyalty, beyond those which are available for learning in the family and other groups.

The socialization process has an enormous impact on children and teens in the context of the learning process. Family, school, peers, mass media, and religion each play a role in the collective process we term education. Educational institutions try to impress upon children the

importance of working for rewards, and they try to teach neatness, punctuality, orderliness, and respect for authority. Teachers are called upon to evaluate how well children perform a particular task or how much skill they have.

Thus, in school, children's relationships with adults move from nurture and behavioural concerns to the performance of tasks and skills determined by others. Through the curriculum, the school in a formal way provides the child with the necessary skills and knowledge as regards their future life.

With the help of basic intellectual skills such as reading, writing, verbal expression, quantitative and other cognitive abilities, education teaches well how people communicate with each other according to positions in society. Educational systems socialize students to become members of society, to play meaningful roles in the complex network of independent positions.

Education helps in shaping values and attitudes to the needs of the contemporary society. It widens the mental horizons of pupils and teaches them new ways of looking at themselves and their society. Education offers young people opportunities for intellectual, emotional and social growth. Thus it can be influential in promoting new values and stimulating adaptation to changing conditions.

Informally, school enables the child to learn a number of other social roles and skills which are also important for his overall development as a member of society. Education teaches the laws, traditions and norms of the community, the rights that individuals will enjoy and the responsibilities that they will undertake.

Education teaches one how to behave toward his playmates and adults, to share things and ideas, to compete responsibly, and to cooperate. It instils the community's pattern of respect; thus how to relate to others well and obey rules. Education leads toward tolerant and humanitarian attitudes.

Since children come from different backgrounds, the task of education therefore is to intercept and change or modify those aspects which may not be acceptable to the community. At the same time, those aspects of training which are meaningful are encouraged. Most of the informal

learning occurs mainly within the peer group setting. The peer groups affect the socialization process both in school and in the neighbourhoods.

Education represents a formal and conscious effort by the society to socialize its young. It does this through the content of the curriculum and co-curricular activities. They also socialize the young through teachers' attitudes and values that they communicate to the child. Teachers also act as models for students.

Education is expected to nurture, shape or mould students in ways that ensure the attainment of certain prescribed attitudes and skills. Thus, creating academic mastery, teaching social interaction skills, helping students develop societal commitment and loyalty are examples of goals that education reasonably might be expected to attain. All these are aspects of socialization.

In sum, socialization is a processes with the help of which a living organism is changed into a social being. It is a process through which the younger generation learns the adult role which it has to play subsequently. It is a continuous process in the life of an individual and it continues from generation to generation.

Socialization is a process of cultural learning whereby a new person acquires necessary skills and education to play a regular part in a social system. The process continues throughout life as each new situation arises. Socialization is a life long process till to the end of life.

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