

CHAPTER

12

Socialization and Personality

CHAPTER OUTLINE

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SOCIALIZATION

INTRODUCTION

Inducting an individual into society is called socialization. It is a process of training to adjust man in society. Man is to live in various social groups and different social situations. He is to learn techniques of life to adjust himself in new modes of life. This learning of techniques of social life is called socialization. Learning of different behaviors in different social situations is the process of socialization.

Man learns various social norms and techniques of social life when interacts with others in various social situations. If means he learns how to play his role in new situations. This learning of role playing is also called socialization.

An individual faces so many situations in his life. In every situation he is to play different role. For this purpose, learning the norms is necessary which enables him to do so. Role playing requires learning of norms for those social situations. This learning of norms is called socialization. The individual by learning social norms and playing different roles get experience of social life. Learning these experiences of social life is called socialization.

Socialization is a life-long process. Man learns when he faces new social situations. Although the learning process decreases in old age. While interacting with others, we get experiences of social life. By participating in various professional activities, we pass through the

processes of socialization. It means learning the general experiences of social life is socialization.

From the point of view of Lee and others, a personality is "the result of habit formation". Habits are individually repeated behaviors. A range of human experiences is introduced from the very life in childhood. Culture and society provide the individual with institutionalized patterns of behaviour for various stages of life so that he may become a functioning member of society. Learning cultural norms according to the development of age is the process of "socialization". This is a continuous process of life. The process whereby personality is acquired through social interaction is known as socialization.

Definition

✓ Young and Mack observe, "the process of inducting the individual into the social world is called socialization". In common-sense, socialization is a life-long training for the adjustment of one's life in society. This process of socialization is the process of learning norms, roles, techniques and other cultural patterns. In two ways, the processes of learning take places.

✓ Peter Woesely: "process of transmission of culture, the process whereby men learn the rules and practices of social groups." *Thanks for dinner. Shaking hands*

✓ John J. Maccionis: "it's a lifelong social experience by which individuals develop their human potential and learn culture."

✓ Lundberg says: "complex processes of interaction through which the individual learns the habits, beliefs, skills and standards of judgment that are necessary for his effective participation in social groups and communities."

✓ Horton and Hunt said: "socialization is the process whereby one internalizes the norms of the groups among whom one lives so that a unique "self" emerges."

TYPES OF SOCIALIZATION

There are four types of socialization which are given by Ian Robertson in his book sociology.

✓ 1. Primary socialization

This is the most essential and fundamental type of socialization. It takes place in the early years of newborn baby. At this stage, concentration is given on language and cognitive skills, the other roles and perspectives, establishment of emotionalities and appreciation of

✓ 2. Anticipatory socialization

Individual not only learns the culture of his groups rather he also learns the cultures of groups to which he does not belong. Such a process whereby men socialize themselves into the culture of a group with the anticipation of joining that group is referred as anticipatory socialization by R.K. Merton.

3. Developmental Socialization

This kind of learning is based on the achievements of primary socialization. It builds on already acquired skills and knowledge as the adult progress through new situations such as

marriage or new jobs. These require new expectations, obligations, and roles. This new learning combines with old skills makes possible developmental socialization.

4. Re-Socialization

Re-socialization takes place mostly when a social role is radically changed. It may also happen during social mobility process. When new social roles emerged which are not compatible with the existing qualities and skills of individual, resocialization takes place. This phenomenon is generally found in old age population who is striving hard for their survival in changing world.

METHODS OF SOCIALIZATION

1. Cultural Conditioning — It is the process by which the individual learns the fundamental culture patterns of the society in which he lives. It includes learning to walk, eat, drink, talk and learning language, religious values, obedience to parents, teachers and other behaviors which are controlled by social norms. This is the process of learning cultural norms.

The conditioning is a process of learning by repetition. A habit is formed to behave in a given situation. Animals can be conditioned to behave in a given situation by socializing them. The monkeys, dogs, goats, sparrows, parrots and other animals are trained to behave in a specific way in a specific situation. Learning of such behaviors by animals is called conditioning. Conditioning is a process of socialization. The first experiment of conditioning was made by Pavlov, a Russian scientist on dog which was conditioned to light and sound of the bell before the meat came. When conditioning process became complete he lit the bulb and rang the bell in the same order but the meat did not come. The dog behaved like eating meat while it was not there.

Similarly, human beings are conditioned to behave in a given social situation. This process mostly operates in childhood. In childhood, learning by reason is rare while learning by condition is frequent. Children are made to learn the names of things and other ways of life by this process. Animals learn by instinct without knowing the cause and aim of a thing while human beings learn by reason. In childhood, instinct is more dominant upon reason. By increasing of age and experiences among human beings, the learning by condition decreases and learning by reason goes on increasing.

2. Personal-Social Learning — The individual, besides learning by conditioning, learns also through his experiences while living in groups of people around him. This learning through experiences also becomes a part of his personality structure. The behaviour acquired by this process is socially learnt because it is achieved through interaction with group members. It is a part of socialization and is called personal-social learning by Young and Mack⁴. The early childhood experiences have a powerful effect on the individual's fundamental emotional behaviour.

It is called learning by reason. It is the cultural process never found in animals. Man learns general ways of social life while living with his fellowmen. He learns these things by interaction. By interaction the experiences are transmitted among the people and this is called learning. This learning process is called 'socialization'.

Learning Institutes — In society, there are a large number of socializing agencies which provide learning to the people. Among them, the family, the school and the community are important. The learning of personality traits takes place in these institutions. In this way an important process of socialization holds in these agencies.

Individual as a Social Product

Why people form groups with their mutual interrelationship? This mutual relationship of man with man, is interdependence upon each other. This interdependence is due to the force of need and its satisfaction. Man needs bread to eat, clothes to cover his body and shelter (house) to live in. To satisfy these basic needs one has to seek the help of others — 'co-operation' in terms of sociology. Needs did not end here, society devised permanent procedure for the satisfaction of needs in the form of educational, political, religious and familial institutions. To satisfy the needs of life man needs help of another man and in this context relationship among the members forming groups is called 'social' despite the fact that the relationship is economic political, religious or educational. On the whole a situation is created among the participating members of the group which exclusively being economic or religious, is 'social' at the same time.

As sociologist, we are interested in social relations not because they are economic or political or religious but because they are social at the same time. Two people, meeting in a market place are not just two 'economic men' they are two human beings, and they enter into relationship that is not simply economic. The life of man is many-sided. There is an economic aspect, a legal aspect, a religious aspect and so forth, but they blending them all into relation is the 'social' aspect. Hence the relationship between man and man, whether economic, political, religious, educational, marital, or familial is 'social'. This give-and-take between man and man is a relationship called interaction and they are now called as 'social' beings. This concept 'social' is a bigger process of change in condition making an individual a member of group and society and the so-called 'social animal'. The individuals involved in the process of 'social' form groups and society. Sociologists are interested in the study of all such processes growing into 'social'. Such processes bind the individuals in group and society. The study of society, in other words, is the study of processes of being 'social'.

✓ SOURCES/AGENCIES OF SOCIALIZATION

✓ 1. The Family

During the socialization process, the family is considered the most significant. There are some factors *i.e.*, Broken home dissatisfaction of basic needs and unbalanced affection of the parents due to which socialization remains incomplete.

2. Peers or Agemates.

'Peer groups' means those groups made up of the contemporaries of the child, his associates in school, in playground and in street. He learns from these children, facts and facets of culture that they have previously learnt at different times from their parents. The members of peer groups have other sources of information about the culture - their peers in still other peer groups - and thus the acquisition of culture goes on.

As time passes by of course, the peer group surpasses the parental and family groups in

importance. It is true that the 'peer culture' becomes more important and effective than the 'parental culture' in the adolescent years of the child. The advice of one's agemates whether overtly or covertly communicated, sets the standards in almost every aspect of conduct. However, we should not assume that the socialization process is completed by the time the teen ages are reached. On the other hand, this is the time when pressures for conformity are perhaps, at their heights.

3. Social Institutions

The family, markets, mosque, madrasa of religious education, fairs, games and plays, cinema, theatre and national celebrations are the institutions of socialization. A school is one of the socializing institutions of education. The school, college and university are the formal institutions of education. An individual learns his cultural norms, the values, beliefs, sentiments, habits, customs, rituals and other ways of life through these agencies of socialization. Education is itself a process of socialization. Education teaches the techniques of life to enable an individual to meet his needs of life. This is called socialization. It means socialization is done through these social institutions. Hence, the whole society is itself a learning group.

4. Literature and Mass Media of Communication *Sayan, Adith*

This is, of course, found only in literate societies and that is the literature. The civilization that we share is constructed of words or literature. "Words rush at us in torrent and cascade; they leap into our vision, as in billboard and newspaper, magazine and textbook; and assault our ears, as in radio and television". The media of mass communication give us their messages. These messages too contain in capsule form, the premises of our culture, its attitudes and ideologies. The words are always written by some one and these people too - authors and editors and advertisers join the teachers, the peers and the parents in the socialization process. In individual cases, of course, some of these influences are more important than others. The responses can also differ. "Some of us respect tradition; others fear the opinions of their peers, and still others prefer to listen to the 'thousand tongues' of conscience". But all modes of socialization result in conformity of a kind and all thus contribute to the transmission of a culture by some and its acquisition by others.

Trust - NGOs - Nature

5. The Community

This is the biggest agency of socialization. A large number of socializing agencies are working for the people.

A large number of agencies are available in a community which educates its members informally. Man learns ways of life and norms of society by participating in these agencies. He plays his roles in these agencies and gets experiences, which add to his information. This is his socialization in community.

From the above whole discussion, we come to the conclusion that the following are the major agencies of socialization for the individual family, school, masjid, madrasa, bazars, political parties, traveling agencies and recreational institutions.

FUNCTIONS OF SOCIALIZATION

Following are the functions of socialization:

- i. Socialization converts humans from biological being to social being.
- ii. It contributes in personality development. *child - old age*
- iii. It helps to become disciplined. *- maturity*
- iv. It helps to perform different roles. *- Son, husband, Father, Grandfather*
- v. It establishes knowledge and skills. *- Communication, Motivation, Motivation*
- vi. It contributes in the stability of social order. *- Social Norm - mores, Social Sanctions*
- vii. It transmits culture from one generation to other.
- viii. It creates right aspirations in social life. *positive, own experiences*

THE SELF

'Self' is not inherited but acquired by the individual in society. During the process of interaction the child learns that he has his existence among others. He is familiar with the organs of his body, the environment in which he lives, his parents, and playmates in the street. The child in this way discovers his position in his surrounding environment and recognizes himself as called by his name. The idea of self-develops in his mind in relation to other things around him. During the process of socialization the child identifies the self of his personality in relation to others. How are others involved in the development of his self?

The child cannot develop his physical existence without social group, what to talk about the personality and the self. The people with whom he initiates his interaction procedure are the reflectors of his self. By interaction with others the child weighs the significance attached to his response-condition by them. This degree of personal significance develops the type of 'self' in his personality. It means the behaviour of the child as reflected back from the selves of his associates generates an idea about his position within that group of people. This position determined by the child about his personality in that group, is his self. Obviously, it is clear that the type of behaviour from the child is the 'type' of his self. The people in his group, if anti-social, will encourage similar type of attitude in him and if conformist he may be encouraged towards normal ways of life and his self may be called as 'good' from the point of view of cultural values.

Self and Personality

The child may acquire inferiority feelings in certain acts which are due to unfortunate experiences, and superiority feelings through excessive praises in early childhood. Another pair of traits related to personality is conformity and rebelliousness. Usually the child becomes conformist to the cultural values presented to him by his parents, associates and others. On the other hand, there are children who do not want to please their parents and the community members by accepting the socially approved ways of behaviour, but defy them. The responsibility of this rebellious behavior falls upon unwise administration of authority by parents. One of the children is dominated than others by father; and mother is not dominating.

The Self as I - The rise of the self in the individual is the sum of his personality traits and the total activity of his traits assign him the concept "I". George H. Mead has mentioned two stages in full development of the self. In the first stage, the self of the individual is constituted by the organization of particular attitudes of other individuals towards himself and towards one

another. At this stage, the self is also constituted by an organization of the social attitudes of the generalized other or social group or community to which he belongs. Mead holds that if one determines what his position in society is and feels himself as having certain functions and privileges, these are all defined with reference to an "I" but the "I" is not a "me" and cannot become a "me". The "I" is the organised set of attitudes of others which one he assumes.

The Looking Glass Self – In view of Charles H. Cooley, personality is the tendency to adjust our conduct to the conduct of others towards us and he has named this phenomenon by the phrase "the looking-glass self".

"Each to each a looking glass
Reflects the other that doth pass"

The idea in self here involves three basic elements: the imagination of our appearance to other person; the imagination of his judgment about that appearance; and self feelings such as pride inferiority or superiority.

Self is a product of socialization in groups – According to Merrill, the self is a product of interaction in a number of group situations. Group situations hold various degrees of reference (importance) upon an individual. Members of the family, neighborhood, playmates, class-fellow, close relatives and friends may form a group by interaction. This group, if most important of all others, bears a lion's share in the emergence and development of his 'self'. Such people in the group, from whom his "self" is reflected, are members of his Reference Group. The individual takes the role of society as a whole towards himself and Mead calls this "taking the role of the generalized other". Generalized other includes the folkways, mores, values and other normative elements of culture. The child slowly becomes conscious of the expectations and begins to judge himself in these terms. Merrill calls a social self 'the core of personality'. Muhammad Fayyaz quotes from George H. Mead about self-system that it is a dynamic system shaping personality with the passage of time.

Self is the core of personality and develops during group life in society. It goes on changing according to the experiences in life. Self creates feelings of love and hatred which are result of human observation and experiences in social life. Therefore, self is a product of social life and emerges during socialization. The type of socialization an individual receives the same type of self he will develop.

SOCIALIZATION AND PERSONALITY ✓

Personality is the product of socialization. Because habit develops through socialization which is the central part of one's personality.

The personality traits develop in the individual through participation in social life. The individual plays different roles in different social situations and gets experiences which become a part of his personality. These experiences are stored together from personality of the individual.

The behaviour of the individual is the expression of his personality. This behaviour is learnt by socialization in group life.

A person living with a criminal is likely to adopt criminal habits. This means socialization of a criminal leads to criminal behaviour. A person living in association of a pious person may

adopt piety in his behaviour. It means socialization is the basis of personality.

The rearing practice of children differs in societies which develops different personality traits among the people. The people of a society are coward and worship idols and fire and the people of another society are brave and worship One God. These different beliefs and practices found in different societies are the result of their socialization as such.

1. The people of Saudi Arabia socialize their children in:
2. learning Arabic language,
3. wearing specially-designed Arabic dress,
4. speaking truth in all dealings of life,
5. offering prayer to Allah, and
6. other behaviors of social life with others.

The Brahmins in India socialize their children in :

1. learning Hindi language,
2. wearing 'Janue' — a long cotton thread around the neck,
3. taking bath in the water of the Ganges or the Jamna once a week,
4. never eating meat of cow,
5. not sharing feed with Muslim, and
6. praying for the sun and idols in the temples.

The Pakistani parents usually socialize their children in speaking Urdu or any local language and wearing the same local dress. Muslims are taught the elements of Islam, especially prayer and reciting the Quran. Parental profession is practiced in most of the families.

The socialization in Arab society produces honest Muslims. The Hindu society produces non-believers in God. Hatred for Muslims is socialized by Jews. The Pakistani society produces Muslims in faith, brave in courage and hard-working in their profession. The personality traits, in this way, among the societies vary according to their socializing processes.

SOCIALIZATION AND CULTURE

The socialization processes adopt the same pattern in society as defined by its culture. Culture is the guiding star for socialization. What to socialize and how, is the question answered by culture.

Culture is the way of living of people. It is the social heritage received from ancestors. It is the organization of human past experiences. At birth of the child the culture is there to help him and induct him into social life. The induction of child into society is the miracle of culture and the induction process is called socialization. Therefore, socialization of child into social life is based on culture.

Culture differs from society to society. Similarly, the socialization of the individual varies. The process of socialization varies in societies to shape variety in personality.

Culture → Socialization → Personality