

WEEK 5

SOCIALIZATION

Socialization is the act of acquiring new behavior through interacting with other members of society and by learning from others. It is a process by which a member of a group is made to learn and acquire the knowledge of how to live in a group or society.

Importance of Socialization

Benefits of socialization include:

- It teaches the way of life of the extended family.
- It teaches the culture of the extended family.
- Socialization teaches family integrity, reputation, goodwill, etc.
- It teaches the gainful use of time and leisure
- It promotes the spirit of hard work in people.
- Socialization promotes peace and unity among people.
- It helps new members of the society to acquire acceptable values, attitudes that will help them to fit in the society.
- It helps in making people responsible in society.

Stages of Socialization

- Childhood or primary socialization
- Adulthood or secondary socialization

Childhood socialization: It takes place in the family, it occurs in the early stage of a child's life. It lays the basis for the secondary socialization.

Adulthood or secondary socialization: It is the continuation of primary socialization; it sets in later in one's life in the school, church or mosque.

Process of Socialization

Process of socialization refers to ways through which socialization takes place which includes:

1. **Direct learning:** This involves the use of words of the mouth in teaching a child or group of persons
2. **Incidental learning:** This learning occurs when a child learns from things that are not planned.
3. **Learning from models:** This learning occurs when a child or a mature individual learns by observing and imitating people around him.
4. **Role learning:** This learning takes place when an individual learns to perform the duties assigned to him in society.

Agents of Socialization

1. The family
2. The school
3. The peer group/age group.
4. The mass media
5. The church/mosque/shrine.

The Family:

This is the first agent of socialization. Some of the things the child learns in the family are:

- Good morals, attitudes, and behavior are acceptable in society.
- Religious belief.
- The food, language, and greetings of his people.

- Interacting with other members of the family

The School:

The teachers are trained to perform the following duties in the socialization process of the child.

- Impart technical knowledge and skills that would help the child to survive in society.
- Helps the child acquire the right attitudes and values.
- Instill discipline in the individual.
- Acts as models to the pupils and students.

The Peer/Age Group:

An individual that has made a good choice of friends will develop the following habits.

- Studying hard.
- Neatness
- Speaking politely

An individual who has made the wrong choice of friends by keeping a company with a bad peer group may develop any of the following traits.

- Stealing
- Truancy
- Rudeness

The Mass Media:

The following are some of the things which people learn from the mass media.

- People learn what is happening around them and in other parts of the world.
- People learn about foreign cultures.
- They learn songs, dance steps, and fashion.

The church/mosque/shrine:

The roles of these institutions are as follows:

- They help in reforming people through their sermons.
- They help promote peace, tranquility, and love.
- Helps to promote justice and fair play.
- They engage in charity work such as visiting motherless babies' homes.

Effect of Socialization

Good Qualities:

- Discipline
- Integrity
- Contentment
- Sensitivity
- Knowledge
- A sense of responsibility

Bad Qualities:

- Lying and general dishonest
- Stealing
- Disrespect to elders
- Thuggery
- Cultism

ASSIGNMENT

1. Explain the two (2) stages of socialization
2. List five (5) effects of socialization both positive and negative.