

Title of the Course : Sociology of Education

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Topic : Role of School in Socialisation Process



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Specific Objectives of the Lesson

The student-teacher will be able to:

- Gain knowledge on socialisation
- Comprehend the socialisation process
- Categorize the forms of socialisation
- List the agencies of socialisation
- Realise the importance of school in socialisation process
- Suggest activities to promote socialisation process in schools

Learning Outcomes of the Lesson

At the end of this, the student-teachers will be able to:

- Understand the meaning and purposes of socialization
- Analyze the process and forms of socialization
- Classify the agencies of socialization
- Identify the role of school in socialization process
- Use the suggested activities of socialization in his/her classroom

Socialisation

- A process to change a human being into a social being by learning habits, attitudes, values, beliefs, etc
- A moulding process in the life of human being to become a responsible social being, to get well adjusted with the predetermined social condition and environment
- An interaction process to modify the behaviour to conform with the group behaviour and perform the expected social roles
- A continuous and life-long process in human beings

Socialisation - Definitions

- **W.F.Ogburn** observes, “ Socialization is the process by which the individual learns to conform to the norms of the group.”
- **Hortan & Hunt** describes, “Socialization is the process by which one internalizes the norms of his(her) groups, so that a distinct ‘self’ emerges unique to this individual.”
- **Peter Worsley** explains, “Socialization as the process of transmission of culture, the process whereby men(women) learn the rules and practices of social groups.”

Purposes of Socialisation

- Helps a person not only to become a member of a group, community or society but also to sustain his/her relationship with them
- Helps an individual to understand what is expected of him/her in a particular group or situation
- Helps an individual to attain social maturity
- Helps an individual learn the social behaviour and develop his/her 'self'
- Helps to ensure the norms and customs of the society get transmitted
- Helps to control the biological impulses of an individual
- Helps to prepare an individual to perform different roles in the family, group, and society

Process of Socialisation

Internalisation Process

- Social norms and rules become internal to an individual and forms part and parcel of his/her personality
- **Self-imposed process**

External Process

- Socialisation become an external regulation to an individual when he/she conforms the social norms and rules while interacting with others
- **Social interaction process**

Forms of Socialisation

(a) Primary Socialisation

- **Cooley** used the concept of ‘primary group’ to describe a social group characterised by ‘face-to-face’ relationship, mutual aid, and companionship (e.g. parents, neighbours)
- It is a face-to-face interaction process
- Family is the primary socialisation agency
- Family teaches a child about language, right or wrong of things, norms and values to be adopted

(b) Secondary Socialisation

- **Ogburn & Nimkoff** described that the groups that provides experience lacking in intimacy are called ‘secondary groups’ (teachers, political leaders, religious leaders, the State, trade unions, peer group, etc)
- It is the process taking outside of the family of a person
- Socialisation is taking place in the social context
- School is the secondary agency
- Peer group and play group influences the child

Forms of Socialisation

(c) Adult Socialisation

- Also known as ‘organizational socialization process’
- Helps to take up and practice new roles and responsibilities
- Helps to bring changes in the overt behaviours of an adult
- Helps to develop occupational adjustment
- New actors like employees, workers, seniors, juniors, wife, husband, etc play an important role in socialization process

(d) Anticipatory Socialisation

- Learning the culture of a group in which a person wanted to be a member of that group
- He/she starts abiding by the beliefs, values, norms of a particular group
- A self-directed process which refers to preparing oneself for a new role, position or occupation (e.g. a student is changing his/her hair style, dressing style when about to join in college after the school life, professional look of a person while taking up a new job/position)

Forms of Socialisation

(e) Re-socialisation

- Also called ‘forced socialisation’
- Referring to a person moving away from one pattern of behaviour to another pattern of behaviour (e.g. a convict starts a new life after he/she is released from the prison, a person undergoing training for uniform services, a person renouncing the worldly life and becoming sanyasi, a juvenile’s life in reformatory school, etc)
- An indication of transition from one position to another position (e.g. a terrorists starts a new life after his/her surrender to the government/ authorities)

Agencies of Socialisation

1) Family

- First and foremost agency of socialisation
- Child learns social morality from the family (i.e. cooperation, tolerance, self-sacrifice, love, affection, respect, etc)
- Family continues to influence the individual through out his/her life

2) School*

- A formal agency of socialisation
- An active agency of socialisation

*(more explanation about the school as an agency of socialisation is dealt separately)

3) Peer Group

- Powerful source and it can over take the parental influence of an individual
- An equalitarian agency (i.e. sharing common characteristics such as age, sex, etc)

Agencies of Socialisation

4) Religion

- Religion and religious leaders plays an important role in socialisation process
- Instil fear in the individuals to keep them away from doing wrong things
- Helps the individuals to develop faith in religion and its related matters

5) Mass Media

- Play more significant role in socialisation process
- Greatly influence the personality of individuals
- Greatly influence in changing the view point of an individual

School

- It's a formal agency of education
- Etymologically the word 'school' is derived from Greek term 'skhole' which means 'leisure'
- **John Dewey** defines, "School is special environment where a certain quality of life and certain types of activities and occupations are provided with the objective of securing the child development along desirable lines."
- According to **J.S. Ross**, "Schools are institutions devised by civilized man for purpose of arranging in the preparation of the young for well-adjusted and efficient members of society."

Importance of School in Socialisation Process

- **John Dewey** said that, “The school is primarily a social institution – an effective agency to bring the child to share in the inherited resources of the race, and to use his(her) inherited powers for social ends.”
- **H.G.Wells** categorically stated the importance of school in socialisation process as, “ A world whose schools are unreformed is an unreformed world.”
- **Kothari Commission Report** remarked that , “The destiny of India is being shaped in her classrooms.”

Importance of School in Socialisation Process

- **Balakrishna Joshi** highlighted the crucial role of school in socialisation process as, “ In a world, a well-conducted school is a happy home, a sacred shrine, a social centre, a State in miniature, and bewitching Brindavan – all beautifully blended into a systematic structure.”

Role of Schools in Socialisation Process



- School is one of the primary and important socialisation agency next to family
- School is the second home to children
- Teachers are the second parents to children
- School helps the children to learn lot of things from his/her equalitarian group
- School helps the children to learn certain informal aspects such as fashion, fads, crazes, modes of gratification and forbidden knowledge (e.g. sex relations)

Role of Schools in Socialisation Process



- School helps the children to learn lot of things from his/her equalitarian group
- School helps the children to learn the concept of time, discipline, teamwork, co-operation, mutual understanding, regularity, obedience, patience, tolerance, etc from their teachers, friends, and playmates
- School helps the children to strengthen their concept of ‘self’
- School helps the children to learn the expected behaviours and show respect to authorities

Role of Schools in Socialisation Process



- School helps the children to learn schedules, tasks, deadlines, etc
- School helps the children to get their desirable behaviours reinforced by giving rewards, and punishments for the undesirable behaviours
- School helps the children to pickup social norms and values (e.g. values of achievement, civic ideals, solidarity, group loyalty, etc)
- School greatly influences the children's development and personality

Suggested Activities for Socialisation of Students



1. Students can be taken to museums, art galleries, courts, places of historical importance, etc
2. People engaged in various economic activities or vocations may be invited to school to share their knowledge and experiences about what they do, how they do, how far their work is contributing to the society and nation
3. Work experience (e.g. weaving, pottery making, gardening, farming, etc) need to be given to students to gain first-hand knowledge and experience
4. Students should be informed of the socially accepted institutions in their society

Suggested Activities for Socialisation of Students



5. Students should be encouraged to organize and actively participate in social events such as celebration of international and national days, birthdays of national and international leaders, international and national festivals (e.g. United Nations Day, International Women's Day, Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanthi, National Integration Day, Christmas, Ramzan, Diwali, Holi, Onam, etc)
6. Curricular and co-curricular programmes should be organized to facilitate students meet together, work together, and learn together (e.g. group assignments, group projects, seminars, debates, role play, etc)

Suggested Activities for Socialisation of Students



7. Common classroom, common dress (uniform), common lunch should be introduced in the schools to eliminate the superiority and inferiority feeling of students
8. Students should be encouraged to learn other cultures, values, norms, customs, traditions, etc
9. Teachers should have to accept and respect the personality of students
10. The mechanism of praise and blame, reward and punishment should be judiciously used in the schools to socialise the students

Suggested Activities for Socialisation of Students



11. Community programmes such as camps, social services, and other extension activities should be conducted
12. Frequent interaction meetings between teachers and parents should be conducted on matters related to socialisation of students
13. Special meetings, discussions, debates, prayers should be arranged to deliberate on various aspects of socialisation of students
14. Necessary social education should be imparted to parents to develop better understanding on socialisation of their children
15. Schools should conduct sports meets, cultural events, competitions, etc for socialisation of students

Suggested Activities for Socialisation of Students



16. Schools should conduct oratorical contests, essay writing competitions, poem writing, role play on the themes of national importance and sacrifices done by great men for a common cause
17. Students should be encouraged to take part in decision-making process (e.g. election of school pupil leaders, class leaders, student secretaries for various activities), which will provide them opportunities to learn their rights and responsibilities
18. Teachers should be a role model for students by demonstrating the social, cultural, and democratic values
19. Teachers should ensure safe and healthy environment for students to learn values of freedom, equality, integrity, honesty, etc



Summing Up

- Socialisation is essential in the life of every person to become a useful member to the family, society and nation
- Socialisation is a continuous and life-long process
- There are many agencies involved in the socialisation process and the role of school is more important as the children spent lot of their time in the school
- School is the miniature society in which children should be given enough chances to become a worthy citizen

Further Readings



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