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## **The Sociological View on Gradual Transformation of the Helpless Infant (Childhood) to Mature Adult (Adulthood)**

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### **Abstract:**

*The paper explained socialization as the slow and gradual transformation of the helpless infant to mature adult behaving within the norms of his contemporary society. Then childhood or primary socialization as how human beings are brought in our family, learning the society's general norms values and our roles within the structure. It's also discussed that socialization process has an enormous impact on children and teens in the context of learning process, family, school, peers, mass media, religion, work place and volunteer groups each play a role in the collective process we term education. The paper also mentions that socialization functions because through the process of socialization the groups transmit its values, custom's and belief from generation to another finally the paper identifies that sometimes socialization fails because culture cannot be understood completely no individual can know the whole culture and put into practice but the paper recommended that parents should try and indicate culture into their children and make them put into practice.*

**Keywords:** *Socialization, childhood or primary socialization, adulthood or secondary socialization Family, school, peer group, Religion, mass media, place of work*

### **1. Introduction**

Human infant is born biological being that is they are born without culture. They must be transformed by their parents, teachers, and others to become social being or culturally adopted. They general process of acquiring culture is referred to as socialization. We learn the language of the culture we are to play in life. For instance, girls learn how to be daughters, sisters, friends, wives, and mothers. In addition, they learn about the occupational roles that their society has in store for them. We also learn and usually adopt our cultures, norms and values.

#### *1.1. The Concept of Socialization*

Several definitions have been suggested by sociologist and psychologist to explain "socialization" Hurlock (1973) in Adebusuyi defines it as "a process of learning to conform to group standards norms and customs" Emukherjee (1978) in adebusunyi views socialization as "the slow and gradual transformation of the helpless infant to mature adult, behaving within norms of his contemporary society.

According to Anon (1) (nd) socialization as viewed by social scientists refers to the process of acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes of a social system. It is a process by which individuals members learn the acceptable norms and values of their society in order to behave in a way that is regarded as normal.

Anon (1) (nd) further stated that socialization is a learning process that is the period of the most intense and the most crucial. It is then that we acquire language and learn the fundamentals of our culture. It is also when much of our personality take shape. However, we continue to be socialized throughout our lives. As we age we enter new status and need to learn the appropriate roles for them. We also have experiences that teach us lessons and potentially lead us to alter our expectation beliefs, and personality.

WIKIPEDIA (2017) socialization is the process of internalizing the norms and ideologies of societies. It encompasses both learning and teaching and it this "the means by which social and cultural continuity are attend". Wikipedia further stated that socialization essentially represents the whole process of learning throughout the life course and is a central influence on behavior.

According to Cole (2018) socialization is the process through which a person from birth through death, is taught the norms, custom's, values, and roles of the society in which they live. This process serves to incorporate new members into a society so that they and it can function smoothly. It is guided by family, teachers, and coaches, religious leaders, peers, community and media

### 1.2. Types of Socialization

According to Craig there are two (2) stages of socialization which include: -

- Childhood or primary socialization
- Adulthood or secondary socialization

#### 1.2.1. Childhood or Primary Socialization

Deals with how we are brought up in our family, learning the society's general norms, values and our roles within the structure. This is the stage at which concepts are formed. The stage is of particular importance because the success of adult socialization depends largely on success of primary socialization. At this stage the child is formed what is "general others with members of his immediate family. He learns languages identify himself with father and mother and other children through modeling or role playing. This is where he tries to copy any behavior or act demonstrated by parents. At this stage his peer groups also play a role in the socialization.

#### 1.2.2. Adulthood or Secondary Socialization

Deals with our years at school, which carry on from our family ideals and we of course learn the skills for work (roles)and everything that along with it.

The learner learns to adopt to events, circumstances or situation in an attempt to occupy position or perform certain duties in the society. The learner willingly adopt himself to environmental influences, schools, peer groups, mass media and religious institution play a determining role at this stage of socialization.

## 2. Function of Socialization

According to Mascarenes (2010) function of socialization are as follows;

- Through the process of socialization, the group transmits its values customs and beliefs from one generation to another.
- It enables the individual to grow and develop into socially functioning person
- It Is a means of social control by which members are encourage to compare to the ways of the group by internalizing the groups norms and values.
- To interact with other members in an approved manner.
- To prepare members do things the group want this is because each society states its objectives set standard and allows individual to attain his own goals which will also contribute in attaining the goals of the society.

## 3. Agent of Socialization

### 3.1. Family

Anon (1) (nd)Stated that the family has the greatest impact on socialization infant are totally depended on others and the responsibility to look after the young ones typically falls on parents and other family members. It is the matter of the child survival there is automatic provision of learning situation to the young ones. Family begins the lifelong process of defining ourselves of being male or female and the child learns the appreciate roles associated with his/her gender.

Hebert (1980) opened in Mascarenes (2010) that the family serves the function of socializing its members this social role includes teaching the child socially accepted behaviors, norms, values, dressing, acquisition and use of language, eating habits, control of aggression development of sex role, morally etc.

He also Stated that parent is the most important socializing agent for the child at very early stage of development. Family members form the only significant group on whom the child depend physically and psychologically. The first plays an essential role in the transmission of the fundamental values that encourage and nature learning in a young child. The family plays a role as socializing agent in the following areas these are

- (a) Moral education
- (b) Religious education
- (c) Vocational guidance
- (d) Social training

### 3.2. The School

According to perrino (2013) school is a primary transmitter of information and knowledge. It has also been called upon to assume many of the function of family. School system has assumed other roles and responsibilities that historically had been the domain of the family children spending most of the working hours in the care of school personnel rather than parents and morals and values have become a responsibility of school systems.

He further stated that school enlarge children social world to include people with background different from their own. Among the manifest function the school teach children a wide range of knowledge and skills schools informally convey other lessons which might be called curriculum. Through different activities school inculcating values of patriotism democracy justice honest and competition.

### 3.3. Peer group

Grolier (1971) define in Adebusuyi (2011) a peer as one of the same or qualities peer group are usually group of friends sharing same views and values and usually interact regularly, hence are able to influence each other, saying like "Birds of the same feathers flock together" and "show me your friend and I will tell you who you are" are usually found to be true, with peer group influence young people seek to break away from parental constraints and establish independent identity. He further stated that the peer group usually consist of individual who have certain common features e.g. age, class or school mode of dressing mode of talking hair style choice of music etc. peers really influence adolescent behaviors because most teenagers spend much time in the company of peers than their parents the adolescent wants to belong and "flow" with the others e.g. to avoid being mocked for being mocked for being a virgin or for not taking alcoholic drink or smoking.

### 3.4. Religion

According to Adebusuyi (2011) the religion organization has vital role to play in a socializing her members fear of God respect for the fellow human being and need to be morally upright are usually emphasized the members of particular denomination might have peculiar attribute which are passed onto new members e.g. mode of dressing some religion organization organize activities like conference, seminar, and camping programme for youth.

Religion plays significant role in the socialization process because it influences morally, becoming a key component in people's ideas of right and wrong. The influence of religion extends too many areas of our lives. For example, participation in religion ceremonies not only teaches us belief about hereafter but also ideas about dress and manners appropriate for formal occasions.

### 3.5. The Mass Media

According to parrino ( )The mass media are the impersonal communication aimed at a vast audience, mass media arise as communication technology (first newspapers and then radio, television, films and the internet) spread information on a mass scale. The mass media have an enormous effect on our attitude and behaviour and on shaping people's opinions about issues as well as what they buy. Where television provides lots of entertainment, at the same time it's a big agent of socialization. The portrayal of human characters in different programs and in advertisements on television helps in gender perceptions prevalent on the society; there by helping gender construction. The same programs help in shaping the attitudes, values and basic orientation of people to life.

### 3.6. The Place of Work

According to Anon; (1) (nd) the place of work as an agent of socialization provides opportunities of social skills at place of work, people get together and learn from one another. In the place of work people gain social confidence and learn how to interact. It also provides workers with a sense of ease and emotional security. The place of work ensures a sense of belonging the place of work help individuals to increase their knowledge of the culture of society and promotes skills on human relationships.

Mascarenes opines that (2010) opens that when people start a new job in a place of work they may go through formal socialization programme or an on the job training. They get informed socialization though their organizations value outlook as well as written and unwritten codes.

## 4. Failures of Socialization Process

According to Due (nd) socialization have series of problems which include the following;

- Culture cannot be understood completely: no individual can know and put into practice all norms of the group of society. The expected group of socialization is no doubt conformity. But some deviation from what is considered proper behaviours are always found everywhere. In fact, some amount of deviation is allowed everyone due to inevitability.
- Damageto the self-image: the lack of self-image always cripples learning or task performance. For example, some years ago, it was found that in schools the black children had lower self- esteem than white children and this was reflected in the poorer performance of black children.
- Failure of socialization and mental illness due to communication block parents do not allow children to identify and control their own reality "children need to develop such control if they are to reject false label that others may apply to them and to other feelings.
- Resistance to excessive control: Teenagers who got little support but great deal of control was often found to be non-conformist particularly in religious matter many children rebelled by adopting values that were opposed to those of their parents and the large society.

## 5. Failures to Prepare Children to Face the Challenges of Life Cycle

Socialization often fails to prepare people for the challenges of life cycle in most of the civilized societies it does not equip people properly for the challenges of adolescence. The media for example, glorify the virtues of sexual satisfaction and the value of money.

### 5.1. Ways Out

- Parents should try their possible best to inculcate culture to their children to make them put into practice all the norms of the group of society to avoid cultural deviation.
- There could be no lower level of self-esteem among the black children, it would appear that "black life" and black consciousness have to change so that black children no longer see themselves as inferior.
- Children must learn how to use anger, joy and sorrow to deal with tension. In this way they will be able to manage both the internal world and the external ones.
- Successful socialization requires the parents to be supportive to their children and at the same time controlling.
- The civilized societies should therefore equip people properly for the challenges of adolescence.

## 6. Conclusion

Socialization is important in the process of personality formation. While much of human personality is the result of our genes, the socialization process can mold it in particular directions by encouraging specific beliefs and attitudes as well as selectively providing experiences. Successful socialization can result in uniformity within a society. If all children receive the same socialization. It is likely that they will share the same beliefs and expectation.

The socialization process has an enormous impact on children and teens in the context of learning process. Family, school, peers, mass media, religion, work place, and volunteer groups each play a role in the collective process we term education. Parent must recognize each this agent of socialization maximize the role of education in our children lives. Anything less is an abdication of our responsibility as adult role models for our children and for future generations.

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