
UNIT 10 EDUCATION AND SOCIALIZATION

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10.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous Unit, you have read about how 'education' facilitates social development in the children. Hence, education is the core component that brings social change in the society. You have also understood that children in society differ from each other in terms of gender, family, social environment, class, caste and racial backgrounds. They are exposed to different child rearing practices that are known to have a permanent influence on their personality and cognitive abilities. Due to such practices adopted by family members and social environment, the children become socialized. In this Unit, we seek to understand the manner in which socialization of children takes place. The unit will focus on the role of different agencies like Family, School, Community, Peers and Media on socialization of children. In addition to this, the unit will throw light on various other factors influencing socialization of children.

10.2 OBJECTIVES

After going through this Unit, you should be able to:

- comprehend the meaning and process of socialization;
- list down different agencies of socialization;
- analyze the role of family, school, community, media and peer group in socialization of the children; and
- identify various other factors influencing socialization of the children.

10.3 EDUCATION AS A PROCESS OF SOCIALIZATION

You are aware that society is nothing but a set of institutions. All social institutions define the pattern of relationships and behaviour expected of the persons who belong to them. The principal social institutions are concerned with regulation of economic, political, familial, educational and religious aspects of human life.

Specifically, the institution of education is involved in preparing people to fit into the complex social structure through the process of socialization. It helps the child to grow up for the future roles of adult life. Children have to learn and understand the roles to be as fathers or mothers, teachers or civil servants, shopkeepers or priests. They have to learn to be members of more than one institutional group also. Therefore, the child needs to prepare him or her to take multiple roles through the process of socialization in general and education in particular. Education in this context may be informal education received in the family or from the peer groups or formal education received in the school.

The society establishes schools for the provision of education for its members. Child learns manners, habits, friendship, patterns of behaviour and other social processes in the society. We use language which has got significant importance in the society. Accordingly, the children have to learn all these social processes, and then s/he would achieve proper development of his/her personality. In simple words, we can say that “socialization refers to the process by which persons acquire the knowledge, skills and dispositions that make them able members of the society”. Socialization is the process by which the new generation learns the knowledge, attitudes and values that they will need to become as productive citizens in the society. It is the process by which an individual becomes a recognized and valued member through his/her interaction with the social environment.

Socialization cannot take place in vacuum. Individuals, groups and institutions create the social context for socialization to take place. It is through these agencies that we learn and incorporate the values and norms of our culture. They also account for our positions in the social structure with respect to class, race and gender. The habits, skills, beliefs and standard of judgment that we learn in the socialization process enable us to become functional members of a society.

At the time of birth, the human child knows nothing about what we call society or social behaviour. As the child grows up, s/he keeps learning not just about the physical world, but about what it means to be a good or bad person in the society. Socialization can be defined as the process whereby the child gradually becomes a self-aware, knowledgeable person; skilled in the ways of the culture into which s/he is born. Indeed without socialization, an individual would not act like a human being. While socialization has an important impact on individuals, it is not a kind of cultural programming, in which the child absorbs passively the influences with which he or she comes into contact.

Education, both formal and informal, plays a large role in the socialization of the children. Accordingly, various theories regarding its nature and objective have come into being. Let us now examine some of the significant functions of education.

- **To complete the socialization process:** The main social objective of education is to complete the socialization process. The school and other

institutions have come into being in place of family to complete the socialization process. Now, the people feel that it is, “the school’s business to train the whole child even to the extent of teaching him/her honesty, fair play, consideration for others and a sense of right and wrong”. The school devotes much of its time and energy to the matters such as cooperation, good citizenship, doing one’s duty and upholding the law, patriotic sentiments are instilled directly through textbooks and indirectly through celebration of programs. The nation’s past is glorified, its legendary heroes respected and its military ventures justified.

- **Formation of social personality:** Individual must have personalities shaped or fashioned in the ways that fit into the culture. Education everywhere has the function of the formation of social personalities. Education helps in transmitting culture through proper molding of social personalities.
- **Education for occupational placement:** Education should help the adolescents for earning their livelihood. Education must prepare the students for future occupational positions. The youth should be enabled to play a productive role in the society.
- **To transmit the cultural heritage:** Transmitting cultural heritage is also one of the important functions of education. Culture here refers to a set of belief and skills, art, literature, philosophy, religion, music etc. that are not carried through the mechanism of heredity, these must be learned. This social heritage (culture) must be transmitted through social organizations. Education has this function of culture transmission in all societies.
- **Reformation of attitudes:** Education aims at construction of positive attitudes among the children. For various reasons, the child may have absorbed a host of attitude, beliefs and disbeliefs, loyalties and prejudices, jealousy and hatred, etc. which need to be reformed. It is the function of education to see that unfounded beliefs, prejudices and unreasoned loyalties are removed from the child’s mind. Though the school has its own limitations in this regard, it is expected to continue its efforts in reforming the attitudes of the child.

Activity 1

Socializing, has been discussed as one of the functions of education in the above section, now you mention the other educational functions that would you suggest for socializing the child.

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10.4 AGENCIES OF SOCIALIZATION

The child is socialized by several agencies and institutions in which she/he participates, viz. family, school, community, peer group, neighborhood and occupational group and by social class, caste, religion and region etc. The details about different agencies of socialization are as follows:

10.4.1 Family and Socialization

As a social institution, the family has to perform the function of socialization. The family teaches the accepted ways of behaviour within the group to the child. Through it, the children are grown and molded into the patterns of life of the society. The children learn the patterns of behaviour that are needed to lead a good life in the society. They learn their roles and the roles of others and thus their socialization takes place.

In the education of the child, the family plays the most important role. Child borns in a family and this is the first agency through which s/he gets education on sociability. The family is a primary social group. It is the first and the most important agency of socialization. Family is the basic unit of society. Child comes in contact with the mother, father, brothers, sisters, grandfather and grandmother etc. and the qualities like love, sympathy, cooperation, tolerance, consideration and so many other qualities are first learnt in the family. All these members transmit the family ideals to the child. The social and moral development of the child emerges during his/her early life in the family only. S/he becomes conversant with traditions, customs etc. from the family members. Living with family, the child gets the primary knowledge about set of desirable and undesirable behaviors.

Family plays a pivotal role in the socialization of the child. The details in this context are as follows:

- Parents have a regulating effect as well as their influence on the behaviour of their children. It has been found that delinquency in the children is often the result of rejection of the children by their parents. In some families, a typical situation exists such as, the parents reject the child but show too much affection to him. This state is described as that of overt acceptance and covert rejection. In such situation, the child's confidence is undermined; initiative and enterprise abilities are arrested with disapproval. The children withdraw themselves and their socialization become extremely difficult. On the other hand, a caring and loving attitude with appropriate discipline helps in positive behaviour and attitude development among the children.
- Education of the child can never takes place in a desirable manner till the cooperation of the family is forth coming. A child spends about one fourth of time in the school out of twenty four hours. The rest of the time of the day s/he spends with his/her family. Therefore, a great responsibility for his/her education lies upon the family besides any other agencies.
- First of all, the children express their interests and hatred in their family. If the family encourages good things and discourages bad, it hugely helps in positive growth of the interests among the children. But for this, it is necessary that the family environment remains peaceful and healthy.

The family transforms an infant into a mature member of human community and acts as the first medium for transmitting culture to the children. It is the family that provides affection, protection and socialization which are the basic sources for a child during the crucial years. It is also the time when he/she learns the basic behavioural patterns, habits, attitudes, customs and conventions while interacting with family members. The family instills in him/her desirable social attitudes and mould in a manner that suits the family status and reputation.

Functioning of the family has irreplaceable importance in the process of socialization of the individuals in the family orient the child to initial human behaviour patterns and initial interpersonal relationships. The process of socialization remains informal at this level. Some sociologists refer to family as a mini society that acts as a transmission belt between the individual and the society. You may have observed how child rearing practices differ from family to family. Each child is unique and is uniquely inducted to the culture of his family. But there is a common consensus that warm parent-child relationship contributes to positive development outcomes. A nurturing relationship, where parents are sensitive to the needs of their children and stimulate their curiosity, can contribute positive ways to socialize them. The child’s upbringing by the family members contributes to developing respect for elders, tolerance, and adaptability.

The important position of the family education can never be denied because it is the first and lifelong for each person. Different children from different families bear sophisticated characteristics. For children, the families are the first socialized environments. Families help children to aware of what is right and what is wrong’ and stimulate their mind with lots of encouragements and praise; for example when the children do right things such as greeting parents while they come home from work, giving feet and hands a clean wash, taking medicine when seek etc. On the other hand, if socialization in the family is done in the backdrop of mistrust, autocracy and conflicts, children growing up in such family would develop anti-social behaviour. However, it may be noted that many other factors like size of the family, socio-economic background, occupation of parents, over parenting, parental negligence, and parental pressure all can both positively and negatively influence socialization of the children. The child’s behaviours that adults in the family encourage or discourage and the type of discipline that they impose upon also impact child’s orientation to life.

Check Your Progress 10.1

- Note:** a) Write your answer in the space given below.
 b) Compare your answers with the ones that are given at the end of the Unit.

1. Name various agencies of socialization.

2. What values children learn from family?

10.4.2 School and Socialization

School is a very important agent of socialization. School is in a position to familiarize the children with social culture and inspire them to construct a new society after the evaluation of social customs. School is also a kind of society. Here social interaction continues among students and principal, as well teachers and principal. The child's socialization takes a turn when s/he goes to the school. Only through school education, students become familiar about social responsibilities as social being. School provides democratic climate which helps children to acquire democratic norms. Children learn how to live with democratic norms and how to behave with each other which help in his/her socialization. School encourages children to participate in various kinds of co-curricular activities. These activities help children to develop leadership among them. The school provides social environment before children by organizing community work, social service camps, social functions and annual functions, so that all the social norms and values namely; sympathy, co-operation, tolerance, social awareness can be developed among them.

In the schools, the teacher is an important socializing agent. The teacher can exert socializing influence on her/his pupils. This can be done by: (a) motivating the students to engage in intellectual activities, (b) providing students with feedback about behaviour and offering them suggestions about desirable ways of behaving, (c) presenting his/her own example to the students to follow so far as role prescriptions and role taking are concerned, and (d) giving knowledge of various positions in the society and preparing children for role-behaviour.

- a. At the pre-primary school level, the great accent is put on developing good manners and etiquettes, etc. There is major emphasis on training the children to become less dependent on their parents and siblings. Children are trained to imbibe and practice equality by sharing of toys, play material, etc.
- b. At elementary school level, efforts are made to become responsible citizens of the school community. Work habits are inculcated among students so that they are trained to cooperate with fellow students as well as to obey the teachers. All this provides experiences of relationship with the seniors as well as with equals.
- c. At the higher secondary stage, the greatest emphasis is put on achievement both scholastic and co-scholastic abilities. Children develop various skills and aptitude which enable them to plan their future life. The peer group relationships and development of adaptive skills for emphasizing proper socialization process.
- d. A particular class in the school provides innumerable opportunities to the children to move and mix with an egalitarian group. Here children get many chances to mix-up without any distinction of caste, colour or creed. However, the teacher needs to be cautious about unhealthy behavioral practices like untouchability.

In schools, children belonging to different families read together, interact in various patterns and imbibe various traditions of the society. Participation in educational and social functions of the school also inculcates social qualities, attitudes, habits and patterns of behaviour in children, which brings about their socialization. Thus, we can say that school is very significant agency which helps in bringing socialization

of children. The children without adequate schooling lack in terms of various attitudes, skills and behaviour needed to lead a good and healthy life.

10.4.3 Community and Socialization

In simple words, a community may be defined as a cluster of people living within a small area and sharing a common way of life to a considerable extent.

The community comprises a group of people living in the same territory under common laws who have a sense of fellow feeling among themselves. The community is structured with the following functions: production, consumption, socialization, social control, social participation, and mutual support. The community influences the process of socialization through available adult role models. Certain social and personal factors, such as the neighborhood setting and patterns of community interaction, influence socialization.

Community is an important informal and active agency of socialization. Just as the family and school have a great influence upon the child, much in the same way the community also modifies the behaviour of child through social contacts, group activities and group dynamics in such a way that the child begins to participate in all the desirable activities of the community of which s/he is an integral part. In fact, the child does not develop in the environment of his/her family alone; the environment of the community also moulds and modifies the behaviour of the child according to his / her ideas, ideals and goals. It is the miracle of community environment alone in which the child develops his/her language and standard of living. In brief, the community environment exerts its impressions upon the developing children in all perceptible and imperceptible ways. Since each community has its own culture, we find a great difference in the culture and behaviour patterns of children belonging to different communities. Every community has its various needs and problems. When the needs are met and the problems are solved, the standard of community rises higher. This progress goes on gradually and continually. On the contrary, a community which is unable to provide right type of education to its members remains stagnant with the result that its progress is blocked and stunted.

Community involvement influences children's socialization. The community is a socializing agent because it is the place where children learn the role expectations for adults as well as for themselves. Community is an important agency of socialization and education. It is child's laboratory, which provides him/her firsthand learning experiences of different kinds. The community with its various resources can enrich and supplement learning of social values and skills. Communities socialize the child through its various institutions. It provides concrete, seeable and tangible resources which are dynamic, interesting and meaningful for the children. Various social functions and community activities such as fairs, festivals, functions, and ceremonies, etc. provide ample opportunities to children to participate wholeheartedly in it and develop socially desirable qualities among themselves.

All these activities stimulate children to imbibe social ideas and a spirit of social service more and more with the result that they learn about the social customs, traditions and beliefs in a natural way. They offer the child an opportunity to participate in them and to acquire a firsthand knowledge of social life, social service and social sense. They also learn the socially desirable values namely sympathy, co-operation, tolerance, sacrifice and adjustment. Not only that, through contacts with the other members of the community, children also learn very deeply

that duties and rights, freedom and discipline are greatly essential for the natural and wholesome development of their personality that exerts a great influence of the social development of the children. Through socialization in the community, child understands that rights involve duties and freedom implies restraint. It remains no secret that every member of the community is responsible for its good name and welfare. In short, we can say that community develops civic virtues among children and inculcates spirit of service, sacrifice and cooperation among them.

Check Your Progress 10.2

Note: a) Write your answer in the space given below.

b) Compare your answers with the ones that are given at the end of the Unit.

3. How teacher's role helps in socialization of the children?

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4. Community is laboratory for practicing social values. Comment.

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10.4.4 Media and Socialization

Today, the dynamics of rapid changes can be felt in every society and every institution. This necessitates the forging of new social forms and new methods of communication like mass media. The mass media is a vehicle for spreading information on a massive scale and reaching to a vast audience or a large number of people. The mass media comprises the print media such as books, newspapers, magazines, etc., and also non-print media such as radio, television, and movies as well social media. The goal is to reach out to the mass or large number of people without establishing any personal contact between senders and receivers. It spreads into all aspects of society, be it political, linguistic, cultural or spiritual. Mass media had become one of the most powerful forces that connect people to other people. Because of this, mass media can be considered as a significant agent of socialization.

In a developing country like ours, television and internet have become very important agencies of socialization. The influence of television on the young minds can be seen at present. Internet and smart phones are increasingly establishing commonness and connectedness among people all over the world. Now children are getting exposed to a world beyond their homes and community to the global community and are being socialized in such a way that they fit into a global world. Social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, You Tube that open up a new world altogether and expose the child's mind into different cultures that s/he did not know and are introduced to a whole new world. Mass media helps children in forming own kind of beliefs and what realities they shall choose

to promote because the impact of media, both in content and in process, on all areas of society is undeniable. Every sector of life is touched and influenced by the power of mass media. Mass media attract children to certain social beliefs by persuasion and selectively appropriating their messages. Social media programs are helpful to make connections with one's family members, friends, classmates, clients or customers. It provides a platform for people to share their common interests, likes and dislikes and build social contacts. This is facilitated by multimedia and the new electronic communication technologies, such as email and other internet based services.

It is a fact that the role of mass media as agents of socialization has been both strengthened and changed by the modernization of the world. Technology had increased the spread of mass media's reach. People spend most of their time in touch with the world through the different forms of mass media. Sometimes, the time allotted to other agents of socialization is even sacrificed just to give time to the usage of mass media.

Media is one of the most significant agents of socialization that help people in their formation of beliefs and norms. The power of mass media had allowed it to penetrate the lives of more people and therefore influence how they act and think. Mass media had redefined our social role and the realities of our lives are also dependent on what we gain from the different forms of media. It is through mass media that we learn more about our world and what are its realities. It is also through mass media that we form our own opinions and stands. Social deviance is also a result of different agents of socialization because these deviances are formed by the beliefs of the people. Social deviance is also given more exposure by mass media because of the way deviance mainstream to popular culture.

10.4.5 Peer Group and Socialization

Another socializing agency for a child is the peer group. Peer groups are friendship groups of children of a similar age. The word 'peer' means 'equal'. Peer group is constituted by members who have some common characteristics such as age (same stage of development and maturity) or sex, etc. In some cultures, particularly small traditional societies, peer groups are formalized as age-grades. Even without formal age-grades, children over four or five usually spend a great deal of time in the company of friends of the same age. There is a greater amount of give and take as compared to the dependence inherent in the family situation. In peer groups, a different kind of interaction, within which rules of behaviour can be tested out and explored.

Peer relationships often remain important throughout a person's life. Informal groups of similar ages in various contexts are usually of enduring importance in shaping individuals' attitudes and behaviour. Peers may also have interests and social positions in common and hold close social proximity. For young adolescents, acceptance by peers is the most important aspect of socialization. Therefore, they exhibit willingness to conform to the peer group and foster loyalty. Peer group influence may be traced from the time a child is three or so when s/he begins to mingle with people outside the immediate family. From such an early age, children form meaningful relationships with their peers, who seem to exert influence on them. Since they mostly belong to the same age group, they tend to interact freely without inhibitions. This type of constant socialization with the peer group helps the children acquire very important lessons. By becoming part of a peer group,

children begin to break away from their parents' authority and learn to make friends and take decisions on their own. If you watch children at play, you may observe how they incorporate various strategies like negotiation, dominance, leadership, cooperation, compromise, etc. without any directions from elders. Peer socialization equips them with the ability to understand the nuances of group interaction and act accordingly.

Peer influence is such that some children begin to challenge the dominant power of parents and family. It overshadows the parental influence as time goes on especially in the adolescent stage. When children realize that the standards of their peer group are not similar to the standards upheld by family, they feel disillusioned. In rapidly changing societies, parents are often heard complaining that their children are becoming more and more rebellious. This is true because the child refuses to accept parental authority blindly.

In nutshell, we can say that peer group also helps in learning of social values, skills and formations of social beliefs and attitudes among children. Therefore, it can be considered as an important agent of socialization.

Check Your Progress 10.3

Note: a) Write your answer in the space given below.

b) Compare your answers with the ones that are given at the end of the Unit.

5. Social media has both positive and negative impact on socialization of children. How far do you agree to the statement? Give reason.

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6. Peer group can socialize the child in both positive & negative directions. Comment.

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**10.5 OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCING
SOCIALIZATION OF CHILDREN**

Apart from these major socializing factors, there are many other factors that help in socialization of children. A brief explanation about such factors is given below:

Sports: Sports also help socialize the child. There is a natural display of social interaction in sports. It is in the sports that a spirit of healthy struggle and competition

is displayed. 'Defeat or victory should not create ill-will', this feeling is created by play. It facilitates natural development of feeling of cooperation among the players. There is no discrimination on the basis of caste and community in the sports and games.

Rear and Care of Child: Careful upbringing of the child is very helpful in the process of socialization. If family environment is not soothing for the child and s/he is not getting proper care and attention from his/her parents, s/he may develop anti-social tendencies. It happens when family is broken or there is tension between father and mother or child is an orphan from any side. Such children are vulnerable to social maladjustment.

Sympathy and Love: A drastic change can be brought in a child just by a word of sympathy and love. During infancy and early childhood, a child is fully dependent on his/her family and other relatives. If child is sympathetically and lovingly dealt with by kith and kin, s/he will behave with others in the same manner.

Strict Supervision: For successful socialization, strict supervision by the family members is necessary. Child may commit many things wrong just in order to get pleasure of doing. Hence, if his activities are properly monitored, he will not be able to develop anti-social behaviour.

Cooperation: Cooperation given to the child creates 'we' feeling in him. He comes to know that any difficult task can be fulfilled very easily if cooperative and united efforts are there. In this way, child also extends hands of cooperation for other members of the society.

Advice: A child generally acts in accordance with the suggestions given by his/her well-wishers. If suggestions are given timely, s/he does not face the negative consequences of his/her actions. It will improve process of socialization and lead to a better socialization.

Religion: Religion has important contribution with regard to the socialization of child. As the child interacts with other children belonging to his/her own religion and the children having faith in other religions, s/he inculcates sympathy, cooperation, respect for the sentiments of others, fellow-feeling and attitude of adjustment leading to socialization in the true sense.

Social Category: The social category/caste of children tries to socialize them according to its specific ideals, attitude, customs, traditional and culture. This is the reason why the process of socialization of children belonging to different castes is different and apparently visible.

Neighbourhood: Neighbourhood is like a wider and enlarged family. If the neighbourhood is wholesome, constructive and conducive; then, socialization of child will be in a positive direction. On the contrary, bad neighbourhood is likely to spoil the development and socialization of children.

In addition to these factors, physical factors in the community have impact on socialization. Such factors are: population density and characteristics, noise, arrangement and types of houses, and play settings. Economic factors in a community also play a central role in shaping the daily lives and socialization of the children.

Activity 2

How the following factors influence the socialization of the child?

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Religion

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Neighbourhood

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Social Category

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10.6 LET US SUM UP

After reading this Unit, you would have come to know about the meaning and process of socialization. Socialization is a big factor in shaping children to become who they are. Our social relations help us in forming our individuality and sense of self towards others. Socialization is the process whereby we learn and internalize the values, beliefs, and norms of our culture. The process of socialization is not an overnight development, but, it is a continuous process that starts from the birth of the child. For socializing the children, various agencies such as family, school, community, media and peer play a very vital role. When children come in contact with family members, they get socialized and develop positive attitude towards others, further, when they grow up, they get socialized themselves coming contact with peers, school, community members, media, etc. Therefore, all the above agencies help socialize the children in due course of time and enable them to develop desirable attitude and shape their personalities.

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10.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. Family, School, Community, Media, Peer Group, etc.
2. Respect for elders, tolerance, adaptability, sensitivity towards others, etc.
3. Teacher's role help in socializing the child in the following ways: motivating the students to engage in intellectual activities; providing students with feedback about behaviour and offering them suggestions about desirable ways of behaving; presenting his / her own example to the students to follow so far as role prescriptions and role taking are concerned; and giving knowledge of various positions in the society and preparing children for role-behaviour.
4. Self-exercise.
5. Self-exercise.
6. Self-exercise.