Socialization: Shaping the Mentality of Human Beings

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Abstract

Socialization is the process by which, the individual internalizes culture and becomes an active participant in the society .It is the process whereby an infant gradually becomes self aware, knowledgeable person, skilled in the ways of culture, into which he or she born. Therefore, socialization process is the most essential phenomena in human beings, through which, a person learns all aspects. Socialization is one of the most important social processes in every human society. Without socialization the human beings would not be able to participate on group life and develop the human characteristics.

In this paper, the gender socialization and some problems have been discussed and importance of socialization has been explored. This paper emphasizes, how society interacts and influences the individual; and how the individual responds to the society.

Keywords: Socialization, Gender, Culture and Process Socialization

Socialization is the most vital process in all human beings. It shapes the personality of human being. It is a lifelong process, which starts from birth and continues till the death. Therefore, human being cannot exist in society without socialization. Human being learns all the aspects of life from the process of socialization. Socialization refers to the way, people learn the habits, attitudes, self-conception, group norms and universes of discourse, which enable them to interact with other people in their society and enact different social roles.

As Gillin and Gillin (1950) defines socialization, "By the term socialization we mean the process by which individual develops into functioning members of the group according to its standards, confirming to its modes, observing its traditions and adjusting himself to the social situation." So, socialization process is necessary for all human beings, because they cannot learn the basic needs, the way of interactions and culture.

The culture is total way of life, which plays most critical role in our society. Culture helps in the process of socialization and that's why, it is a

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part and parcel of socialization process in human beings in particular society. How to conduct and interact is learnt by the process of socialization. The habits, attitudes, self-conception and group norms are shaped by socialization process by society. These are soul of our society; social norms are most urgent and key elements of modes of conduct in our society.

Social norm is defined, as a norm for specific guide to action acceptable and appropriate behavior in particular situation. A social norm is the like a court of our society.

It works on two types of norms, first- prescriptive norms, which tells us what we should do. Hence this perspective norm is considered as positive norms.

Some specific tasks concerned to social development occur in during childhood, just like developmental tasks occur cognitive growth. The term 'social' refers to a relationship or interaction between two or more people, who respond to each other and influence each other's behavior. Socialization is an important process in the development of a child. It is the social process whereby an individual's especially children, become functioning members of a particular group and take on the values, behaviors and beliefs of the group's other members.

Process of socialization: Although the process of socialization begins shortly after birth and continues to adulthood, the age of early childhood is a crucial period of socialization. How children are disciplined, how they respond to this discipline, and how they develop independent behavior are all connected to the process in which socialization occurs. Therefore, socialization is the most important element to discipline the children and also young people in our society. It acts as a social control in our society.

Socialization process is found across all the countries in the world; nobody can escape from this process. It is most imperative phenomena in human nature. Now the situation of our society has been drastically changing. The people have been facing manifold problems in their respective society. There are various reasons behind it and here the phenomena of socialization plays a key role in identification and curing the social problems and social evils. There are various kinds of discrimination, injustice, prejudices and social evils prevalent in our society. The learning process of socialization commence from our family, society, peer groups, culture, educational systems and also mass media. So these problems start, from these agencies in human beings. Hence these agencies can be do better role for shaping of good human being and humanitarian society by adopting good manners through socialization in human beings.

Gender socialization: Immediate family is the institution, where socialization begins. In sociology, the main ordering principles of social

life are called institutions, which are a set of norms, that persons are expected to follow in their interactions with each other in a given interactive situation. Gender is a social institution as encompassing the four main institutions of traditional sociology- family, economic condition, religion, and symbolic language. Like these institutions of family, economic condition, religion and language are inter-wind and affect each other reciprocally, as a social institution, gender pervades kinship and family life, work role and organization, the rules of most religions, and the symbolism and meaning of language and other culture representations of human life.

The outcome is gendered social order (Encyclopedia of sociology, 2000, p.1057). Radical feminists argue that, the elimination of patriarchal structure would remove women's oppression. Radical feminism too, has various strands. Its main focus is, to put women in the centre. It focuses attention on male control over female sexuality, violence against women and sexual oppression and politics. In education, male dominance is communicated through curriculum and pedagogy, i.e., through control over knowledge and its reproduction (Chanana, 2001, p.27).

All social behavior is controlled and regulated by parents and siblings in performing their roles in the institutions. Gender socialization enters in to our mind through daily interaction in, family, school, textbooks and curriculum, which have been playing most vital role in shaping of gender. As Dipta Bhog (2002, pp.1639-40) says, equality among sexes is a fundamental right under the constitution of India. Besides making education accessible to more and more girls especially rural girls removing all gender discrimination and gender-bias in school curriculum is absolutely necessary. Moreover it will be most appropriate thing to recognize and nature the best features of each gender in the best Indian tradition.

Stories/narratives create useful meaning in all cultures. By ordering and describing our experiences, they enable us to make sense of the world. The power of language derives from its power to rectify that, which is constructed- precisely at the point where this construction is most questionable in to something that appears natural and self-evident. In one world, language severs to naturalize gender inequality. Therefore it can be said that, social sciences play role in gender sensitization in institutional sphere.

Nandani Manjrekar (2003, p.4577) writes: "Feminists scholars of education in the west have contributed to understanding the relationship between schooling and reproduction of gender relations in capitalist society. They have examined how race identities, and modes of resistance from feminist perspective." Therefore, the school knowledge and policy regarding to gender equality are most essential part of understanding of gender issues in daily life.

As Anil Sadgopal (2003, p.191) says, "Literacy by itself is meaningless unless it is linked with the praxis of conscientisation and social mobilization. The Indian stance will be meaningful only when it is informed by a social cultural and historical perspective on gender." In the context of work – centered curriculum and vocational education and training(VET) courses, it would be useful to recall the following Focus Group on Gender Issues in Education(2006,pp.2-5)".

Gender socialization is the most crucial issue of debate in present scenario in our society. The status of women is not satisfactory in our society; so gender socialization is the most imperative tools for gender equality and it also assist to remove gender bias. Other kind of gender discrimination is present mainly due to lack of social problems as well as social evils are spreading due to lack of socialization in particular society.

Condition of Dalits : The social circumstances of Dalits are also not satisfactory in our society. Still the untouchability has been rampantly practiced in our society. As its consequences the Dalits and lower castes people have to face various problems in their society. Here socialization can play a vital role to remove these kinds of social evil from our society. Socialization shapes the mentality of human being to remove untouchability and discrimination of lower castes at mental level.

Conclusion: Socialization is the most important factor in our life. The human beings behave and do action rightly in good manner. It is a tool to curb various types of social problems and provides learning of interaction and response to other people ; gender discrimination and wrong conception and behaving towards Dalits and lower castes people can be prevented through the process of socialization in our society.

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