

Department of Political Science
Paper: General Sociology II
6th semester (Major)

Topic: Importance of Socialisation

Socialisation is important in the process of personality formation. While much of human personality is the result of our genes, the socialisation process can mold it in particular directions by encouraging specific beliefs and attitudes as well as selectively providing experiences. This very likely accounts for much of the difference between the common personality types in one society in comparison to another.

The process of socialisation is important from the point of view of society as well as from the point of view of individual. Every society is faced with the necessity of making a responsible member out of each child born into it. The child must learn the expectations of the society so that his behaviour can be relied upon. He must acquire the group norms in order to take the behaviour of others into account. Socialisation means transmission of culture, the process by which men learn the rules and practices of social groups to which belongs. It is through it that a society maintain its social system, transmits its culture from generation to generation.

From the point of view of the individual, socialisation is the process by which the individual learns social behaviour, develops his self. Socialisation plays a unique role in personality development of the individual. It is the process by which the new born individual, as he grows up, acquires the values of the group and is moulded into a social being. Without this no individual could become a person, for if the values, sentiments and ideas of culture are not joined to the capacities and needs of the human organism there could be no human mentality, no human personality.

The child has no self. The self emerges through the process of socialisation. The self, the core of personality, develops out of the child's interaction with others. In the socialisation process the individual learns the culture as well as skills, ranging from language to manual dexterity which will enable him to become a participating member of human society.

Socialisation inculcates basic disciplines, ranging from toilet habits to method of science. In his early years, individual is also socialised with regard to sexual behaviour.

Society is also concerned with imparting the basic goals, aspirations and values to which the child is expected to direct his behaviour for the rest of his life. He learns-the levels to which he is expected to aspire.

Socialisation teaches skills. Only by acquiring needed skills individual fit into a society. In simple societies, traditional practices are handed down from generation to generation and are usually learned by imitation and practice in the course of everyday life. Socialisation is indeed an intricate process in a complex society characterised by increasing

specialisation and division of work. In these societies, inculcating the abstract skills of literacy through formal education is a central task of socialisation.

Another element in socialisation is the acquisition of the appropriate social roles that the individual is expected to play. He knows role expectations, that is what behaviour and values are a part of the role he will perform. He must desire to practise such behaviour and pursue such ends.

Role performance is very important in the process of socialisation. As males, females, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, parents, children, student's teachers and so on, accepted social roles must be learned if the individual is to play a functional and predictable part in social interaction.

In this way man becomes a person through the social influences which he shares with others and through his own ability to respond and weave his responses into a unified body of habits, attitudes and traits. But man is not the product of socialisation alone. He is also, in part, a product of heredity. He generally possesses, the inherited potential that can make him a person under conditions of maturation and conditioning.
