

B. A. Part - I - SOCIOLOGY Paper - I (Principles of Sociology)

Topic : Socialization : Meaning, Stages,
Types, Agencies
College : Magadh Mahila College, Patna
(Department of Sociology)

By : Dr. Archana Kumari
Email ID : archnakumari706@gmail.com
Mob. No. : 9835638936
Date : 18th April 2020

SOCIALIZATION

● **Introduction**

Man is not only social but also cultural. It is the culture that provides opportunities for man to develop the personality. Development of personality is not an automatic process. Every society prescribes its own ways and means of giving social training to its new born members so that they may develop their own personality.

This social training is called 'Socialization'. The act of adapting behaviour to the norms of a culture or society is called socialization. Socialization can also mean going out and meeting people or hanging out with friends. The word socialization can mean. "The process of making social".

It is a life long process that occurs primarily through human interaction. Among the most important agencies of socialization is family school and peer group.

Lundberg explains socialization by a formula :

Person × Society = Social Behaviour = Socialization

Example :

When your parents teach you how to use a toilet or behave politely, when your teachers teach you about your country's history, when a priest teaches you to behave a certain way (i.e. listen to God's Commandments). You are being socialized. When you are being socialized, you are taking part in a learning process.

● **Definitions**

"Socialization is the process of working together, of developing group responsibility, of being guided by the welfare needs of others". – Bogardus

"Socialization is the process by which the child acquires a cultural content along with selfhood and personality." – A.W. Green

"Socialization is learning that enables the learner to perform social roles". – H.M. Johnson

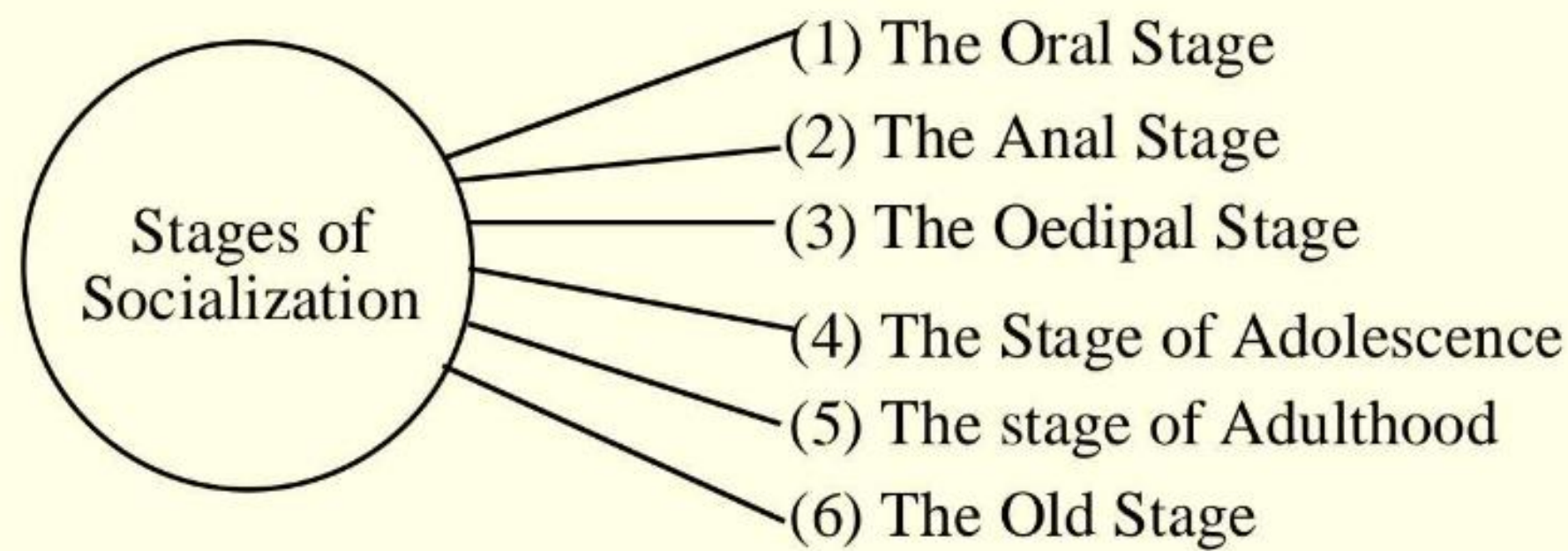
● **Characteristics of Socialization**

- (1) Process of Learning
- (2) Life Long Process
- (3) Related to time and space
- (4) Development of the self
- (5) Process of becoming a functioning member of Society
- (6) Cultural Transmission

● **Process and Stages of Socialization :**

Every man tries to adjust himself to the conditions of his social environment. This process of adjustment. This process of adjustment is itself socialization. The social order is maintained largely by socialization, Individuals learn to conform to the norms of the group. This helps the group to maintain its order. Socialization is a process of transforming the human animal into a human being, of converting the biological being into a social being.

Socialization consists of six stages from infancy to Old Age. There are –



(1) **The Oral Stage :** This stage begin with the birth of the child and continues upto the completion of one year. In this stage for everything the child cries a great deal. By means of crying the child establishes its oral dependency. The child here develops some definite expectations about the feeding time. The child also learns to give signals for his felt needs. In this stage the child is involved in himself and his mother. For the other members of the family the child is little more than a possession.

Freud Called this stage – The stage of “Primary identification”. It means the child merges his identity with that of the mother.

(2) **The Anal stage :** The second stage normally begins soon after the first year and is completed during the third year. It is here that the child learns that he cannot depend entirely on the mother and that he has to take some degree of care for himself. “Toilet training” is the main focus of new concern. The child is taught to do some tasks such as toileting, keeping clothes clean etc. The child in this stage internalises two separate roles – his own role and that of his mother. The child receives ‘care’ and also ‘love’ from the mother and learns to give love in return. The child is enable to distinguish between correct and incorrect actions. The correct action is rewarded and the incorrect action is not rewarded but punished.

(3) **The Oedipal or Identification stage :** This stage mostly starts from the fourth year of the child and extends upto 12 or 13 years. It is in this stage the child becomes the member of the family as a whole. It is here the child has to identify himself with the social role ascribed to him on the basis of his sex. According to Freud, the boy develops the ‘Oedipus Complex’ – the falling of jealousy towards father and love towards mother. In the same way, the girl develops the “Electra complex” –the feeling of jealousy towards the mother and love towards the father. Freud believed that the feelings are mainly sexual. In this period interest in the opposite sex tends to be suppressed for the boy or girl is busy with learning various skills.

(4) **The stage of Adolescence :** It is a most important stage of socialization which begins near about 12 – 13 years till 20 – 21 years. It is a transition stage from childhood to maturity during which new patterns of behaviour are developed to meet the demands of both the larger and more diversified life of his peers and of the adult society.

(5) **The stage of Adulthood :** According to Johnson – Adulthood is considered to be attained when a person can support himself or herself entirely independently of the parental family.... Full adulthood implies the ability to form a family of one's own life.

It is a period of greater stress and strain. During this period, one has to take many life decisions – about the choice of marriage partners, about the choice of occupation, etc. It is a very critical stage of life.

(6) **The Old Stage :** This is the final stage of socialization. While old age has typically been regarded as beginning at 60 or 65 but this definition of old age is not universally accepted. At this time many people begin restricting their occupational duties and preparing for retirement. In this age the mind, as well as the body, seems to lose its suppleness. They had a great role in socialising the younger children in the family. In such individuals socialization may continue actively to the end of life.

● **Types of Socialization :**

Socialization is a life long process. There are various types of Socialization :

(1) **Primary Socialization :** Primary socialization refers to socialization of the infant in the primary or earliest years of his life. It is a process by which the infant learns language and cognitive skills, internalise norms and values. The infant learns the ways of a given grouping and is moulded into an effective social participant of the group.

(2) **Secondary Socialization :** The growing child learns very important lessons in social conduct from his peers. he also learns lessons in the school. Secondary socialization generally refers to the social training received by the child in institutional or formal settings and continues throughout the rest of his life.

(3) **Developmental Socialization :** The kind of learning is based on the achievements or primary socialization, “It builds on already required skills and knowledge as the progresses through new situations such as marriage or new jobs. These require new expectations, obligations, and roles. New learning is added to and blended with old in a relatively smooth and continuous process of development”. – Robertson

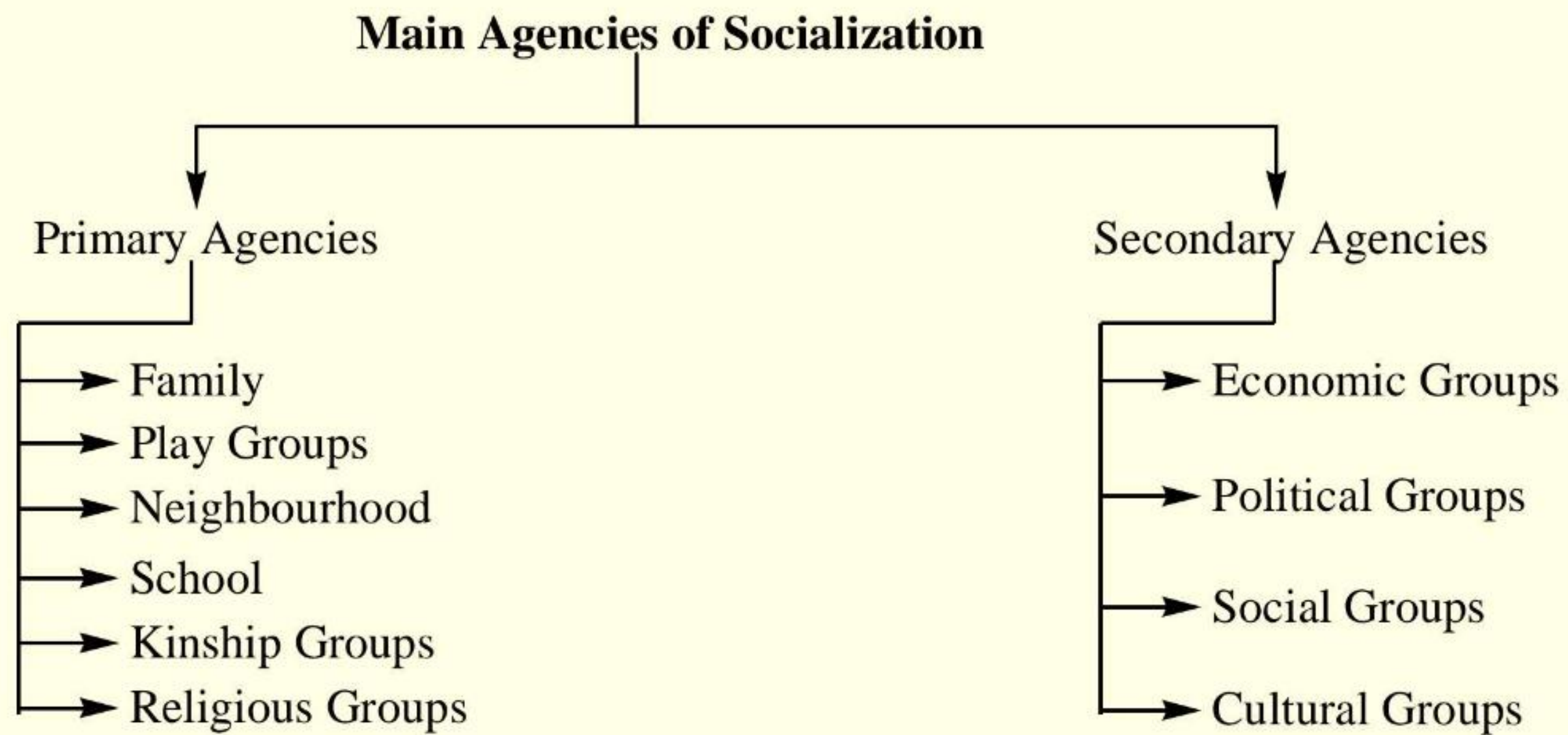
(4) **Re – Socialization :** Re – Socialization refers to the process of discarding former behaviour patterns and accepting new ones as part of a transition in one's life. Such re-socialization takes place mostly when a social role is radically changed.

Example :

When a criminal is rehabilitated, he has to change his role radically.

(5) **Anticipatory Socialization :** Anticipatory Socialization refers to a process by which men learn the culture of a group with the anticipation of joining that group. As a person learns the proper beliefs, value and normals of a status or group to which he aspires, he is learning how to act in this new role.

- (6) **Positive Socialization** : This Socialization is the type of social learning that is based on pleasurable and exciting experiences., Positive socialization occurs when desirable behaviours are reinforced with a reward, encouraging the individual to continue exhibiting similar behaviours in the future.
- (7) **Negative Socialization** : This socialization occurs when others use punishment harsh criticisms or anger to try to “teach us a lesson”, and often we come to dislike both negative socialization and the people who impose it on us.



- **Conclusion** : To conclude environment stimuli often determine the growth of human personality. A proper environment may greatly determine whether the social or the self centred forces will become supreme. Individual’s social environment facilitates socialization. If his mental and physical capacities are not good, he may not be able to make proper use of environment. however, the family plays perhaps the important part in the process of socialization.

The child learns much from the family. After family his playmates and school wield influence on his socialisation. After his education is over he enters into a profession. Marriage initiates a person into social responsibility, which is one of aims of socialization. In short the socialization is a process which begins at birth and a continues unceasingly until the death of individual.
