

**Q: Elaborate nature vs nurture debate in the context of socialization. Explain the agents of socialization that play a significant role in personality development. ( 2017, 2018 supplementary, 2020 and 2021 )**

## **Socialization**

### **Introduction:**

Man is not only social but also cultural. It is the culture that provide 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 member so that they may develop their personality. This social training is called socialization.

### **Meaning of Socialization:**

- The activity of mixing with others socially.

### **Definition of Socialization:**

- Socialization is the process whereby original nature is transferred into human nature and the individual into person.
- Socialization is the process through which people learn the expectations of society.
- Socialization is the process of working together , of developing group responsibility, or being guided by welfare needs of others.

### **Agents of Socialization:**

- The Family
- The schools
- Peer Groups
- Mass Media
- Occupation

### **The Family:**

- Family is the first agent of socialization
- Mothers and fathers, siblings and grandparents, plus members of extended family , all teach a child what he or she needs to know.
- The mother with whom the relation of child is the closest plays a significant role in the process of molding the child in the initial stages.
- The child receives extra/additional communications from his elder siblings i.e. brothers and sisters , who have gone through the same process with certain differences due to birth order and to the number and sex ( Male or Female ) of siblings.
- The way in which our parents socialize us depends on many factors, two of the most important of which are our parents' social class and our own biological sex.
- Many studies find that parents raise their daughters and sons quite differently as they interact with them from their birth.

- **For Example:**

- The poor families usually emphasize obedience and conformity when raising their children, while wealthy families emphasize judgement and creativity.

### **The Schools:**

- Children of school age attend schools where they are able to acquire knowledge and skills.
- Schooling enlarges children's social world to include people with backgrounds different from their own.
- Among the manifest functions, the school teach children a wide range of knowledge and skills.
- Schools informally convey other lessons, which might be called the hidden curriculum.
- In schools, they are taught about certain values such as honesty, cooperation, obedience, responsibility, respect and team work etc.
- They are also taught rules like being punctual and regular, being submissive to authority and not cheating during exams etc.
- All of these teach the growing child the right way to behave in society.
- The school is the agent of socialization through which culture is formally transmitted from generation to generation.

### **The Peer Groups:**

- Another agent of socialization that relates to school is peer group. Unlike the agents we have already discussed-family and school-peer group give us an opportunity as a children to form relationship with others on our own terms, plus learn things without the direction of an adult.
- A peer group is made up of people who are similar in age and social status and who share interests.
- Every growing child randomly learns some values, habits, characters from his peers ( friends, schoolmates and playmates etc).
- This means that children can influence one another positively and negatively.
- That is why it is important to keep good friends and stay away from bad friends.
- This is also why parents and guardians keep watch over who their children and wards make and keep as friends.

### **The Mass Media:**

- The mass media are another agent of socialization.
- Mass media has increasingly become an essential part of our daily life. People learn a lot what they watch , hear and read. The mass media is therefore a very effective agent of socialization.
- It includes radio, television, newspapers, magazines, films, books and the internet.
- Through mass media we can get information on different things like development in science and technology, cultural heritage, moral attitudes, religion, drug abuse, political and economic issues and many more.
- Television shows movies, popular music, magazines, web sites and other aspects of mass media influence our political view, our taste in popular culture, our view of women, people of color and many other beliefs and practices.
- The information gotten can influence our behavior positively or negatively.

### **Religion:**

- Religion plays a significance role in the socialization of most Pakistanis.
- Religion has been an Important factor in society. In the early society religion provided a bond of unity.
- Though in modern society the importance of religion has diminished, yet it continues to mould our beliefs and way of life.
- In every family some or other religious practice are observed on one or other occasion.
- The child sees his parents going to the mosque and performing religious ceremonies.
- He listen to religious sermons which may determine his course of life and shape of ideas.
- Most children are exposed to beliefs and teaching of one religion or the other from birth.
- As they grew older, they depend on the spiritual knowledge they have gained by themselves and from religious institutions like the church and mosque, to live the right way.

### **Neighborhood:**

- Neighborhood plays an important part in our socialization with reference to social interaction. If it is a part of group life, an individual's early life is affected.
- In village, neighborhood has depth and nearness and its effects resembles those of a family.

### **State:**

- Sociologists are accepting the fact that in the modern age, the state is becoming more important at every stage with reference to socialization.
- Before industrial society. There was a difference between an individual and the state but now this case is reversed totally and it has to begun to affect our family decision.

### **Importance of Socialization:**


- Socialization is just as essential to us as individuals. Social interaction provides the means via which we become able to see ourselves through the eyes of others, learning who we are and how we are fit into the world around us.
- Socialization, especially in the school helps individuals to acquire knowledge and skills what they can use for a long time.
- With the knowledge and skills, they can perform certain roles in society.

## Nature vs Nurture debate in the context of socialization


# NATURE VS NURTURE

If you talk about psychology with your friends, colleagues, or other people you meet, you might find yourself in the middle of a Nature vs Nurture debate.

MEANING	MEANING
NATURE refers to genetics and all the factors that are inherited.	NURTURE refers to the variables of the environment: things you get from the world around you after you are born.
EXAMPLES	EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The nature of the individual plays a big role.</li><li>• Nature has endowed her with beauty and intelligence.</li><li>• She had never seen the pettish side of his nature before.</li><li>• She was nicknamed Sunny because of her happy nature.</li><li>• Violence is abhorrent to his gentle nature.</li><li>• She trusted people. That was her nature.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The nurture is what shapes the individual's character.</li><li>• They feel nurture is of infinitely greater importance than nature.</li><li>• The antagonism between nature and nurture controls their fate.</li><li>• So our crying level may reflect more nature than nurture.</li><li>• The womb is the ultimate safe haven and the ultimate symbol of care and nurture.</li><li>• Is psychopathy due to nature or nurture?</li></ul>



There is a small trick that might help you never get these two words mixed up. Think of the word "nurture". It comes from the verb "to nurse", and one of its meanings is "to feed a baby at the breast". So, it'd only logical that "nurture" refers to everything that the environment, including how our parents raise us, define our personality.



### Conclusion:

- Finally I can say that socialization is significant to individuals and society in many ways.
- Socialization is a continuous process by which culture is transmitted from generation to generation.
- Socialization is learning the norms, customs and practices with which one can become an active member of a society.
- The agents of socialization are the family, school, peers, religious institutions and the mass media.

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