

*Perspective***Influential agents of socialization****Fernández Lilia\***

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**INTRODUCTION**

The socialization that we get in childhood has a lasting effect on our ability to collaborate with others in society. Socialization is a lifelong process during which we learn about social expectations and how to associate with others. Nearly all of the behaviour that we consider to be 'human nature' is really learned through socialization. And, it is during socialization that we figure out how to walk, talk, and feed ourselves, about behavioural norms that help us fit in to our society, and so much more. Socialization occurs throughout our life, however probably the main socialization happens in childhood. So, let's talk about the most influential agents of socialization:-

**FAMILY**

The child's first world is that of his family. It is a world in itself, in which the child figures out how to live, to move and to have his being. Within it, not just the biological tasks of birth, protection and feeding take place, but also develop those first and intimate relationships with persons of different ages and sexes which form the basis of the child's personality development. The family is that the primary agency of socialisation. It is here that the child develops an initial sense of self and habit-training like eating, sleeping etc. To a really large extent, the indoctrination of the child, whether in primitive or modern complex society, occurs within the circle of the first family group. The child's first human connections are with the immediate members of his family -mother or nurse, siblings, father and other close relatives. Here, he experiences love, cooperation, authority, direction and protection. Language is additionally learnt from family in childhood. People's perceptions of behaviour appropriate of their sex are the results of socialisation and major part of this can be learnt within the family. As the primary agents of childhood socialisation, parents play a basic role in guiding children into their gender roles deemed appropriate in a society. They continue to teach gender

role behaviour either consciously or unconsciously, throughout childhood. Families also teach children values they're going to hold throughout life. They often adopt their parents' attitudes not only about work but also about the importance of education, patriotism and religion.

**NEIGHBOURHOODS**

Neighbourhood can be said to be a local social unit where there is constant communication among individuals living close to each other or individuals of a similar area. In such spatial units, face to face interactions frequently happen. In this sense they're local social units where children grow up. You may observe different set of people in your neighbourhood who differ in caste, class or religion or occupation. By communicating with such different set of individuals, you may be exposed to different customs and practices; different occupations that individuals pursue; the skills needed for such occupations and also the qualities possessed by those individuals. The growing child can also imbibe values of discipline and orderly behaviour. Interactions are at both physical and social environment wherein children get easily affected. If the child is encircled by individuals who are warm and cooperative, it will get definitely transmitted to him/her. On the other hand if the locality is peopled by aggressive and violent group, it is possible that such children may learn unsocial or anti-social behaviours.

**SCHOOL**

After family the educational institutions take over the charge of socialization. In some societies, socialization happens as a rule inside the family but in highly complex societies children are also socialized by the educational system. Schools not only teach reading, writing and other basic skills, they also teach students to develop themselves, to discipline themselves, to cooperate with others, to obey rules and to test their achievements through competition. Schools teach sets of

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expectations about the work, profession or occupations they're going to follow once they mature. Schools have the formal responsibility of imparting knowledge in those disciplines which are most central to adult functioning in our society. It has been said that learning at home is on a personal, emotional level, whereas learning at college is essentially intellectual.

## **WORKPLACE**

A fundamental aspect of human socialization involves learning to behave appropriately within an occupation. Work related socialization can't be separated from the socialization experience that happens during childhood and adolescence. We are mostly exposed to occupational roles through noticing the work of our parents, of individuals whom we meet while they are performing their duties, and of people portrayed in the media.

## **RELIGION**

While some religions are informal institutions, here we concentrate on practices followed by formal institutions. Religion is a significant avenue of socialization for many individuals. The United States is full of synagogues, temples, churches, mosques, and similar religious communities where people gather to worship and learn. Like other institutions, these places teach participants how to communicate with the religion's material culture. For some individuals, significant ceremonies related to family structure like marriage and birth are connected to religious celebrations. Many religious institutions also uphold gender norms and contribute to their enforcement through socialization. From ceremonial rites of passage that reinforce the family unit to power dynamics that reinforce gender roles, organized religion fosters a shared set of socialized values that are passed on through society.