Elderly people act agent of socialization in family in India

Dr. Renu Jangir

Lecturer in Sociology

SPC GOVT COLLEGE, AJMER

Abstract

As individuals progress through life, they come into touch with a great number of people, groups, and factors that have an effect on their development and how well they comprehend the world. The combination of all of these different aspects is referred to as agents of socialisation, and they are what form people as they develop from infancy well into adulthood and beyond. Therefore, agents of socialisation are defined as the effect of essential elements on the development of a person and their capacity to play a part in society. The primary objective of this research is to highlight the role of the family especially the grand parents in the socialisation of children. The paper through descriptive research design tries to study the role of elderly people in the process of socialization. To support the descriptive study data were collected through interview schedule from the respondent who had elderly people in the family from the areas nearby the place of the researcher's resident. (Ajmer)

Keywords: Elderly people, grandparents, *agent, socialization, family.*

INTRODUCTION

The word "socialization," which refers to the process through which a person is brought into closer contact with society. It is the way through which the people understand societal norms and expectations. It is a gradual process through which the biological entity learns the principles, convention, and regulation of his or her society and become a sociological being. Socialization is strongly connected to developmental (Billingham, M (2007) p336) Every one of us have witnessed how the method of learning- socialization makes it possible for a living thing to develop into a social entity. As a never-ending process, it continues from one generation to the next and from the "womb" to the "tomb." Various organizations in society are responsible for the development and molding of an individual. Socialization is not the same as socializing (interacting with others like family friends and other member of the society) it is a sociological process that occurs through socializing. The example of Ramu wolf clearly shows that even the basic physical task of walking, sitting, standing and eating are not automatically developed, these are developed through the process of socialization. Sociologists define socialization as the process through which one inherits cultural beliefs and ideologies of his society. It involves learning of crucial processes in the society. (Mitchell199) There is no set time concerning the commencement and end of socialization. However, some social scientists have devised distinct socialization stages like oral, anal, oedipal, and teenage stages. After the birth baby remain in close contact with the mother, father and other family member including grandparents. Grandparents are the elderly people of the family, they are more close to the babies and children as they comparatively free (they are retired or had handed the family business to the next generation.) than the other member of the family. Grandparents generally keep a keen eye on the all the where about of all the members of the family. They are the people who have all answer of every problem

even they guide the family how to act in particular situation no matter the age. However, according to the theory the last stage of socialization is adolescence but the guidance and mentorship by the elderly people continuous till they are alive. This paper attempts to study the role of elderly people as agent of socialization, socialization is a lifelong process starts soon after the birth and continuous till death. Through descriptive research design attempt is made to describe the role of elderly people in socialization, to support the study, data were collected through interview schedule and observation, sixty samples (families) were purposely selected, thirty samples where there were grandparents and thirty without grandparents from the city of Ajmer, one of the important city of Rajasthan. From the convenient point of view selected samples were of nearby area of the researcher.

SOCIALIZATION: THE BASIC CONCEPT

"To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly". Man is a social animal, as marked by Aristotle "a person who isolates is either God or a beast." Man is inherited by nature (genetics) or nurture (environment) that governs human behavior. Many extensive research on children highlights that inherited characteristics play an important role in the human 'equation,' but at the same time, it is the person's participation in social interaction that constitutes the individual as 'human.' People grow to become members of the human community through participating in interactions like these, which are made possible by activities like observation, the use of language as a means of communication, and other types of contact. These ideas are supported by the theoretical contributions of Charles Horton Cooley, George Herbert Mead, and Jean Piaget. These theorists contend that children acquire reasoning skills, morality, personality, and a sense of self through social observation, contact, and interaction.

 Along with the genetic qualities a person holds the beliefs and values of the society into which he or she is born. The process of socialization assists an individual in acquiring the values of a certain group so that they can be initiated into that group. Indeed, the way we are socialized has a significant impact on the ways in which we think, feel, and behave. "Man is not human by birth but must go through the process of becoming human" (Park). Rightly marked by Ralph Linton in his book, 'The cultural background of the personality' that 'Man become man only among man'. However, this does not mean that humans are automatons that carry out the directives of the socializing agents because our actions are not. Every one of us is continually working on developing our sense of "self." Our minds are capable of reasoning and making decisions. On the other hand, the inability to communicate with any of the other people in the community may have catastrophic effects. There are unfortunate cases that illustrate how isolating children and denying them the opportunity to interact with other people may do irreversible harm to them. In the annals of anomalous child psychology, details of similar instances may be discovered, such as the case of Genie, who was kept in a room and chained to a toilet chair when she was just 20 months old. As a result of being cut off from all human contact for over twelve years and being let to wallow in deplorable surroundings, she was unable to learn language or the skill of communication and had little emotional responses to anything that occurred in her environment.

The situation with Genie is an illustration of frozen social development, which can have negative repercussions for a person's psyche. The event described above eloquently demonstrates how socializing and contact are very necessary for human beings to develop into fully functioning members of society.

The process of socialization is not same in all civilizations and is not always the same within a given group. The process of socialization differs from culture to culture and from society to society. From childhood through maturity and even into old age, there are likely to be distinct shifts in the manner in which people are socialized. Socialization gives shape to our thoughts because throughout our life, we have been taught that we are an individual personality and that we have our own interests, likes, and dislikes. However, our manifestation of individual identity is always done within the framework of our sociocultural environment. This means that who we are is conditioned to a significant degree by the institutions through which we have been socialized. The process of socialization is facilitated by a number of organizations and establishments, including those with which a kid is affiliated, such as his or her family, school, peer group, neighborhood, occupational group, and socioeconomic class, among others. In childhood and adolescence, it is the peer group that has the most significant impact on the development of the person. However, in maturity, it is the occupational group and the newly acquired family via marriage that play the most significant roles in the process of socialization. These agents have an effect on the developing kid and help to shape each and every element of that child's growth so that it is in accordance with the social and cultural goals, as well as the requirements and expectations, of the society in which that child exists.

The process of socialization take place in two phases, primary and secondary. The process of socialization begins at birth and continues until death, and it is considered to be a lifelong process.

Primary socialization occurs early in a child's life and is primarily due to the influence of family and close friends. Through primary socialization, a child learns basic societal norms and customs. Toilet training is an example of primary socialization, this stage is characterized by the acquisition of fundamental knowledge of language and behavior patterns, which lays the groundwork for the subsequent stages of learning that will take place. Secondary socialization refers to the time period that spans later childhood and adolescence during which the kid is educated in institutional or formal settings such as school. This stage of development is concurrent with that of primary socialization. However, in contrast to the environments of families, in which children are accepted without condition by their parents, the children's behavior in schools is conditioned to correspond to the expectations of authority figures. They become accustomed to functioning in huge groups. The introduction of a new culture into their lives makes this stage more difficult and complicated. Some sociologists have proposed the addition of a new stage, which they call adult socialization. Adulthood is the time when people begin to engage in adult socialization by adapting to new roles, such as those of a spouse, wife, employee, etc., in accordance with their own requirements and preferences.

AGENCIES OF SOCIALIZATION

The absence of other people is incompatible with the process of socialization. People, organizations, and institutions all contribute to the formation of the social environment in which socialization may take place. These institutions are the vehicles through which we acquire knowledge of and participation in the cultural norms and values of our society. They are also responsible for our places in the social structure with regard to our racial and gender identities as well as our socioeconomic status. We are able to become functioning members of a society as a result of the habits, skills, beliefs, and standards of judgment that we acquire throughout the socialization process. The term "functional," on the other hand, is colored by the larger sociocultural context in which it is used. Bourdieu (1990) describes the process of individual socialization

as a process in which individuals are impacted by the class cultural context in which they are being nurtured. [Citation needed] [Bourdieu] A formal, an informal, an active, or a passive, primary, or secondary classification can be used to each of the several agencies. However, there isn't a distinct line drawn between them because they are all so intertwined with one another. We are going to investigate the various organizations on three different levels, namely the micro level, the meso level, and the macro level.

Micro Level Socialization: Family, Peer Group and Neighborhood

Interaction in small groups is required at the micro level. This level is essential due to the fact that the fundamental formulation is formed through direct, intense, and personal interaction. In the section on micro-level socialization, we are going to talk about the role that the neighborhood, peer group, and family play.

Family

Socialization is a series of processes that take place at various stages of development; and the family is the primary and most persistent socialization agent. The bond that a young kid has with her or his family is one of the most important, significant, and deciding impacts on the child. People often refer to the family unit as the "cradle of social values." It is in this setting that the kid will first get an understanding of fundamental principles such as collaboration, tolerance, self-sacrifice, love, and affection. The main socialization that a kid receives in the home will, to a large part, determine how that child will interact, for better or for worse, with the rest of the world later in life. These connections can be positive or negative. It has long been recognized that the family, in its capacity as a fundamental social institution, plays an essential role not only in the growth of the individual but also in the progression of society and all of humanity. A newborn begins his or her journey through life surrounded by the affection and protection of his or her family. Again, it is in the setting of the family that he or she learns the first lessons of life and attempts to replicate the routines, rituals, and behavioral patterns of her or his family members. Bourdieu maintains that our habitus is something we get from our families. The term "habitus" refers to a collection of behaviors and attitudes that identify a person as belonging to a certain social class. These characteristics include manners, speech patterns, vocabulary and articulation styles, body behavior and postures. Our habitus plays a significant role in determining the degree to which we like a specific type of encounter. The family is the primary agent of socialization in all human cultures. It is the family that initiates the process by which a newborn becomes a member of the human society and serves as the child's initial conduit for the transmission of culture. During these formative years, a kid is most in need of affection, safety, and opportunities to interact with others; the family is most equipped to meet these needs. While interacting with other members of the family, this is also the period during which the individual acquires the fundamental behavioral patterns, habits, attitudes, customs, and conventions. The family inculcate ideal social views in him or her and to shape him or her in a manner that is consistent with the position, reputation, and mentality of the family. Additionally, a child's self-concept, as well as their racial, linguistic, religious, social, and political affiliations, are all formed within the context of their family, which plays a significant role in this formation. The family, as an institution in society, is expected to fulfil a variety of roles. When it comes to the process of an individual's socialization, the functioning of the family is of incomparable importance. This is because the functioning of the family orients the kid to

first human behavior patterns and initial interpersonal connections. At this stage, the process of socialization is still conducted in an informal manner.

Many sociologists consider family as unit a miniature society that serves as a link or transmission belt between the person and the larger society. The different families approach the process of child rearing in different ways. Each youngster is one of a kind and receives a one-of-a-kind introduction to the traditions of his family. However, there is widespread agreement that having a loving relationship with one's parents is one of the most important factors in a child's overall development. A loving connection in which parents are sensitive to the needs of their children and excite their curiosity might help positively to the process of socializing their children with other people. The child's development of respect for adults in the family, tolerance, and flexibility are all helped along by the child's upbringing by the family members.

On the other hand, children who are raised in homes where there is a lot of distrust, authoritarianism, and conflict are more likely to develop anti-social behaviors than children who are raised in homes where there is less of these things. However, it should be remembered that the socialization of children may also be influenced by a wide variety of other variables, including the size of the family, the socioeconomic background of the family, the occupations of the parents, excessive parenting, parental neglect, and parental pressure. Children's perspectives on life are influenced not only by the behaviors that the adults in their family condone or frown upon, but also by the forms of punishment that they inflict upon the children. The major concern of this paper is the size of the family, the family with elderly people had different approach in up bringing the children than those where do not.

Role of Elderly People in Socialization

Senior citizens play crucial role in the socialization process even if there are other members in the family because they have been viewed as the role models by the all family members whom they follow. The senior citizens involve in socialization process in the family unless until they themselves are bad health. The senior citizens teach and train their family members on how to face and escape from the disaster situation and make every family member to understand the ways of living securely. Also senior citizens use storytelling as an effective method which includes their previous experiences to teach their children and grandchildren.

One the basis of the collected data attempt is being made to describe the socialization done by elderly people in the family.

At oral Stage

According to Freudian psychosexual stage in which the developing infant's main concern are with oral gratification. From birth till one years of age, child for his hunger, toilet or any other discomfort cries a great deal, he is orally depended on the mother and other member of the family. The child learns to give signal for his felt needs. The child internalizes two roles, the role of mother and his own. Freud called this stage as stage of primary identification. At this stage the role of elderly people in the family is of socializing the parent of the child especially to the mother, they teach all do and don't to the newly mother, they also help them in meeting the various role-of mother, wife and daughter in law. From the data collected from the study sample, eighty percent of the respondent said they (as the respondent were the females of the family) they learnt how to bring up the children from their either mother or mother in laws.

Some of them have also reported that their father or father in law taught many things which was very useful in upbringing their children, they also mentioned many a times father use to keep a watch about toiling time and even of food, also advise the reasons why the baby was crying.

At Anal Stage

The anal stage, according to Freudian psychology, it is the period of human development occurring at about one to three years of age. During this age, the child begins to toilet train, which brings about the child's fascination in the erogenous zone of the anus. The erogenous zone is focused on the bowel and bladder control. The anal stage coincides with the start of the child's ability to control their anal sphincter, and therefore their ability to pass or withhold feces at will. If the children during this stage can overcome the conflict it will result in a sense of accomplishment and independence.

In this stage there is a conflict with the id, ego, and superego. The child is approached with this conflict with the parent's demands. A successful completion of this stage depends on how the parents interact with the child while toilet training. The ability for the children to be successful in this stage is solely dependent upon their parents and the approach they use towards toilet training. If a parent praises the child and gives rewards for using the toilet properly and at the right times, then the child will successfully go through the stage. However, if a parent ridicules and punishes a child while they are at this stage, the child can respond in negative ways, this stage is also important in the child's future relationships with authority.

According to Freud's Psychosexual Theory, parents need to be very careful in how they react to their children during this sensitive stage. During this stage child test their parents, not only parents but the other member of the family like grandparents, the authority figures, on how much power they really have as opposed to how much room the child has to make his or her own decisions. The elderly people play a very important role. From the data collected it is revealed that children in the families with elderly people learnt toilet habit faster than of the nuclear family. It is not because the children are not taken care in nuclear family but in the family where elderly people lives as they are experienced they are more alert and can make practical suggestion regarding the things related to the children.

The Oedipal Stage

This stage mostly starts from the fourth year of the child and extends upto puberty (the age of 12 or 13 years). It is in this stage the child becomes the member of the family as a whole, the child identify himself with the social role ascribed to him on the basis of his sex. In this stage, sufficient social pressures are brought on the child to identify with the right sex. Sex is biologically and physiologically determined based on an individual's anatomy at birth. It is typically binary, meaning that one's sex is either male or female. It is here gender socialization starts, gender is a social construct. An individual's gender is their social identity resulting from their culture's conceptions of masculinity and femininity. Gender exists on a continuum. Boys begin to be rewarded for behaving like boys and girls are rewarded for acting like girls. After the age of sex, the child is able to understand the sexual difference. The boy tries to identify himself with the father and the girl with the mother.

Gender socialization is a lifelong process. The beliefs about gender that a child acquire in childhood have lifelong affect. The impact of this socialization can be big (shaping what child believe he is capable of accomplishing and thus potentially determining his life's course), small (influencing the color chosen for bedroom walls), or somewhere in the middle. As adults, the beliefs about gender may grow more nuanced and flexible, but gender socialization can still affect the behavior, whether in school, the workplace, or in relationships.

It is here we can significantly see the role of elderly people in socialization which is the main concern of our study. On the basis of collected data, it was found that a strict watch was kept by the majority of the elderly people in family on the vocabulary used by the children like in hindi *aati hu* or *aata hu* (refer to the use of he or she). The type of clothes they wear, the toys they play and the manner in which they move about in the house. As one of the respondent reported that her in law used to correct intermittently when her son used feminine words. One of the respondent mentioned that one day as she was applying nail polish, unknowingly she applied on her son's nail (as the child put forward his hand to apply) but when her father in law saw this he got furious and made her to remove the nail polish immediately. Since then her small son never ever asked for nail polish. Not only at infant age but when children grow up almost all the respondent highlighted that often their mother in law tell their teenage girls to learn basic cooking. The most important and significant organization in the process of gender socialization is the family. During the course of a person's upbringing within their family, gender roles are established. "what young men and women, as well as older men and women, are expected to accomplish."

Adolescent Stage

The adolescence stage is the most important stage in socialization. At this stage as the child's behavior and personality depends on the kind of learning he / she learns and the decision he/ she takes that affects the society . During adolescence the child goes through several physiology and psychological changes, which affects mentally and emotionally and hence establishes more new experiences than any other stages. Many academics consider the adolescent years to be a period of self-discovery and the formation of an individual identity. Teenagers frequently probe their identities by asking, "Who am I?" and "What is the part that I am supposed to play?" These kinds of inquiries worry individuals and cause them to struggle with their identity. The idea put forward by Erkison in 1968 brilliantly illustrates this identity issue. When a person is an adolescent, they start to develop their own personal beliefs and standards for themselves. However, their socialization inside the family continues to have an effect on their perspectives. At this stage an individual learn new roles and new behavior patterns and internalize new social norms associated with them and become the active member of the society.

As during this stage, the child learns new roles and behavior pattern, if those roles and patterns are not meeting the society's expectations and norms, it would certainly lead to the disorganization of the personality as well as of the society. It is here the role of parents and grandparents is very important. As during this age an individual feels he is grown up and big enough to take his /her own decision but here an individual need the guidance of the parents so that he can perform according to the expected roles. Majority of the respondent stated that their in- laws were more vigilant about their child's activity and they warn them about the types of friends they should have and also about their carrier. Few respondent highlighted that their father in-law were giving a sort of training to their son, how to behave and care himself in society, how to share responsibilities of the father (these respondent had business). One of the

respondent said many times her father in-law took her son in public occasions and keep on telling him how to behave and carry himself, he also often praises him for his movement in public. However, few respondent also said that their mother in law was always after her daughter to learn cooking, though her daughter learnt few things but fortunately that were of great use for her in hostel. Three respondent who had both mother-in-law as well as daughter in the family said that their mother-in-law not only guide them in treating their daughter in law but to daughter-in-law also how to behave at in-law's place (as the daughter-in-law was newly married).

Conclusion

Socialization makes an individual a social being who transmits cultural ideas, beliefs, languages, skills etc. from generation to generation, learns rules and practices of social groups and contributes to forming a society. The individual learns new roles and new behavior patterns and internalize new social norms associated with them and become the active member of the society It is a lifelong process, starting soon after the birth and continuous till death. This process moves through various stages oral, anal, oedipal and adolescent. Through various agents it passes from one stage to another like family, kinship relation, neighbor, school, higher education institutes, workplace and other secondary groups. The family is first and foremost agent of process of socialization. The family with grandparent played a very important role in process of socialization. From the time of birth till the children get married even after the marriage grandparent had been monitoring each and every activity of an individual which is useful for the individual and the society at large.

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