

Socialization: the Effect of Social Class

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Socialization is one of the most important topics examined by researchers in the field of sociology in terms of content or style due to the significance of this issue for preparing the next generations who will keep the society alive and existing, morally or materialistically. Socialization is a process of social interactions in which individuals can gain their personalities and societal culture. It is an important educational process for parents, and teachers ..etc., as it includes the processes of an individual's formation and building their personalities in a way that enables them to develop, to self-integrate, to self-balance and to adapt with the society and its culture. Socialization plays a vital part in preparing a person to have multi roles because he or she is required to do a variety of activities and actions in the society in which he or she lives so that social life can proceed regularly. Thus, an individual has to hold a set of positions determined by birth such as gender, religion, customs, and class; and he or she has to do the roles assigned to him.

An individual is shaped and becomes a social object through society and its culture. A person is born and grows in a society according to a specific cultural system inculcated by all individuals and groups. Therefore, an individual grows through his or her treatment with people in the society. This treatment can take different forms including imitation, participation, and giving and taking principles with other people for learning the values, behavior models, and attitudes, and teaching him his expected roles, as a meaningful activity to meet the reciprocal needs for an individual and society, although a person is born with inherited and biological behavior patterns, and a disposition to accept adaptation with his external social setting and continued variables.

Socialization processes are supervised almost by social organizations. A family is the first cell and establishes for socialization, and then comes a school which is a specific social setting with roles and positions, and it reflects the values of society. Then come sports clubs, worship homes, social, cultural, economic sectors including social class or socioeconomic status, different classes, wealth, prestige, and power among people in society, location and environment leading to different

individuals from an environment to another. A class to which a family belongs is an important factor in an individual's growth; it represents all systems contributing into the formation of an individual's personality. A family is the most important element in transferring culture and values to a child, which become an essential part later on. A social class often constrains and limits a person's action; people are likely to build social relationships with other people who belong to the same social class, and may resemble them in behaviours, and their communications increase.

The theory of categorical hierarchy allows to learn the dynamics of this society and the prevailing relationships between an individual and his group, to the discrimination among the society members through the unequal distribution of wealth and power. Social class system is based on the cultural and symbolic capital, the latter means that a social recognition of an individual from a social category compared to the cultural and economic capital for others. A social class is identified as a social status through practices and its history, every class seeks to adopt the life style of a higher class and distinguishing from others. Hence, it should be noted that a social class is not only an income, but it is also determined with a set of factors such as social status, income, wealth, behavior related to jobs, education and the family origin. It is worth noting that socialization styles adopted by fathers, mothers, and relatives sometimes differ from a family to another, from a social group to another, depending on social backgrounds and stratified generations. A social class to which a family belongs is one of the prominent factors affecting socialization process because it forms the environment surrounding children, thus, culture and aims serve as an axis among parents and children.

Every social class has its own special culture represented in values, beliefs, and behavior patterns. It forms a framework which is a base for parental practices in socialization. Research in different societies indicated that there were differences among low, middle, and high classes. For example, parents who belong to low social classes appreciate and value respect, obedience, and principle compared with middle class parents. The former concentrate on a child's internal development, on developing a sense of responsibility and its bearing, on a child's self-control, on achievement and accomplishment aims. Many studies showed that a family's economic position is directly related with education and teaching needs. A family who can meet its children's materialistic needs well can provide objective conditions for health

socialization. On the contrary, a family who does not meet its children's basic needs will not be able to supply a child with enough potential for scientific achievement or healthy socialization, therefore, materialistic shortage and leads to children's feeling of deprivation, inferiority, and sometimes stealing and malice.

Foreign studies show that working families follow social and educational styles different from those used by middle class families. Moreover, most middle class families tend to use strict styles in raising children through observing their behaviors, actions, and social relationships inside and outside the environment. Most working families use tolerant styles for socialization and evaluation or severe, inhuman styles that depend on beating and expulsion from the house.

As for the principle of independence in socialization it is noted that middle class parents appreciate the value of independence, whereas working class parents value the conformity to a group power at the expense of individual independence. The differences among social classes can be realized via the degree of independence thought to be possessed by workers, either in office work settings or manual work ones. Independence as a value can be promoted and enhanced through family factors and demographical ones like birth place, social class, and gender plus its relationship with historical events outside the family context.

It is also noted that adolescents who participate effectively in their societies have parents who also participate effectively in their societies. Parents' high income is related to civil involvement. Although social class is one of the predictive factors of civil participation, social activity dominates in all classes when considering religious affiliations; this means that low income families often participate in social activities when they concern the social work of their religious organizations. If there are available opportunities, all children can improve their social involvement.

Research indicated that there were clear systematic differences in children's socialization styles attributed to the differences in the levels of socioeconomic and cultural status of the family. Moreover, it was concluded that the level of parental education had an effect on children's socialization; parents tend to avoid being strict and physical punishment, and they have an attitude towards using discussion and modern scientific methods so long as their educational level promotes.

If a family, through its role as one of the most important channels for socialization, contributes into children's behavior formation, the role of the social atmosphere in which a family lives, whether a local community or a neighborhood, cannot be ignored. This social climate has some subcultural qualities that distinguish it from other societies. These social characteristics have an effect not less important than that of the family's role on its members. This means that the social climate undoubtedly contributes into adopting specific styles for socialization different from place to another by the different subculture of the society along with parental education level and culture in a family.

In general, a social class has an effect on children at their different age stages for its basic role in building their personalities and perfectness, and through which children can gain customs, habits, attitudes, and values prevailing and common in their social environment. Moreover, a social class plays a vital role in providing a healthy social atmosphere that is appropriate and necessary for the process of socialization. A social class also serves in teaching children behavioral skills that enable them to integrated and involve in society, to cooperate with its members, to participate in different activity areas, to teach them their roles, their rights and duties. Children also are taught how to coordinate among their and others' behaviours in different situations, how to be helpful members in society, to evaluate and control their conducts and actions, and to inculcate internal behavior control in children.