

Socialization of Children

Introduction

What is socialization?

- It is the process by which an individual is adapted to his social environment and becomes a recognized, cooperating and efficient member of a society.
- It is the process by which children learn the ways of their society and make the ways part of their personality.

Thus, socialization is the process of preparing a child to fit in his family, community and society by giving the child the right education (knowledge, skills and attitudes).

Agents of Socialization

Some of the important agents of socialization are:

- Family. What is a family? It is a group of individuals living together and related through blood, marriage or adoption. A society consists of families. Before children learn about their community, they will learn about family. Family provides rich learning opportunities. Family helps children to acquire information about their families and develops understanding of families of other children. It socializes children and contributes to their holistic development.
- Peer group. Bad company corrupts. Parents should ensure that children should not be in bad company.
- School. School provides opportunities for children to interact and play. Schools also provide a conducive environment which promotes socialization of children. Schools provide curricular and co-curricular activities which promotes socialization of children. Schools are the agents of social growth and development. Schools should help children to realize their potential and help them to attain their life goals.
- Society. Society with good values and norms. Schools prepare children to fit in their society. Children learn within a social frame work set up by the society, its institutions and its established value system.
- Religion. Religious organizations inculcate values in children. They organize functions where children are socialized.
- Mass Media. They include: Television, films, magazines and newspapers, textbooks, internet, mobiles etc.
- Family. It is the most important agent of socialization.

Role of teachers in socialization of children

Teachers should provide the following:

- Conducive environment. Teachers should provide an environment which promotes socialization of children. There should be a good relationship between teachers and children, parents and teachers.