

# SOCIOLOGY AND YOU



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## Presentations *for the* Classroom

### Chapter 4 Socialization

EXIT





# Socialization

## Summary of Topics

- [The Importance of Socialization](#)
- [Socialization and Self](#)
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- [Processes of Socialization](#)

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# The Importance of Socialization

- **Socialization** is the cultural process of learning to participate in group life.
- Without it, we would not develop many of the characteristics we associate with being human.



# Socialization and Personality

- Socialization begins at birth and continues throughout life.
- Successful socialization enables people to fit into all kinds of social groups.
- The most important learning occurs early in life.
- Studies show that without prolonged and intensive social contact, children do not learn such basics as walking, talking, and loving.
- Without socialization, a human infant cannot develop the set of attitudes, beliefs, values, and behaviors associated with being an individual.



# How do we know socialization is important?

Experiments and nonexperimental evidence

- Psychologist Harry Harlow devised a famous experiment that showed the negative effects of social isolation on rhesus monkeys.
- Harlow showed that infant monkeys need intimacy, warmth, physical contact, and comfort.
- Infant monkeys raised in isolation became distressed, apathetic, withdrawn, hostile adult animals.



# Lawrence Casler's Study

- Human babies denied close contact usually have difficulty forming emotional ties with others.
- The developmental growth rate of institutionalized children who receive less physical contact than normal, can be improved with only twenty minutes of extra touching a day.



## LEARNING



# *What can we learn from these experiments and nonexperimental evidences?*

The personal and social development associated with being human is acquired through intensive and prolonged social contact with others.

Click the mouse button or press the space bar to display the answer.



# Socialization and the Self

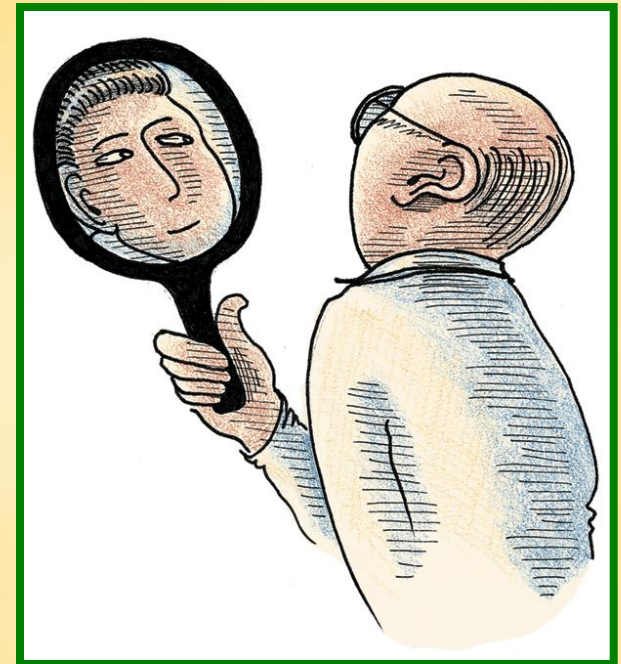
All three theoretical perspectives agree that socialization is needed if cultural and societal values are to be learned.

- **Functionalism** stresses the ways in which groups work together to create a stable society.
- The **conflict perspective** views socialization as a way of perpetuating the status quo.
- According to **symbolic interactionism**, the self-concept is developed by using other people as mirrors for learning about ourselves.
  - self-concept
  - looking-glass self
  - significant others
  - role taking
  - generalized other



# Symbolic Interactionism and Socialization

- Your **self-concept** is your image of yourself as having an identity separate from other people.
- The **looking-glass self** (Cooley, 1902) is an image of your self based on what you believe others think of you.
- **Role taking** allows us to see ourselves through the eyes of someone else.
- A **generalized other** is an integrated conception of the norms, values, and beliefs of one's community or society.





## LEARNING



### ***What is the looking-glass self?***

The “looking-glass self” is a self-concept based on our idea of others’ judgments of us.

### ***What are the consequences of having a distorted looking glass?***

Having a distorted looking glass (incorrectly imagining others’ opinions of us) can cause bad feelings, or a negative self-image.

Click the mouse button or press the space bar to display the answer.





# Agents of Socialization

During childhood and adolescence, the major agents of socialization are:

- family
- school
- peer group
- mass media

Click on a hyperlink to display more information about a particular agent of socialization.





# The Family and Socialization

The family's role is critical in forming basic values. Within the family, essential developments occur.

The child learns to:

- think and speak
- internalize norms, beliefs, and values
- form some basic attitudes
- develop a capacity for intimate and personal relationships
- acquire a self-image (Handel, 1990)



# Socialization in Schools

- In school, for the first time, many of the child's relationships with other people are impersonal.
- Rewards and punishments are based on performance rather than affection.
- A teacher evaluates her students by more objective standards than a mother.
- Children are taught to be less dependent emotionally on their parents.
- The school also creates feelings of loyalty and allegiance to something beyond the family.
- Underlying the formal goals of the school is the [hidden curriculum](#).

Click on the hyperlink to display the definition of hidden curriculum.



# Socialization in Schools

- In school, for the first time, many of the child's relationships with other people are impersonal.
- Rewards and punishments are based on performance rather than affection.
- A teacher expects students to be objective and to follow the informed and unofficial aspects of culture that children are taught in preparation for life.
- Children are taught to suppress emotion and to show allegiance to something beyond the family.
- Underlying the formal goals of the school is the **hidden curriculum**.

# Peer Group Socialization

- A child's peer group—composed of individuals of roughly the same age and interests—is the only agency of socialization that is not controlled primarily by adults.
- Young people have an opportunity to engage in give-and-take relationships.
- Children experience conflict, competition, and cooperation.
- Children also gain experience in self-direction.
- Peer groups give children a chance to begin to make their own decisions, experiment with new ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving.



# The Mass Media and Socialization

- Mass media are means of communication designed to reach the general population.
- They include television, radio, newspapers, magazines, movies, books, the Internet, tapes, and discs.
- It is often through the mass media that children are introduced to numerous aspects of their culture (Fishman and Cavender, 1998).





## LEARNING



### *Why does the family have such strong influence on a child's socialization?*

Being in a family provides a child's first exposure to the world, where he learns to think and speak; internalize norms, beliefs, and values; form basic attitudes; develop a capacity for intimate and personal relationships; and acquire a self-image.

Click the mouse button or press the space bar to display the answer.





# Processes of Socialization

Symbolic interactionism views socialization as a lifelong process.

- **Desocialization** is the process of having to give up old norms.
- **Resocialization** begins as people adopt new norms and values.
- **Anticipatory socialization** and **reference groups** are concerned with voluntary change as when moving from one life stage to another.

# Desocialization

- **Desocialization** is the process of having to give up old norms.
- In institutions, replacing personal possessions with standard-issue items promotes sameness among the residents.
- The use of serial numbers to identify people and the loss of privacy also contribute to the breakdown of past identity.
- Cult members may even be denied use of their given names.



# Resocialization

- **Resocialization** begins as people adopt new norms and values.
- In institutions, they attempt to give residents new self-concepts using an elaborate system of rewards and punishments.
- Though developed to analyze social processes in extreme situations, the concepts of desocialization and resocialization still apply to other social settings.
- Desocialization and resocialization occur as a child becomes a teenager, when young adults begin careers, and as the elderly move into retirement or widowhood.





# Anticipatory Socialization and Reference Groups

- **Anticipatory socialization** and **reference groups** are concerned with voluntary change as when moving from one life stage to another.
- Anticipatory socialization may occur in people who are moving from one stage in their lives to another.
- **Examples—teenagers and seniors in college**



## LEARNING



*Identify the following actions as desocialization (D), resocialization (R), or anticipatory socialization (A).*

- R a. First-year students acquire a new identity during their freshman year at a military academy.
- D b. Prison personnel deliberately attempt to destroy the self-concepts of inmates.
- A c. High school seniors identify with college students.

Click the mouse button or press the space bar to display the answers.



# Chapter Summary

- Socialization is the cultural process of learning to participate in group life.
- Deprivation of intensive and prolonged social contact has been shown to stunt emotional and social growth.
- According to symbolic interactionism, the self-concept is developed by using other people as mirrors for learning about ourselves.
- During childhood and adolescence, the major agents of socialization are the family, school, peer group, and mass media.
- Processes of socialization include: desocialization, resocialization, and anticipatory socialization.