Understanding the Role of Parents on Socialization of Children and Creating Healthy Social Environment

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Abstract

Socialization is the process by which an individual learns the behaviours, the values and the expectations of others that enable him to take on particular roles in the society. It is the process of making an individual social, an individual learns the behaviours, the values and the expectations of others that enable him to take on particular roles in the society. The basis of socialization is interaction. An individual interacts with other individuals and learns social ideals, attitudes and patterns of behaviour. The purpose of the paper is to understand the role of parents on socialization of children and creating healthy social environment for the proper nourishment and development of the children. For the socialization of children, family, schools, neighbour, community and society plays important roles. Family has often been considered as the first place for the socialization of child. Each child is born in a family where he comes in close contact with his parents and other members of the family. Parents plays important role in socializing the child and mother has often been considered as the first teacher of the child.Parental care, love, affection, nourishment and ways of nurturing the children in the right way will create a conducive environment for proper growth and development which will ultimately help in creating a positive, sound and healthy social environment for the children.

Keywords: Parents, children, socialization, social environment.

Introduction

Socialization isthe process of making an individual social. It is the process by which an individual learns the behaviours, the values and the expectations of others that enable him to take on particular roles in the society. It can be defined in terms of learning of the behaviours, values and expectations. These are learned so that one can play his particular role in the society. an individual does not come to this world with his role clearly defined. He learns his role by living in the society, the individual learns what is expected of him as father or mother or leader. He grasps the values involved in the role prescribed to him and takes up that role. The process by which the individual comes to learn his prescribed role and is prepoored to take that role is known as socialization.Socialization is a process through which society develops an individual according to its ideals, beliefs and traditions and bestows recognition

as social being. The basis of socialization is interaction. It means that the process through which an individual interacts with other individuals and learns social ideals, attitudes and patterns of behaviour. The individual, inspired by the ideals of social service and social welfare through interaction, makes himself wel adjusted with his family, neighbours and other social groups so that he himself becomes a true social being in the real sense of the term. In this way, the whole process of socialization falls within the scope of interaction or the social act.'Socialization' is a life long process during which we learn about social expectations and how to interact with other people. Nearby all of the behaviour that we consider to be 'human nature' is actually learned through socialization process and it is through socialization that we learn to talk, walk and feed ourselves, about behavioural norms that help us to fit in our society and much more. Socialization occurs throughout our life but some of the most important socialization occurs in childhood. There are some important agencies that are responsible for our socialization during childhood. Generally, it is said that the total society is the agency for socialization, and that each person with whom one comes into contact and interaction is in some way an agent of socialization. Socialization is found in all interactions but the most influential ninteraction occurs in particular groups which are referred to as agencies of socialization. The oblivious beginning of the process for the new-born child is his intimate family group, but this is soon extended to many other groups. Other than the family, the most important are the schools, the peer groups and the mass-media.

Statement of the Problem

The present study has been entitled as- "Understanding the Role of Parents on Socialization of Children and Creating Healthy Social Environment".

Objective

The objective of the paper is to understand the role of parents on socialization of children and creating healthy social environment. Parents plays important role in socializing the child. Each child is born in a family where he comes in close contact with his parents and other members of the family. Parental care, love, affection, nourishment and ways of nurturing the children in the right way will create a conducive environment for proper growth and development which will ultimately help in creating a positive, sound and healthy social environment for the children.

Role of Parents on Socialization of Children and Creating Healthy Social Environment

Parents play a vital role in socializing the child in various ways. The place of parents is of great importance in socializing the child. In the early period of socialization of child, the child is going to imitate and follow the nature and characteristics of their parents. Whatever the parents instill and impart the knowledge and skills on the young minds will have a lasting impression to the child. Parents can influence the child in various ways may be positive or negative influences. In child rearing practices, both the father and mother plays significant

roles. Absence of parental involvement in children can create inferiority complex among the children. Every child is born in a family where he comes in close contact with parents and other members of the family. As he grows older, he learns a number of desirable qualities. In short, the socialization of the child, through wholesome interaction with the members of family, goes on continually because the family is a primary group and there is face-to-face contact and interactions among the members of the family. The socialization of the family in education of the child is highly needed because the socialization of the child is affected by the parental attitudes. The upbringing of a child plays a significant role in the socialization of a child. As the way in which the parents brings up the child and as the atmosphere wich is available to the child in his early childhood, the feelings and the experiences which the child develops is also different. It means that improper upbringing of a child leads to the growth of anti-social activities in him because of social mal-adjustment. For the wholesome socialization, healthy and proper upbrining is essential. The interest of the child should be identified first by the parents and family as well, it is the duty of the parents to create a conducive home environment of the child because socialization first starts from the family itself and mother has often been considered as the first teacher of the child. Great educators are of the opinion that mother is the first educator of the child. A mother is the central point in the family and always works and prays for the upliftment of the family. Education of parents also influences the children and the family to a great extent. Also, it is very necessary that a mother should imbibed with good qualities and acts as a role model. Education of mother is considered very important as it helps the mother to provide better health care facilities for herself and for her children. Mothers are more closely involved in the immediate care of children and in critical decisions about food, sanitation and general nutrition, all of which influence children's health and development. In the child rearing practices, it is not only the responsibility of mother to look after their children for the wholesome development, involement of father is much required. Parental involvement in the upbringing of the child have strong and positive influence to their children. Such children with proper upbrining will excel better in all walks of life.The intimate relationship of parents with chidren has a great impact in the learning process. The child should be given opportunity to express his interest.If represses them, then certain complexes in the child may develop and personality adjustment may become difficult. So, it is essential that the family should see that no repressions among the children take place. Hence, the child should not be kept in isolation from other children of their own age and elders should treat them gently and give respect to their personality. Also proper training of the innate urges and desires is of great importance in the education of the child.Parents and family members should encourage good things and advise to refrain from the bad things, it will greatly help in the proper development of the interests among the children. For the fulfilment of the above mentioned, it is necessary to keep a peaceful and healthy environment in the family.Family should direct the attention of the children towards household affairs so that they become conversant with the basic needs of life. The family life is full of pleasure, pain, happiness, sadness, etc. These facts of life makes the child

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convergent with the realties of life. Therefore, we should remember that our family atmosphere should not be so gloomy that the children may lose all their gaiety for life.

Impact of Family on Early Childhood Development

The child's first world is that of his family. It is a world in itself, in which the child learns to live, to move and to have his being. Within it, not only the biological tasks of birth, protection and feeding takes place but also develop those first and intimate associations with persons of different ages and sexes which form the basis of the child's personalilty development. The family is the primary agency of socialization. It is here that the child develops an initial sense of self and habit training-eating, sleeping, etc. The child's first human relationships are with the immediate members of his family-mother or nurse, siblings, father and other close relatives. A child experiences love, co-operation, authority, direction and protection. Language is also learnt from family inchildhood. Families can teach children values they will hold throughout life. They frequently adopt their parents' attitudes not only about words but also about the impotrtance od education. For the intellectual development of a child, the family can also take an important role. This can be done through the creation of an intellectual environment in the home of the child. Such an environment is created when the parents or members of the family are lovers of knowledge, collectors of good books and respects the learned people. The family teaches the accepted ways of behaviour within the group of the child. Through it, children are initiated into the patterns of life in society. The children learns the patterns of behaviour needed to lead a good life in the society and these children learns their roles and the roles of other. Thus, their socialization starts to take place. The socialization of children takes place another turn when he goes to school. Now, the child learns specifically about various roles. But, now one difficulty crops up. The values which the school may like to inculcate may be different from those which he is associated in his home. Teachers may expect him to sit silently in the classroom while at home, he is praised if he is talkactive. This creates role conflict. Therefore, we should be fully aware of this situation at home as well as at school.Family plays a pivotal role in the socialization of child. Thus, the socialization of the child, through wholesome interaction with the members of the family, goes on continually.

Negative Influence on Socialization of Child

The personality of the child is also appreciably influenced by the moral thoughts and conduct of the parents because usuallythe child looks upon his parents as ideals on which to mould his life. In order to inculcate morality in the children, the parents should place an example before them in the form of their own exemplary behaviour. But sometimes parents discriminate between their children in behaving towards them. The unlimited love and affection for one while another received only scolding and punishment. Sometimes, it is the beautiful child that is loved while the ugly one is neglected and disregarded. Whatever the reasons at the root of this discriminatory behaviour, it arouses feeling of hatred for each other among the children.

Constant conflict and quarelling between husband and wife leads to the creation of an atmosphere of insecurity in the home which is not at all conducive to the development of the child's personality. When the relation between the husband and wife deteriorate, the family is reduced to a broken family. Lack of parental involvement and the absence of this intimacy, the family is disbanded and in the broken family, juvenile delinquents are treated and brought up. In such type of family, the children are not looked after or cared for. This can, under certain circumstances, lead to terrible comsequences. Besides this, the financial condition of the family also influences the development of the child's personality. If the financial condition is good and parents can adequately satisfy the needs of the children, then the children are generally not possessed with the sense of inferiority and want and they do not turn to crime. But if the financial condition of family is extremely bad, the personality of the child suffers. If the family income is low, the children also have to work to support the family and their education is thus left imcomplete. Poverty induces feelings of dissatisfaction and inferiority. Excessive neglect and excessive love and affection are not to be desired in the relationship between the child and the parents, both are the origin of difficulties. Concerning the personality and all kinds of problems take root in the mind of the child. Similarly, it is harmful both to take place absolute control on the child as well as to leave him to his own mechanisms almost entirely. If the child is given too much freedom, he does not develop any respect for authority and cannot be governed. If he is placed under excessive control,his personality is not allowed to develop and he is obsessed with a sense of inferiority and sometimes even turns to crime. It is very difficult to bring up a child. In this connection, it is necessary that there must be a balance and understanding in nurtuting the child.

Significance of Socialization

Socialization is significant to individuals and society in many ways. Socialization ensures the continuity of society. It persistence over time due to inculcation into its members of the essential values and norms necessary for its survival and development. It is through socialization that individuals and groups are assigned specific roles, e.g. men and women in the society and they will continue to perform their various responsibilities or duties. It further serves to standardize the acceptable patterns of behaviours in most societies and among the individuals and corporate groups in existence. Socialization process also serves the function of providing the members roles e.g. training of people in formal institute such as schools, colleges, vocational institutions, etc. New members of the society are often socialized into accepting the moral code of society, the basis upon which the society survives, without moral regulation, most societies are likely to fall apart. Finally, it is through socialization that every member of the society is provided with his or her personality. It should, however, be noted that consequences of the socialization process may also prevail resulting in deviant behaviours, including criminality among individuals and groups in society. So, we can conclude that only heredity is not enogh to ba a person. Learning and education in a social

environment is imperative for development of better personality. Socialization is therefore, so significant in life.

Conclusion

Socialization, is thus a process of adaptation by the individuals to the convenient patterns of behaviour. It occurs on account of the individual's interaction with others and the expression of the culture which operates through them. The human child has a remarkable capacity to imitate others to develop according to the tenets of environment. Thus, the personality of the child is often influenced by the moral thoughts and conduct of the parents because usually the child looks upon his parents as ideals. Parents play a vital role for the overall socialization of the child.

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