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2nd Edition

Sociology for Graduate Nurses



Jacob Anthikad

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2
CHAPTER

Individual and Society

Society

Definition of Society

1. *"Society is a web of social relationships"* **—RM Mac Iver**
2. *"A Society is a collection of individuals united by a certain relation or mode of behavior which mark them off from others who do not enter into these relations or who defer from them in behavior"* **—Morris Ginsberg**.

Characteristics of Society

1. Society consists of people: Without people, there can be no society, no social relationships and no social life at all.
2. Mutual interaction and mutual awareness: Society is a group of people in continuous interaction with one another. An individual is a member of the society as long as he engages in relationship with other members of the society. Individuals are in continuous interaction with other individuals of the society. The limits of the society are marked by the limit of social interactions.

   Social interactions are made possible because of mutual awareness.
3. Likeness: Society depends on likeness. Likeness refers to similarities. It exists among those who resemble one another in some degree in body and in mind. People have similarities with regard to their needs, works, aims, ideals, values and outlook towards life. Birds of the same feather flock together. Society exists among the like minded and like beings.

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4. Differences: Society rests on differences too. If all men are exactly alike, their social relationships will be very much limited. There would be little give and take, little reciprocity. They would contribute very little to one another. Life becomes boring, monotonous and uninteresting, if differences are not present. Family rests on the biological differences of the husband and wife. People differ in their personality, intelligence, talents, interests, attitudes, likes and faith. People pursue different activities because of these differences. Thus, we have doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, advocates, politicians, musicians, writers, and artists. It is subordinate to likeness.
5. Cooperation and division of labor: Likeness and differences create division of labor. Division of labor involves the assignments to each unit or group a specific share of a common task. For example, a common task of producing cotton clothes is shared between farmers who grow cotton, spinners, weavers, dyers and merchants. Division of labor is possible because of specialization.
6. Interdependence: Society implies interdependence too. Social relationships are characterized by interdependence. Family, the most basic social group is based on the interdependence of man and woman. As society advances, the area of interdependence also grows. Today not only individuals are interdependent upon one another, even communities, social groups, societies, and nations are interdependent also.
7. Society in dynamic: Change is always present in society. Changeability is an inherent quality of human society. Society can never be static. Society is like water in a river that forever flows. It is always in a flex. Old men die and new ones are born. New associations and institutions may undergo change to meet the demands of the times. Changes may take place slowly and gradually or suddenly and abruptly.
8. Social control: Society has its own means and ways of controlling the behavior of its members. Along with cooperation, competition and conflicts, tensions, suppressions and rebellions also exist in society. They appear and reappear

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off and on. Clashes of political, economic and religious interests are common. Left to themselves, they may damage the very foundations of the society. Therefore, they are to be controlled. The behavior and activities of the people are to be controlled. Society has many formal and informal means of control. The formal means are legislations, laws, constitution, court, police and army. The informal means are customs, traditions, conventions, mores, folkways, manners and etiquettes (Refer Chapter 11).

9. Culture: Each society is unique because it has its own culture. Culture is the social heritage of man (Refer Chapter 3), it includes our values, beliefs, attitudes, judgments, ideas, ideologies and our institutions, political, legal, economic, scientifically and philosophical. Culture distinguishes one society from another. Animals do not have culture. Culture is the cement binding the individuals into the society. Human society is people interacting while culture is the patterning of their behavior.
10. Gregarious nature: Gregariousness refers to the tendency of men to live in groups. Aristotle called man, "a social animal". Man cannot live in isolation. Man is born in society. He depends on society for protection and comfort, for nurture and education. Participation in society is necessary for the development of his personality.

Society is more than an environment. It is within as well as around us. Society, not only liberates our activities but also controls it. It shapes our attitudes, our beliefs, our morals and our ideas. It stimulates the growth of our personality. It stimulates our talents and capacities (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Difference between society and community

Society	*Community*
1. Society is a web of social relationships	1. Community consists of a group of individuals living in a particular area with some degree of "we feeling"

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Society	*Community*
2. A definite geographical area is not an essential aspect of society	2. Community always denotes a definite locality or geographic area
3. Society is abstract	3. Community is concrete
4. Community sentiment or a sense of "we feeling" may be present or may not be present in society	4. Community sentiments is an essential elements of community. There can be no community in its absence
5. Society is wider. There can be more than one community in one society	5. Community is smaller than society
6. The obligations and interests of society are extensive and varied	6. The objectives and interests of community are comparatively less extensive and varied
7. Society involves both likeness and differences. Common interests as well as diverse interests are present in society	7. Likeness is more important than differences in community. There is common agreement of interests and objectives on the part of its members

Community

Definitions

1. *"A social group with 'we feeling' and living in a given" area* **— Bogrdus**
2. *"An area of social living marked by some degree of social coherence"* **— RM MacIver**

Meaning: A group of people living in a given geographic area, sharing a common way of life, working together for certain ends, aware that they belong to the community as well as larger society. People will have common interests and activities united together with common living patterns and organized social life.

Elements (Characteristics) of Community

1. **Locality:** A community is a defined group, living in a defined geographic area.

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2. **Community sentiments :** A feeling of belonging together, "we feeling". People will stay together, share their common interests and be conscious of their unity.
3. **Groups of people:** Groups of people share the basic conditions of common life. Group members can act collectively in an organized manner.
4. **Likeness:** Language, practices, customs, traditions, folkways and mores are common. People share the common way of life and work through customs and traditions.
5. **Naturality:** Community is established by a normal and natural way. They are not made or created by an act of will or planned efforts. Individuals become members of their community by birth.
6. **Permanency:** Community life in a definite place is relatively stable.

Socialization

Gillin and Gillin write: "By the term 'socialization' we mean the process by which individual develops into a functioning member of the group according to its standards, conforming to the social situations." It is the opposite of individualization. It is a process of expansion of self. It develops in him the community/we feeling. It operates not only during childhood but through life.

Importance of Socialization

1. Socialization converts man, the biological being into man, the social being.
2. Socialization
   - contributes to the development of personality
   - helps to become disciplined
   - helps to enact different roles
   - provides the knowledge of skills
   - helps to develop right aspirations in life
   - contributes to the stability of the social order
   - helps to reduce social distance
   - helps in the transmission of culture
   - provides scope for building a bright future.

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"Man is a Social Animal"—Substantiate the Statement

The human infant comes into the world as a biological organism with animal needs and impulses. He is slowly molded into a social being by the society. He comes to learn social ways by acting, thinking and feeling. From the very beginning, the individual is taught to respond in socially determining ways. The individual learns the ways of his group or society so well that they become part of his personality.

Socialization is based on the learning process. The development of a set of habits, attitudes and traits differentiates persons from one another. It consists of the processes of interactions through which the individual learns the habits, skills, beliefs and standards of judgments that are necessary for his effective participation in social groups and communities.

By the method of trial and error, reward and punishment, insight and reasoning, an individual acquires socially approved responses, which are transformed into habits, attitudes and other personality traits. Socialization regulates human behavior and also becomes an indispensable condition for individuality and self awareness.

Thus, man becomes man among men. The stories of wolf children, Anna and Isabelle prove the impact of social environment on a biological being.

Stages of Socialization

a. ***Oral stage:*** (0-1 year)—By means of crying the child establishes its oral dependency. Gradually the child identifies its mother and nearest members of its family. Freud called this stage as primary identification stage.

b. ***Anal stage:*** (1-3 years)—During the third year, the child learns that it cannot depend entirely on the mother and that it has to take some degree of care for itself. The child is taught to do some tasks like toileting and keeping the clothes clean. So this stage is also known as "toilet training stage".

c. ***Oedipal stage:*** (3-12 years)—It starts from preschool period and extends up to puberty. The child identifies himself on the basis of sex. The boy develops oedipus complex-love towards mother and jealousy towards father. The girl exhibits electra

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complex-love towards father and jealousy towards mother. Ultimately boy will identify with the father and the girl with mother and thus they grow up.

d. ***Adolescence:*** (From puberty to adulthood—Teenage)—A physical and psychological changes takes place within the individual. This is the most tiring period for the individual as well as the parents. The adolescents become partially free from the parental control. Adolescent will have less social control and will learn new social roles. Parents will advise them in the field of education, occupation, and selection of life partners.

In modern families, parents give more freedom to boys and girls. In traditional families, all the decisions are taken by the parents. That is why, socialization is more complicated in modern families and simple in traditional families.

Elements of Socialization

Socialization promotes human welfare and individual capacities. It offers greatest possibility for improvement of human culture. Its elements are:

a. Physical and psychological elements of the individuals.
b. Environment in which he is born.
c. Culture—Attitudes, norms, role and performance of social activities.

Agencies of Socialization

a. ***Family and parents:*** Socialization begins in the family. Here the parental, especially maternal influence is very great. The intimate relationship between the mother and the child has a great impact on the shaping of the child's abilities and capacities. Parents are the first people to introduce the child to the culture of his group. The child receives additional communications from his siblings who have gone through the same process with the necessary differences due to birth order and to the number of siblings.

b. ***Peers and age mates:*** "Peer groups" mean those groups made up of the contemporaries of the child, his associates in the school, playground and in the street. He learns from the children, facts and facets of culture, which they have learned at

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different periods, from their parents. At the time passes, the peer group surpasses the parental and family groups in importance. "Peer culture" becomes more important and effective than "parental" culture in adolescence. The advice of one's age mate whether overtly or covertly sets the standards in every aspect of conduct.

c. ***Teachers:*** Teachers play their role in socialization when the child enters the school. It is in the school that culture is formally transmitted and in which the love and learning science and art, of one generation is passed to the next. It is not only the formal knowledge of culture that is transmitted. Communication they receive from their teachers help to socialize and make them mature members of their societies.

d. ***Religion:*** Religion promotes the bonds of unity and molds the beliefs and ways of life. Religious ceremonies will shape the ideas of the individual. It controls the behavior of the individual, determines the course of his life and ideals.

e. ***Literature and mass media of communication:*** This is found only in literate societies. Words rush at us in torrents and cascades. They leap into our vision as in bill board, newspaper, magazines and textbooks and assault our ears as in radio and TV. The media of mass communication give their messages. These messages too contain in capsule form, the premises of our culture, its attitudes and ideologies. The words are written by someone and these people too—authors, editors and advertisers—join the teachers/parents and the peers in the socialization process. In individual cases, of course, some of these influences are more important than others. The responses can also differ.

The role of socialization in the development of human mentality and human behavior may be shown from the cases of Anna and Isabelle.

a. Anna, an illegitimate child, was kept all alone in an upstairs room. When removed from the room at the age of nearly six years, Anna could not talk or walk. She was expressionless and indifferent to everything. This shows that in the absence of socialization, biological resources alone cannot develop a complete personality.

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b. Isabelle was found at the age of six and a half years. Like Anna, she too was an illegitimate child and had been kept in isolation for that reason. When found, she was utterly unaware of relationship of any kind. Her behavior was comparable to that of child of six months. Later, attempts were made to teach her speak. At first the task seemed hopeless but lately she responded and ultimately reached the normal level of development by the time she was 8 ½ years old.

Isabelle's case shows that isolation up to age of six with failure to acquire any form of speech does not preclude the subsequent acquisition of it. Socialization is the most important factor in personality development.

Merits of Socialization

1. Conversion of a biological being into a social being.
2. Disciplines the individual.
3. Contributes to the development of personality.
4. Helps him enact various roles.
5. Transmission of culture.
6. Maintains the stability of the social order.

Demerits of Socialization

1. Personality disorders.
2. Leads to unsatisfactory self image.
3. Leads to antisocial and delinquent behavior.
4. May lead to mental illness and suicide.

Advantages of Socialization

1. The process of socialization enables an individual, come out of isolation and join group life. Without socialization and group life it would be impossible for him to live and exist in society.
2. After socialization an individual will not do any thing which is socially harmful or will bring disrepute or dishonor to him as a member of the society.
3. As a socialized individual he will not do anything unproductive. He will see that a labor has production or constructive results.

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4. If an individual is fully socialized and understands the significance of society, he will see that social interests are placed above the individual interest, and society is placed above the individual.
5. Another advantage of socialization is that it brings the members of the society close to each other and the distance that separates the individual from each other is minimized.

Socialization of Adults

Socialization of adult is easier than that of socialization of children. The adult is motivated to work towards a goal. Secondly the new role that he is trying to internalize may have many similarities to the roles already existing in his personality and because the socializing agent can communicate with him easily through language (speech).

However, the socialization of adults can be prolonged and difficult. This is essentially so when the roles to be learned are difficult and the responsibilities of the new roles are heavy. Norms and attitudes have already become deeply internalized in adults and so when new norms and attitudes to be learned they run counter to norms already established in the personality, socialization of adults then becomes a difficult process.

Individualization

Individualization is the process of becoming different from others. It is the process in which man comes to know himself and acquires a sense of inner responsibility. He begins to regard his life and character as unique. Socialization brings man into relation with others. Individualization makes him autonomous and determining.

Individualization is that social process which makes the individual more or less independent of his group and to create in him a self consciousness of him. According to Mac Iver, "individualization is a process in which man becomes more autonomous or self determining, in which they advance beyond mere limitations or acceptance of standards which they become less bound lay custom or tradition in the regulation of their lives, less submissive to authority in matters of thought and opinion recognizing that each is a unique focus of living and can achieve the ends of his life only on those grow

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clear in his own consciousness and become the object of his own will." Socialization is the process of attaining to own self when a man does think not simply because his own self approves it, he is carried by his own personality or individuality.

Working Process of Individualization

Individualization is a process carried through society by the individual himself. It is primarily a mental process, which is being spread through the prevailing ideas. When a man attains his own self, it does not mean that the individual frees completely from the influence of his group. Not only the individual himself but the society as well will help him in acquiring the inner sense of responsibility and knowing himself. The process of individualization is carried out, not only by the individual himself but also the society.

1. Individualization is a process of being different from other people.
2. Individualization on the level of new form of self regarding attitudes.
3. Individualization through objects.
4. Individualization and sublimating the individualizing forces around and within us.

Lifestyle

It is a way of life or a style of living that reflects the attitudes and values of a person or group. It is a manner of living that reflects the personal values and attitudes. This includes patterns of social relations, consumption, entertainment and dress. "Having a specific lifestyle" implies a conscious or unconscious choice between one set of behaviors and other set of behaviors. The different ways of living are expressed on entirely different cultures, religions and ethnicities or by an approved minority racial group.

Role of Lifestyle in Health

Health cannot be isolated from its social context. The last few decades have shown that social and economic factors have as much influence on health as medicines. All these factors have a direct bearing on the

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incidence, course and outcome of a wide variety of communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as many other health problems of today. They also affect the provision of health care to all strata of society. Poverty, lack of education, malnutrition, poor sanitation, inadequate housing, unemployment, poor working conditions, cultural and behavioral factors—all predispose to ill health.

The patient is no longer considered as one who is under strict laboratory control, but as an individual with personal likes and dislikes, erratic habits, customs, and beliefs acting on his body and mind. For example, a man with a fractured leg may present complex social and personal factors, which may affect his recovery. There has been a shift from the earlier concepts of seeing disease in terms of a specific germ to the involvement of multiple factors in the causation of the disease. Good doctors are being identified as those who treat patients and bad ones are those who treat diseases.

Personal or Personality Disorganization

Often individuals fail to meet the requirements of the society in which they live. As a result, he develops personality problems and becomes disorganized. Such a person is considered as a mental case, a case of mental derangement or abnormality. His behavior is unpredictable. He remains socially isolated. He is out of adjustment with society. Personality disorganization can be milder or may take serious forms of mental disorders like neurosis or psychosis. In addition to mentally deranged, there are other examples of personality disorganization like criminals, gamblers, alcoholics, drug addicts, and prostitutes who are mentally normal, but socially abnormal.

Causes of Personality Disorganization

1. Failure of the individual to adjust himself to society, may be due to factors inherent in the individual or in the society in which he lives. He may have been born with a mental disability, which prevents his integration to society.
2. In the modern society man's desires have increased many-fold. Advertisements have stimulated his desires, which often cannot be satisfied. Repeated frustrations tend to produce a generalized lack of confidence in one's ability to achieve any

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end and a generalized concept of oneself as less efficient and less worthy than others.

3. Rapid changes in society create new ideas and new standards while old ones are still present. All these leave the individual bewildered and helpless in coping with the new situations in which he finds himself. He may:
   a. Return to old forms of behaviors.
   b. Create his own way of behavior and seek to have it adopted by the society.
   c. Attack the existing social order through various types of antisocial behavior, such as crime or the theft.
   d. Take refuge in a retreat from society.
   e. Escape from life by committing suicide.

Questions

Long Essays

1. Distinguish between society and community.
2. What is society? Explain the elements of society.
3. How do you define society? Explain the nature of society.
4. Characteristics of human society.
5. Define community. Bring out its salient features.
6. What is socialization? What are its advantages.
7. Describe the process of socialization. Give two illustrations.
8. Describe the agencies of socialization in personality development.
9. Explain the stages of socialization of an individual.

Short Essays

10. "Man is a social animal"—Comment.
11. Explain the relation between individual and socialization.
12. Explain how the individual and society are interrelated.
13. Role of nurses in society.

Short Answers

14. Individualization.
15. Division of labor.
16. Community sentiment.

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Jacob Anthikad MA (Psy) BEd MA (Chem) DTech (Biochem) DBA has studied and taught in five universities. He has traveled extensively in all the continents of the world. Also, he studied law and has considerable experience of hospital administration. He has half a century of teaching experience of which he served more than 30 years as an education officer in the Indian Air Force. Officers' training in the Indian Air Force (IAF) makes extensive use of the basic principles of sociology.

Wing Commander Anthikad has written six textbooks including *Psychology for Graduate Nurses,* and *Psychology and Sociology for GNM and BPT Students*. He is an examiner and external faculty in many leading nursing colleges of Karnataka, India.

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