

Social Development

Human beings possess a unique characteristic which separates them from animal beings. Their behaviour is social. Society is essential as food to them. They believe in the maintenance of social relationships and try to adjust with others. The process of the development of such qualities which brings desirable changes in his social behaviour is referred to as social development or socialization of the child.

Man is a social being. He comes in contact with the society and starts his interaction with it from the moment of his birth. The span of social relation gradually increases and continues till death. So it is a process from social point of view that childhood is the most valuable phase in human life. Real socialization starts from childhood. The social habits along with the social instincts that he gains and his interaction with different persons and environment shapes his personality for the whole of his life. Hence it is a prime necessity on the part of teacher to have the knowledge, how the social personality of a child develops and what are its main constituents.

FACTORS AFFECTING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

How to help the child in the task of his social development is a relevant question at this stage. In this task, the individual in addition to his own physical, mental and emotional development is helped by various social agencies. All these factors and how they influence the pattern of social development can be seen through the following discussion :

(A) Personal Factors

1. Bodily structure and health Development of social behaviour is influenced by the physique develops self-confidence and a sense of self-respect. He has the strength and ability to make himself adjusted in the challenging social situations. He is always cheerful and co-operative.
2. Intelligence Intelligence is defined as the ability to make and take the right decision at a right time and the ability to adapt or adjust to new situations. These qualities are very essential for effective social behaviour. The more intelligent a person is, the more adjustable and social he will prove.
3. Emotional Development Emotional development of the child bears a

positive correlation with the social development. Emotional adjustability and maturity is one of the very important element of social maturity. The persons who can express their emotions in a proper degree at a proper time are found to possess a healthy social personality.

(B) Environmental Factors

1. Family Atmosphere: Family is named as the most important primary agency for socialization of the child. The home atmosphere and the family relationship exercise much influence upon the social development of the child. The child learns the first lesson of social qualities from his parents. Consciously or unconsciously he imitates the behaviour of his parents and members of his family and thus picks up so many good or bad social characteristics which go with him even up to the end of his life.

2. The School and Its Atmosphere Social development in children is greatly influenced by the social environment and functioning of the schools. The human relationships maintained by the schools, the kinds of programmes and activities performed, its traditions, values and principles, the social qualities and behaviour of the teacher's school mates-all influence the social development of the child. The school having a healthy social and democratic atmosphere inculcates so many social virtues among the students while a poor and unhealthy atmosphere of the school and the negative social behavioural characteristics of the teachers and school mates cast a bad influence upon the social behaviour of the child.

3. Peer Group Relationship and Gang Influence: The play mates-school or class mates also influence the social development of the child. He picks up the habits and social qualities of his companions. A good company helps him to learn good qualities while a bad company provides all opportunities to spoil him and turn him into anti-social personalities. On the credit side, through peer group relationships and gang influence, he learns to co-operate, to lead and follow, to think for a common cause and to adjust in the challenging social situations. It inculcates the sense of loyalty, sympathetic attitude and the willingness to obey the social rules and regulations.

4. Community and Neighbourhood As the child grows older he comes in contact with the social circle of his neighbourhood and the community to which he belongs. The social interests, habits and characteristics of neighbours unconsciously and consciously, influence the social behaviour of the child. Every community and the society is characterized by its unique cultural pattern, social mores, traditions and social characteristics.

5. Religious Institutions and Clubs The social agencies like temple, church, social clubs etc. also influence the social development of the child. These places serve as a meeting ground of the members of the society and help in developing social contacts and relationships. The social behaviour of an individual is

greatly influenced by the traditions, values, ideals and social characteristics maintained by these institutions.

6. Information and Entertainment Agencies Agencies like newspapers, magazines, radio, cinemas, television etc, also exercise their influence upon the social development of children. Sources of information constantly inform the readers, listeners and others about the changes in the social-structure, customs, traditions and values and thus bring desirable changes in the social behaviour of individuals. The mass entertainment agencies like radio, cinema, television etc. play a vital role in moulding and shaping the behaviour of the members of the society

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DURING INFANCY

The social domain encompasses feeling and emotions, behaviours, attachments and relationships with others. Infants like to be held and cuddled when awake and begin to establish a bond or attachment with parents and caregivers which evolve into a sense of trust and security.

Hurlock has presented the sequence of infants development.

Sequence of infant's social development .

	Duration of age	Pattern of Social Behaviour
1.	1 month	Infant does not react seeing any person or object, reacts to loud sound and sharp light. Crying and moving eyes are reactions.
2.	2 months	He starts recognizing voice/sound. Infant can react differently in adult voices (frown, smile), coo and sequal when awake, stop crying when parent nears and recognize and reach out to familiar faces.
3.	3 months	Infant recognizes his mother and other members of his family. If someone talks to him or claps, he stops crying and looks him.
4.	4 months	When someone comes near to him, he laughs. When someone plays with him he becomes happy, When he is alone starts crying.
5.	5-8 months	Infant develops a beginning awareness of self, becomes more outgoing, laughs out loudly and begins to exhibit strange anxiety.
6.	8-12 months	Babies want parent/caregiver to be in constant side, offer toys and objects to others, repeat behaviours that get attention and begin to exhibit assertiveness.
7.	12-24 months	Babies become less wary of stranger, play alone for short periods, begin to assert independence, enjoy adult attention and often imitate adults in play.
8.	24-36 months	Children begin to show signs of empathy and caring. Social development rate is rapid. Instead of toys they like to play with other children. They search their playing partners. They establish social relation with others. Change in behaviour is prominent during this period. Their self centred behaviour decreases, socialization process starts.
9.	4-5 years	Child goes to nursery school. He enters in a new social world and establishes new social relations.
10.	5 years	Child makes adjustments to group life with other children. He cooperates his group and share his personal things.