

Socialisation: Types Stages :(chapter-5)

Course content (Meaning, Features, Types, Stages and agencies of socialization, theories of socialization) Lecture for B.A (H) Part 1st and Subsidiary (Part 1st)

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Theories of Socialization:

An ongoing debate is whether human behaviour is inborn and instinctual (resulting from “nature”) or produced through socialization and social experience (resulting from “nurture”).

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a widely held belief supported biologically based “human nature.” Today, sociologists position themselves on the “nurture” side of this debate. Rather than talking in terms of behaviour based on “human nature,” sociologists talk in terms of human behaviour based on socialization. Research on how humans behave while drinking alcoholic beverages provides support for the influence of socialization. A common perception is that alcoholic beverages have a chemical impact on the brain, impacting sensorimotor skills, loosening inhibitions, and breaking the power that social norms typically hold on us. The resulting behaviour is called a *drunken comportment*. If drunken comportment is entirely due to biology, then all people should exhibit the same behaviours as a result of drinking alcoholic beverages, regardless of their culture. If socialization is at play, then drunken comportment can be expected to vary according to cultural expectations. To test this concept, Craig MacAndrew and Robert Edgerton (1969) explored accounts of drinking behaviour among various cultures. They found that drunken comportment does indeed vary based on cultural expectations of how people act when under the influence of alcohol. Drunks among the Camba in Eastern Bolivia do not exhibit the heightened aggression, sexual activity, clowning, or boasting that are stereotypical drunken behaviours in the United States.

Drinkers in Oaxaca, Mexico, are also not aggressive. Conversely, the Kaingang Indians in Brazil are very violent when drinking. All of these behaviours fit the expectations for drunken comportment in those particular cultures. How and why do the members of each of these cultures know how to act drunk? How do they learn social expectations for various situations? And what is the impact of these expectations? Sociologists and others have developed and debated several theories to explain the socialization process and its implications.

- **The Looking-Glass Self**
- **Socialization and Social Interaction (The I and Me)**
- **Personality and Social Development**