

## Significance of Family on Socialization of The Child

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The family on account of its several characteristics is of strategic importance in socialization. It is the family which gets the child first. The child is born into it and is a social blank, more plastic than he will ever be again. The process of socialization begins within the family. It prepares the ground work upon which the agencies coming afterwards build. It monopolizes the time and experiences of the child during his formative years. The influence of the family upon the child is deeper and more abiding than that of other groups. The child drops his childhood playmates, changes his school, forgets the school fellows, but the parents retain their close contact with him throughout most of his early life.

Family is a primary group, its members are imbued with 'we' feeling which is a helpful agent in transmitting the family attitudes and sentiments. No other single group satisfies the needs of the child as much as the family does. No group can complete with the family in that respect.

In family there are both kinds of relationships the authoritarian and the equalization. Each type of relationship supplies a unique and necessary element in socialization and the family provides them both. The child learns to be a man a husband and a father mainly through having lived in a family headed by a man, a husband and a father. The child continues to identify himself with the family forever. It is the only group which is always there in the life of man.

Family is the first & foremost institution. It is the oldest among the other institutions. Though the family has undergone many changes, yet it is the backbone of our social structure. As Maclver Said, "of all the organizations, large or small which society unfolds, none transcends sociological significance. It influences the whole life of society in innumerable ways & its changes reverberate through the whole social structure. It is capable of endless variations &

yet it reveals a remarkable continuity of persistence through changes."

The social significance of family may be seen from the following

### Family is a fundamental unit

Family is the 1<sup>st</sup> unit of society. Man is born in a family. It is the best institution to satisfy the biological & psychological needs of man.

### Family has a nuclear situation

Family occupies a nuclear position in society. Most of our activities are for the family. People work for the comfort of their wives & children. Thus, family is the nucleus of most of the activities of man.

### Family socializes the individual

The importance of families in the socialization of the individual cannot be over-emphasized. Merrill States, "Family is an enduring association of parent & offspring whose primary functions are the socialization of the child & the satisfaction of the members." Confucius remarked rightly that if you want to improve society, improve its families.

### Family is the conveyer of culture

The family not only moulds the character & personality of the individual, but also imparts its culture to the individual. In the family the child acquires knowledge about the culture of society.

### Proper organization of society depends upon family

If the family disintegrates society will not be safe. One major cause of social disorganization today is family disorganization. According to Freud, a child, when a man exhibits the same character & mutual tendencies which he acquires in the family.

### Society Controls the individual through the family

Family is an important agency of social control. Family controls sex passions of society otherwise society will disintegrate. No parents would like their children to adopt the career of crime. The children

under the influence of their parents drop bad habits & learn good habits.

**The child learns his mother tongue in the family**

Language is the mirror of culture. The child picks up the language of his family. A child brought up in a cultured family speaks cultured language which is the major element in the process of civilization.

Thus, the family, holds a unique position among the innumerable institutions. Its influence is the earliest & is of most permanent nature. It behaves both as an institution as well as an association. It educates the individual in culture, conduct, behavior, religion, ideas, values & civic virtues. Confucius rightly remarked that if you want to improve society, improve its families. Therefore, family is called as the primary & fundamental unit of society.

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