

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DURING CHILDHOOD

With the entrance in childhood period, child progress from being relatively unsocial to distinctly socialized. Socialization process is very rapid during childhood. Child goes to primary school. Between the ages of 6 to 12 years, the child's world expands outward from the family as relationships are formed with friends, teachers, coaches, caregivers and others. Children develop at various rates. Some children in childhood seem very mature while others seem very immature. According to **Hurlock** and other psychologists social development of a child occurs in following manner:

1. This period is marked by greater degree of social awareness. He/she learns to share, co-operate and to do things with others. There is a great expansion of child's social life.
2. There are signs of growing independence. Children are becoming so 'worldly that they typically test their growing knowledge with back talk and rebellion.
3. Common fears include the unknown, failure, death, family problems and rejection.
4. By acquiring experiences and developing physically, intellectually and socially he tries to adjust himself in his environment.
5. They form their group among members of their own sex because of a definite and clear differentiation.
6. The child at this stage, develops social tendencies and pick up so many social virtues. He likes to play in groups and shares his toys with others.
7. Feelings of team spirit, group loyalty are developed at this stage.
8. Child acts nurturing and commanding with younger children but follows and depends on older children.
9. Child is beginning to see the point of view of others more clearly.
10. Child defines himself in terms of his appearance, possessions and activities.

Factors affecting Social Development

1. Personal Factors and
2. Environmental Factors.

1. Personal Factors :-

- a) **Bodily structure and Health** - A healthy child with a normal physique develops self-confidence and a sense of self-respect. He/she has the strength and ability to make him/her adjusted in the challenging social situations and mixes with the people and maintains proper social relationships. The child having poor

health or any physical deformities and defects develops the feeling of inferiority and feels difficulty in social adjustment. Therefore, proper care should be taken for the balanced physical development of the children.

- b) **Intelligence:** Intelligence is defined as the ability to make and take the right decision at a right time which is very essential for effective social behaviour. The more intelligent a person is, the more adjustable and social he will prove.
- c) **Emotional development:** Emotional adjustability and maturity is one of the very important elements of social maturity. The person who can express their emotions in a proper degree at a proper time are found to possess a healthy social personality. Therefore, proper care should be taken for the training of the emotions of the child so that he may not feel any obstacles in the path of his social development.

2. Environmental Factors

- a) **Family atmosphere** - The family is the primary socializing agent in a child's life. A nurturing, supportive, and responsive environment helps children develop secure attachments, self-esteem, and social competence. Therefore it is essential to seek the active co-operation of the parents in providing suitable atmosphere at home for the proper social development of the children.
- b) **School and its atmosphere** - Social development in children is greatly influenced by the social environment and functioning of the school. A school with a positive, social, and democratic environment instills many social virtues in students. In contrast, an unhealthy school atmosphere, along with negative social behaviors from teachers and peers, can have a detrimental effect on a child's social development. For this reason, both teachers and school administrators should strive to create a healthy school environment to promote children's proper social growth.
- c) **Peer-group relationships and gang influences:** A child's social development is significantly shaped by interactions with peers, such as playmates, classmates, and schoolmates. Through these relationships, children learn how to cooperate, lead and follow, work toward shared goals, and adapt to difficult social situations. These experiences foster a sense of loyalty, empathy, and a readiness to follow societal rules and norms.
- d) **Community and neighborhood:** As a child matures, they begin to interact more with the surrounding neighborhood and the community they are part of. The social habits, interests, and traits of the people in their environment subtly or directly affect the child's social behavior. Each community and society has its own distinct cultural norms, traditions, and social values. As a member of this community, the child absorbs these influences, which play a significant role in shaping their social behaviour and development.
- e) **Religious institutions and clubs:** Social organizations such as temples, churches, and social clubs have an impact on a child's social development. These venues act as gathering places for community members, promoting the formation of social relationships and connections.

- f) **Information and entertainment media:** Platforms like newspapers, magazines, radio, cinema, and television play a role in shaping children's social development. These media sources consistently update their audiences about shifts in societal structures, customs, traditions, and values, which in turn helps to foster positive changes in people's social behavior and life principles.

References

Developmental Psychology by Krishna Kumari Chetry.

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