

Socialization, Genetic Issue in Nigeria and Nation Building

Dr (Mrs) Louisa Ngozi Amaechi^{1*}, Eze Nwosu², Agama Christian Sunday (Phd)³, Okafor, T.O.⁴

^{1,2,3} Directorate Of General Studies, Federal University Of Technology Owerri Nigeria

⁴ general Studies Unit University Of Agriculture Umuagwo

***Corresponding Author:** Dr (Mrs) Louisa Ngozi Amaechi, Directorate Of General Studies, Federal University Of Technology Owerri Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The economic, social and political development of any given nation is the product of socialization. Society is good or bad also is determined by the nature of nature-nurture compromise. The paper examined the concept of socialization, its functions and challenges. It also explored various determinants of character formation and its effects on man and his environment. The paper concludes that the nature in a child and the environment where he or she is brought up has a contributory factor in a child's upbringing and their contribution to the nation's building. The paper recommended couple to choose people from good families before entering into such marriage and look for a good environment for the training of their children in order to build a good society for economic, scientific, socio-political and technological development of their nation as found in advanced world.

Keywords: Socialization, nature-nurture issue and its contribution to development.

SOCIALIZATION

Socialization is a concept that has to do with learning process. A situation where people interact and learn a new thing in any given environment they find themselves. Socialization has been defined by many scholars in different ways thus,

Uzuegbunam (1998) in Horton and Hunt (1980) defined socialization as a process by which one internalizes the norms of the group among where he lives so that a distinct self emerges unique to this individual, while Uche (1984) sees socialization as a process by which human beings acquire their social behavioral pattern right from birth. To this very definition, socialization starts from child's immediate family from birth. In another development, Wright (1975) opined that socialization is a process whereby the neonate is fitted progressively into various social systems of the society in which he belongs while in America socialization is seen as a process of raising up children.

Socialization indeed is a two way traffic, whereby the environment impact knowledge to people and people responding to what they see, feel, observe and do in any given environment. Man as a cultural being buys the idea of socialization. In the ideas of Okafor (1980),

socialization is the transmission of culture, ideas and process whereby people learn the rules and practices of social groups in any given environment. It is an aspect of activity within all human societies. Man as a cultural being must continue changing roles and acquiring new modes of norms, attitudes and behavior till death, (Eteng, 1980).

To some sociologists, re-socialization can occur in the life of some people because of a particular training in a particular environment. Such re-socialization can be observed when a change in individual's behavioural patterns is basic and rapid, especially the abandonment of one's way of life for another which is not only different from the former, but also incompatible with it, the individual is said to have re-socialized, (Uzoegbulam, 1998:183).

Re-socialization can be done or observed in different measures such as brain washing, ordinary propaganda, prison training, rehabilitation of mental or criminals and conversion of people by social media or religious group.

In each case above, there must be change in thought and way of life of such affected individuals. In a nutshell, the real re-socialization of people usually take place in an environment called social institution where such

people are kept in an isolated environment for a particular training pattern, (Eteng, 1980).

MASS MEDIA

Mass media as a teaching institution acts as a socializing agent. It helps to provide information which can modify people's behavior and add values to restore man's dignity in the society. They express and illustrate experiences- vicarious thrills, entertainments, horror and so on. Mass media is not the only agent that makes socialization a reality in the society, it does not work in isolation, there are others like peer group influence, whereby the youth organizes one attractive programme or the other to educate or entertain the society or their fellow youth on media. These media programme organized by youth is also a kind of socialization that change people's mentality and can affect people's behavior. Media, family, church/religion, market and school are all socialization agents that affect the character of people and productivity of man to enable such individual to contribute his or her ideas and talents for nation-building.

Aims of Socialization

There are different aims that can serve equally as functions. These aims include:

- To instill in individuals the desire to get ahead. In other words, socialization instills aspirations in individual. This inspiration helps to reinforce the socialization process because they force people to conform to the rules of his society in order to reach his goals.
- Secondly, another issue of socialization is the learning of social roles. This social role learning helps people to co-ordinate their behavior with the behavior of others in any given environment.
- Socialization also teaches skills: This shows that all societies have certain skills which their respective members are expected to know and practice if they are to be successfully assimilated into their respective societies.
- Another important aim is the restriction of gratification through the method of postponing, forgetting and modification. Every society has rules and laws that must be binding in the life of people existing in a particular society. These rules and laws

usually facilitate social interaction and control social behavior. The degree to which these social roles foster discipline differs or varies among individuals, communities or groups in a particular environment. To some people, it is physically impossible for them to perform a socially prohibited act which another group may not see as a serious issue. But through socialization, norms, values desirable and undesirable matters are made known to people. The acceptable or unacceptable cultures are also made known to people in their society.

Challenges of Socialization

Through interactions and socialization, bad ones can easily corrupt the innocent and good ones in the society. Family of good children can be polluted. Society will be affected negatively. Destiny of somebody can be destroyed. It leads to the spread of social ills in the society. Insecurity and armed robbery becomes the issue of the day. It endangers economic growth and development of the nation. It makes the environment ungovernable for the government. Families and parents leave in fear always.

The nature-nurture argument focuses on the issue whether a child is or behaves how he behaves because of the environmental influence or biological factor which is the 'gene' or 'trait' which is nurture or nature. Nature seems to be the totality of the biological components of a child, an inborn drive or thing existing in man from birth without any external influence in him.

Nurture on the other hand is all external influences which somebody can acquire and implement at any given point in time in any given environment. Nurture has absolutely nothing to do with a person's gene or biological traits, but still contributes to what makes one or somebody in his life style. Nurture becomes a product of exposure, interaction, experience and learning from people and environment, (Goldhabar, 2012).

John Lock emphasized much on nurture as a major determinant factor that makes a man, to him man by birth is tabula rasa (blank slate) i.e. empty field where the environment writes or teaches to build a man. The debate of blank slate which denies the influence of heritability and the view admitting both environmental and heritable traits has often been cast or seen in terms of nature versus nurture. In any case, no matter the angle, principle or ideology

determining nature and nurture, both always influence each other and equally conflict each other in order to bring result.

Nature/Nurture Debate on Socialization

On the issue of nature and nurture in the area of socialization, the argument usually comes up, whether nature carries more weight on the socialization learning process or the environment which is nurture. Some sociologists believe that environment takes an upper hand in child's upbringing also some philosophers are of the view that man by birth knows nothing but only the environment that impacts knowledge to brain of man to make him what he suppose to be by creating avenue for inspiration.

On the other hand, the biologists strongly believe that a child is what he is or ought to be as a result of an inborn drive in him i.e. trait or gene of his life. The biologists feel that a child must have certain biological trait that he will manifest in life in order for him or her to be what he intends to be in any given environment. For instance, a child that is not science in clan cannot be able to pass those science subjects which will lead him to study Medicine, Engineering and any other science course.

In another development, the sociologists explained that if a child is given proper training and instruction on science subjects by good and qualified teachers, friends or family members, such child who is well taught may be in position to pass the sciences well, in order to enable him to study any science subject in any institution of learning.

While the above debate of socialization as a learning process by the psychologists that studied the environment and came into conclusion that learning must involve nature/nurture compromise or controversy in a child's upbringing. The psychologists observed that a child will be what he wants to be as a result of the agreement of the nature and nurture (i.e. Biological and environment components) in the society as a combination of a product.

In the issue of nature-nurture debate of socialization process of learning, there are some strange characters or behavior a child may exhibits in his or her environment, the adults may make comment that this is not in our blood (which has biological touch-nature and gene). The saying of those adults takes the blame to the environment showing that the environment which is nurture will account for such behavior.

Also a child who comes from a lineage dominated by traders and business men but, was brought up from an academically conscious environment where he aspired to attain or got educated to the highest level of education; tend to have made it because of the environmental factor. Also, there may be a child who is from a highly educated parents/family but grew up in a different environment where the parents did not play active role in guiding him/her properly, end up been a street trader or illiterate farmer as a result of environmental influence. Sometimes, the argument of nature/nurture which one takes an upper hand in a child upbringing usually leads to a big controversy in the society. While the biologists argue that gene or biological trait is a determinant factor that makes a child what he is, the sociologist and some philosophers share a common view that a child is what he is because of the environmental influence which is nurture. To the philosopher, some philosophers are of the view that when a child is born with empty brain and mind 'tabular rasa' the environment prepares him and makes him what he should be in life. The sociologists feel that the greatest thing that controls the character of a child is peer group influence which he acquires in his environment while the psychologist combines the nature biological gene/traits with the environment 'nurture' as the major contributory factors or components that makes a child in any given environment. Some studies on nature/nurture debate of socialization process of learning observed different ideologies or views and beliefs on nature-nurture experiments, (Keller, 2010).

Other functions of socialization include integrating the system i.e. man and the society.

It integrates the system goals, makes one to adjust and modify behavior

It helps one to motivate others to learn morals if need arises.

It provides positive support to structure and facilitate social change.

Socialization builds functional motivation into persons, maximizes voluntary participation and maximizes one's reservation. Hence, conformity has inner roots tend to be self-sustaining and thereby maintaining.

Socialization helps one to have values, legitimacy and intrinsic proprietary which they usually accept as self-evident. This acceptance builds functional motivation into the person. Maximizes his voluntary participation and

minimizes his reservations. Therefore conformity gets inner roots, tends to be self-sustaining and thereby system maintaining in any given society.

Socialization helps to integrate and sustain a system and its value; hence, behavior keeps the system going and integrates it adequately.

Biological View

The biologists believe that whatever a child portrays in any given environment whether good or bad character is as a result of his biological component or trait/gene and has nothing to do with the environment or socialization process. This shows that one's character has to do with 'heritability' (Keller, 2010). The term heritability simple means the degree of genetic variation between people on a trait. It does not refer to the degree to which a trait of a particular individual is due to the environment i.e. to say that an individual is genetically influenced.

In contrast, the heritability index statistically quantifies the extent to which variation between individuals on a trait is due to variation in the genes those individuals carries. In animals, where breeding and environments can be controlled experimentally, heritability can be determined easily.

One way to determine the contribution of genes and environment to a trait is through that study of twins. In one kind of study, identical twins reared apart are compared to randomly selected pairs of people. The twins shared identical genes, but were brought up in different family environment. Another identical twins were brought up from the same family environment and gene are compared to fraternal twins reared two (who also share family environment, share half their genes. There was another condition that permits the disassociation of gene and environment is adoption. Biological siblings reared together who share the same family environment and half their gene is compared to adoptive siblings (who share their family environment but none of their genes. It is observed that gene makes a substantial contribution including psychological traits such as intelligence and personality, (Butter, 2006). Also, heritability may differ in some circumstances for instance, in case of environmental deprivation.

In this context of nature-nurture debate, the definition of nature remains heritability while that of nurture is any type of causality that is heritable. Nurture becomes any substantial

source of environmental input to human nature including culture.

Socialization and National Development

Socialization that has to do with interaction and learning in any given environment instill inspiration and unfold talent from people help in development of man and his environment, contributes to the improvement of living standard of people in many ways. People that interacted with advanced world from the developing countries learn, do, work and transfer their scientific and technological knowledge, skills and experienced gotten from foreign countries in addition to the already deposited one in his brain Chukwuezi (2006).

In Nigeria, many enterprising men and women, educated and illiterates improve their living economic condition by exhibiting and improving their talent, social roles and skills through the provision of their brain work in many entrepreneurial hand work such as; soap making, small and medium scale industrial production, tailoring and welding activities. They also are involved into drug production to improve human health, changing waste to wealth production, improvement in agricultural production to provide raw materials for industrial use and provision of food and meat for human consumption, Okonta (2020).

Through socialization process, developing countries like Nigeria can now transfer agricultural technology and equipment like tractor, harvesters, and agro-chemical materials to improve the agricultural sector of Nigerian economy.

In medical line, more health experts and doctors have improved their medical profession and method of saving life and administering drugs and various treatments. Through social media interactions and socialization learning methods have increased and research work improved in developing nations. The engineers can improve their methods of building bridges without causalities and productive waste in Nigeria. International communities and transfer which saves live and improve condition can easily to be found in developing nation.

Socialization improves international trade, business and foreign investment. Since interaction in interest services and media work can easily be connected, building technology made easy is fully assured, improved and conducted. In building a good and democratic society for nation building, the citizen must

inculcate in themselves good morals, ethics and values and must protect human rights or have right judgment to enable them to take the nation to a higher developmental level. It is clear that integration of good nature and good educational and social environment can make a nature to improve their development target, Ugo (2020). It is obvious that interaction which many Nigerians are having in developed world called for improvement in the country's democratic affairs. It helps to create awareness for need in more democratic dividends, administrative and political restructure that will accommodate every segment and economic sector of all in Nigeria.

In another development, looking critically on the agents of socialization and their impact on nation building, it was observed that most agents of socialization have one innovation or the other that can change the society's needs and aspiration as follows:

In mass media as an agent of socialization, moral values are taught, peace and conflict resolution are made known to the society for good atmosphere and enabling environment for democratic sustainability and good governance. Good medication process and facilities or systems are made known to the masses. In media publicity different scientific and technological equipment and machines that can improve human condition and living style is introduced publicly.

Media exposes inefficiency of government and public office holders for the improvement of the society and social changes. In the area of farming and improvement of food security, modern method of improving farm produce is made known to the farmers and the general public by the government and the extension farm agents to the rural dwellers. The improvement in the area of agriculture by media publicity increase raw materials to be used in local industries most especially from foreign media services.

School as an agent of socialization helps the children and general public to specialize on areas of life where they can be useful in their talent, experience and wisdom of life. All experts in the different areas of life contribute their own quota to the nation's building technologically and administratively. In religion as an agent of socialization, different religious sects teach their members how to live a decent way of life which can make them to be useful in the society where they belong in order to enable

them contribute their talent for nation building. Most of the technological innovations we have in Africa today is the product of socialization Africans had with the advanced nations through peer group influence and other measures of interaction with the outside world.

SUMMARY

Currently, globalization, social media, internet experiences, science and technology has increased the modus operandi of children activities, behavior and instinct. In developing countries, the issue of poor economy, leadership and political challenges has affected seriously the instinct and biological trait of families. Internet fraud, corruption and bad practices can be seen in the life of people who have good gene and as well brought up in a well-organized environment, this in returns affects the economy of the growing nations. Therefore, both nature, nurture, science and technology along-side with internet services should be well organized, integrated and emphasized in a child's upbringing.

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