

Q. Discuss the intricate relationship between culture and socialization, highlighting key mechanisms through which the cultural elements are internalized by the individuals in a society. Give examples to illustrate your answer. (20)

Ans →

### ① Introduction.

Socialization and culture are both two sides of a same coin. They both are interrelated to one another.

Everything socially learned becomes a part of culture within the period of time from one generation to another.

### ② Defining Culture and Socialization.

Culture is a mode of life and thinking set by earlier generations, this is associated through people from history.

There are two types of culture: Material,

Being associated with material things such as watches, cloths and other culturally accepted norms; Secondly non-material; Sharing the perspective of beliefs, religions, language and customs followed from one generation to another. There are several characteristics of culture, mainly the forms of cultures. Culture is mostly a product of society and is transmitted from one group to another. This is transmitted through different forms; groups, generation and individuals.

Socialization on the other hand deals with a different approach. Socialization is the development of human nature through formal (schools, universities, job) and informal setting (House, friends).

There are different types of socialization recorded in a society, which are: primary, secondary (society, groups), Gender (male, female, other), Race (segregation) and lastly Class (upper or lower). Socialization

is considered as a key to human development. It was proved accurate in the case study of Oxana Malaya aka Dog Girl, in this case the girl was abandoned by parents and was raised by the dogs in her neighbourhood. Eventually leading to the development of animal attributes. She could not talk or walk completely. This shows the effect of social development in our human mind.

### ③ Theoretical Perspective of relationship between culture and socialization.

According to Funk Wagnalls encyclopedia socialization is the systematic development of culture within a society with regard to new cultural development. Moreover, according to Emile Durkheim's functional perspective approach culture integrates individuals into groups by working together either on religion or other concepts to overall integrating society.

Another theoretical approach is the Symbolic interactionist theory. This states the development of society through symbols such as writing and language carry a linkage between culture and society.

Lastly the conflict theory approach argued by Karl Marx focuses on the idea that culture is dominated by class differences, spreading further inequality through time. These changes to culture are socially constructed and lead to discrimination.

### ④ How are cultural elements internalized by individuals in society?

Cultural development and socialization is a life long process. This is mostly followed by every individual in the society. Socialization and culture not only bridges the gap between psychological development but also socially develops a man or person.

There are different agents of socialization and culture, the answer will now focus on these elements.

### a) Role of family in culture and socialization

Family is considered as a primary element of socialization in an individual. Children often imitate their parents and elders in order to fit and learn the norms of a society. A famous psychological study of Bandura et al (1961) defined how children imitate aggression from parents naming them as role models.

Therefore role of family is a key element in the cultural and social development of a person.

### b) School as an agent of socialization

School is a core vital part of every individual. This shows the formal development of a person since an early age. Schools

act as an agent of development in a person's life. School in itself deals with different cultures and therefore teaches children the role of other forms of culture leading to a fast development.

### c) Peer group's role in cultural development.

A peer group consists of different cultural backgrounds of children. This helps children learn new languages and understand new cultures. As quoted by Gabriel's law of imitation stating how children's mind is a blank sheet of paper. Whatever he learns, it is imprinted in his mind.

### d) Role of Religion in social development.

Max Weber in his book 'Sociology of Religion' in his book defines the structural formation of certain beliefs and norms followed by a certain group.

As for example, if a Muslim child is raised by a Hindu person, then automatically that Muslim child will learn and become part of the Hindu community.

### e) Mass media and contribution to social and cultural development.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century mass media has played a vital role in the development of the earlier generations. As explained by G. Gerbner in his Cultivation Theory how the recent mass media cultivates the human mind into cultural stereotypes and widespread cultural norms. Pakistan can be taken as an example. In Pakistan social issues such as women rights is portrayed as an unIslamic concept, which leads to further disintegration between genders in this society.

## ⑤ Conclusion

In conclusion, the role of a society in human development is seen through cultural integration and socialization.

Both of these fields are interrelated to each other, consisting an intense relationship.

Therefore, in order to internalise cultural elements, some agents of socialization are required such as schools, family, peer groups and religion. Cultural development and socialization is a life long process and never ends till death.