

# DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SELF

# Meaning of Socialisation:

- The newborn is merely an organism. Socialisation makes him responsive to the society
- Socialisation is known as the process of inducting the individual into the social world.
- The term socialisation refers to the process of interaction through which the growing individual learns the habits, attitudes, values and beliefs of the social group into which he has been born.

# SOCIALISATION

- From the point of view of society, socialisation is the way through which society transmits its culture from generation to generation and maintains itself.
- From the point of view of the individual, socialisation is the process by which the individual learns social behaviour, develops his 'self.

- Socialisation is a comprehensive process.
- According to Horton and Hunt:
- Socialisation is the process whereby one internalises the norms of his groups, so that a distinct 'self' emerges, unique to this individual.
- Through the process of socialisation, the individual becomes a social person and attains his personality.

# SOCIALISATION

- Green defined socialisation “as the process by which the child acquires a cultural content, along with selfhood and personality”.
- The heart of socialisation”, to quote Kingsley Davis.” is the emergence and gradual development of the self or ego. It is in terms of the self that personality takes shape and the mind comes to function”.

# self

- The term self-concept is a general term used to refer to how someone thinks about, evaluates or perceives themselves. To be aware of oneself is to have a concept of oneself.
- Baumeister (1999) provides the following **self concept** definition: "the individual's belief about himself or herself, including the person's attributes and who and what the self is".

# What is self?

- Self:- collection of cognitively-held beliefs that a person possesses about themselves.
- Self” seems to extend beyond the physical self (body), to include psychologically meaningful personal possessions and personal space.
- At birth an infant has no consciousness of self
- Gradually he develops it thru interaction with his environment

# definition

- Harry M Johnson:-
- “The self might be regarded as the internalised object representing one’s own personality”
- Self is an internalised object including one’s own conception of one’s abilities and characteristics and evaluation of both



# definition

- The term self is generally used in reference to the conscious reflection of one's own being or identity, as an object separate from other or from the environment.
- **"the totality of a complex, organized, and dynamic system of learned beliefs, attitudes and opinions that each person holds to be true about his or her personal existence"** ([Purkey](#), 1988).

# what is meant by self?

- The heart of socialization is the development of the self.
- According to Cooley- "By self is meant that which is designated in common speech by 'I', 'me' and 'myself'
- Gardner Murphy says that the self is the individual as known to be individual. The self of a person is what he consciously or unconsciously conceives himself to be.
- It is thus "self-concept" the sum total of his perceptions of himself, and especially his attitudes towards himself.

- Lewis (1990) suggests that development of a concept of self has two aspects: -
- **(1) The Existential Self**
- This is *the most basic part of the self-scheme or self-concept; the sense of being separate and distinct from others and the awareness of the constancy of the self*” (Bee, 1992).
- The child realizes that they exist as a separate entity from others and that they continue to exist over time and space.
- According to Lewis awareness of the existential self begins as young as two to three months old and arises in part due to the relation the child has with the world.
- For example, the child smiles and someone smiles back, or the child touches a mobile and sees it move.

- **(2) The Categorical Self**

- Having realized that he or she exists as a separate experiencing being, the child next becomes aware that he or she is also an object in the world.
- Just as other objects including people have properties that can be experienced (big, small, red, smooth and so on) so the child is becoming aware of him or her self as an object which can be experienced and which has properties.

- Carl Roger believes that the self concept has three different components:
- The view you have of yourself (**Self image**)
- How much value you place on yourself (**Self esteem** or self-worth)
- What you wish you were really like (**Ideal self**)
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# THEORIES OF SELF

- There are three important theories to explain the development of self.
- These theories have been propounded by Cooley
- Mead and
- Freud.

# 1. Cooley's Theory:

- Cooley's concept of self-development has been termed "looking-glass" concept. According to him, man develops the concept of self with the help of others.
- Man does not come to form opinions about him unless and until he comes into contact with other people and knows their opinions about himself.
- He forms to the concept of himself on the basis of opinions held by others about him.

- Thus, when our associates call us intelligent or average, tall or short, fat or thin we react to the opinion and form the same opinion about ourselves as they have formed.
- In other words, just as the picture in the mirror gives an image of the physical self so the perception of others gives an image of the social self.
- The knowledge about ourselves comes to us from the reaction, of other persons.
- These other persons comprise of our social looking glass through which we form the image of ourselves.



- There are three principal elements of the looking-glass concept:
- (1) Our perception of how we look to others.
- (2) Our perception of the judgment of how we look and
- (3) Our feelings about the judgments.



# C H Cooley: Looking Glass Self and the Effect of Primary Groups

- Who Was Charles Cooley?
- **Charles Cooley** was a sociologist who was born in 1864. He attended the University of Michigan, where he got his undergraduate degree in engineering. He returned later to study sociology. In 1918, he served as the president of the American Sociological Association. Cooley is most famous for his theory of the **looking-glass self**.

- **The Self in Sociology**

- At the beginning of the twentieth century the discipline of sociology worked with Cartesian concepts of mind and body that viewed them as separate, disconnected entities. However, a number of theorists, such as William James, began rethinking this distinction.
- Charles Cooley built on this framework in order to integrate mind and body as an interconnected, organic whole.

- Cooley believed that a person's self is developed by his or her social interactions and therefore people are always, through interaction, connected to other people.
- For Cooley, these interactions create a process through which people come to view themselves as objects and are able to take on the roles of others. He used the example of a looking glass to illustrate his theory (Coser, 1977).

# The Looking Glass Self

- In 1902, Cooley published *Human Nature and the Social Order* in which he proposed a theory of the development of the self as a creative agent (Waters, 1994).
- According to Cooley, a person's sense of self is created by the ideas he or she believes others have about him or her. This self-development depends on interaction with others who reflect back to them images of themselves.
- In short, we learn who we are from others and our imagination of how we appear to them. We are literally looking at others and imaging the image they have of us. As Cooley wrote:

- As Cooley wrote:
- As we see our face, figure, and dress in the glass, and are interested in them because they are ours, and pleased or otherwise with them according as they do or do not answer to what we should like them to be; so in imagination we perceive in another's mind some thought of our appearance, manners, aims, deeds, character, friends, and so on, and are variously affected by it. (Cooley, 1902, p. 183)

- the metaphor of the looking glass, or mirror, provides a way to think about the importance of visual information and the appearance of the body and for the development of what Cooley calls the self-idea, which emerges in three key stages:
- First, we image how we appear to others (e.g., as intelligent, pretty, professional

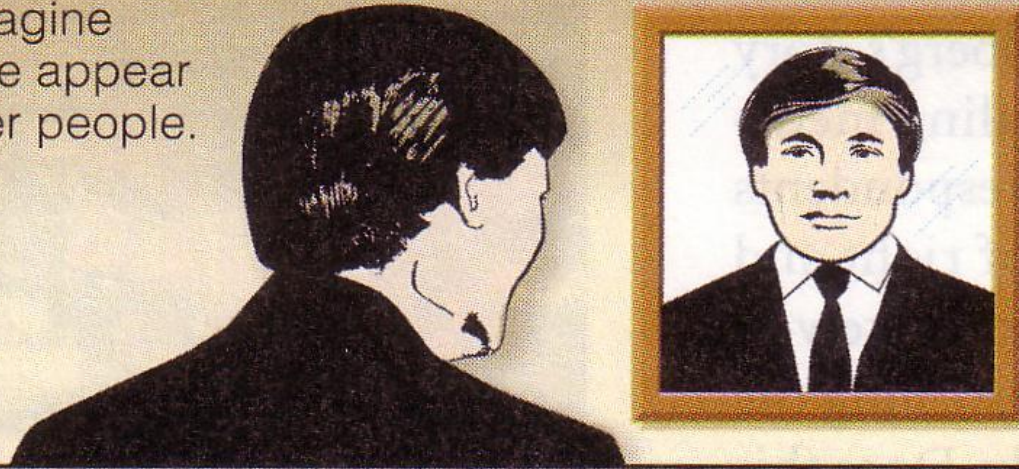


- Second, the self-idea develops in relation to how we imagine others perceive or judge us (e.g. did we attend the right schools, do we wear attractive clothing, or do we belong to the right professional groups?);
- Third, the self-idea emerges through the "self-feeling" or attitude we develop toward ourselves, based on how we believe others perceive us (e.g. pride or embarrassment about our intelligence, physical appearance, or professional status).

# Sociological Theories of Human Development

- Cooley and the Looking Glass Self – sense of self is developed from the perceptions of others through a three step process
  - We imagine how our personality and appearance will look to other people
  - We imagine how other people judge the appearance and personality we think we represent
  - We develop a self-concept

We imagine how we appear to other people.



We imagine how other people judge the appearance that we think we present.



If we think the evaluation is favorable, our self-concept is enhanced.



If we think the evaluation is unfavorable, our self-concept is diminished.



- In essence, Cooley argues that the development of self is "an interactive process through which connections are made between the personal subjective self of the viewer and the external world of other people"
- **"I imagine your mind, and especially what your mind thinks about my mind, and what your mind thinks about what my mind thinks about your mind." Charles Horton Cooley.**

## 2. Mead's Theory:

- G.H. Mead has given a sociological analysis of the process of socialization. According to him, the self develops out of the child's communicative contact with others. The newborn infant has need like those for food and clothing that press for satisfaction. The mother satisfies these needs and the child comes to depend upon her and identifies himself with her emotionally.

# Mead

- However, in course of time, the child differentiates himself from his mother and then he has to integrate himself and mother into a taking of subordinate role to the superior role of the mother.
- Then the child repeats for his father. He differentiates his father from his mother and then integrates him into the social system.
- In this way the number of significant others increases for the child and the child internalizes the role of these others.
- He puts himself in the role of the others, then responds to his own words, and acts in terms of the meaning they would convey to the other person.

# Mead

- In this way, the self develops and grows. An essential characteristic of the self is its reflexive character.
- By this method, George H. Mead means that the self can be both subject and object to itself.
- It can reflect upon itself or in other words, it can be self-conscious.
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- Man can do so only through assuming the role of other persons and looking at himself through their eye.
- He learns to imagine how he appears to others and how do they judge this appearance.
- Then he reacts himself to this judgment as he imagines it. Thus by adopting towards himself the attitude that others take towards him, he comes to treat himself as an object as well as subject.

# Mead

- However, acquiring the attitudes of others towards himself is not sufficient for the individual.
- He explores and finds out others attitudes towards him. This is very necessary for him, otherwise he cannot predict or control what happens to him.
- The child learns at an early age the one of the most important ways of controlling his destiny is to influence the feelings of others towards himself.



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# Mead

- Once he has acquired the attitude of others as part of himself he can judge how another person will respond by how he himself responds to the words he utters.
- The individual thus speaks to himself. What he says or thinks calls out a certain reply in himself. He takes the role of others.

# Mead

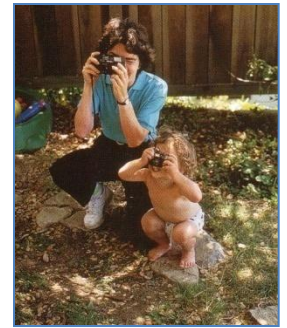
- George Herbert Meade linked the idea of self-concept to role-taking—the process by which a person mentally assumes the role of another person in order to understand the world from that person’s point of view

# Mead

- . H. Meade
- Significant Others are those persons whose care, affection, and approval are especially desired and who are most important to the development of the self; these individuals are extremely important in the socialization process



# Meade



- G. H. Meade outlined three stages of self-development
  - Preparatory stage – children largely imitate the people around them
  - Play stage (3-5) – children learn to use language and other symbols, thus making it possible for them to pretend to take the roles of specific people
  - Game stage – children understand not only their own social position but also the positions of those around them.
    - At this time the child develop a generalized other – an awareness of the demands and expectations of the society as a whole or of the child's subculture

# Gender socialisation

