

## SOCIALIZATION AS A TOOL FOR ACHIEVING HOLISTIC EDUCATION IN NIGERIA JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A. E.O. Umeh , and C. Essien

Department of General Studies, Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State.

### Abstract

This paper aims at examining the nature of general education compared with holistic education; the concept of socialization and the relationship between socialization and holistic education. It also explores the areas where socialization is used in enhancing learners, attitude and character for a successful skill acquisition at all levels of education. The paper also assesses the extent to which socialization serves as a tool for providing holistic and fulfilling education at secondary school levels in Nigeria.

### Introduction

Socialization is a process of teaching an individual to become a full member of a particular society. As defined by Mead (1963) socialization refers to abstract statements about learning as a universal process and enculturation to the actual process of learning as it takes place in a specific culture. It could as well be said that socialization is a systematic process by which new members of a cultural group learn socially relevant behaviour. A new born child for instance is nurtured into the culture of his group and thus awareness is created on acceptable behavioral pattern of the society such as attitude, norms, values and so on.

Every society has social institutions which play a crucial role of imparting knowledge to the child. The Bambara, according to Fellow (1976) conceive of education as a process of weaning the new born child away from his animal nature and making a human being of him. To him, ultimate purpose of education is tied to the fact that the child is of supreme value. Education is complete when a child is socially acceptable in relation to himself, his fellows, to the family and the entire community.

Educational opportunities in Nigeria today have spread to different part of the country preparing people to adjust positively in the society and the nation at large. Thus a lot of people have acquired education and many more are aspiring to acquire the same education too. All these are aimed at preparing the people to fit into one desirable niche or the other in the society for positive living.

According Fafunwa (1976), education is expected to prepare people to be "complete" or "whole" in the society. He went further to state that education is the process of successful learning of knowledge, skills and attitude where what is learned in such a way can make the learner express his individuality, through what he learns and subsequently applies it. Education is expected to prepare individuals to acquire acceptable norms and values as well as knowledge and attitude that will enable him fit into the society, but it is obvious that not all types of education are capable of providing such outcomes (Mathew, 1998). Nigerians have been practicing what we referred to as formal system of education which at its primary level trains pupils in three important aspect such as reading, writing and arithmetic. As a result of these three important aspects, it is therefore extended to the secondary school and tertiary institution of learning in order to meet the needs and aspiration of individual in the society and nation at large. According to Fafunwa (1996) educational system had been with lots of problems before the introduction of continuous assessment where a learner will have to be examined before the end of academic year, and any obvious defect of learners will be solved before the actual exam. He maintained further that education was more cognitive in nature, than effective and skill based, and was not socially oriented. In view of such defects, there was introduction of the 6-3-3-4 system of education to take care of the cognitive, affective and psychomotor development of learners in all aspect of education so as to prepare them, to achieve holistic education which will make them "wholly educated" persons. Although, the

Our present system of education failed to provide holistic education to Nigerians since holistic education according to Bama (1997) is the educational system that provides the learner all the development required both emotional, physical, mental, social and economical to enable him fit into the society. Socialization type of education prepares the learner to acquire norms, values, attitude, knowledge and skill and that enable them to participate as more or less effective members in the society and nation at large. (Brim, 1996).

#### General Education versus Socialization Education

General education is the type of education that covers all aspects of education that mainly expose learner to different field of life. Peters (1986) stated that conventional schools in Nigeria is one of such that promotes general education. It is one of the leading way to an external examination in academic subject which in turn leads to university entrance preparation for the tertiary institutions. On the other hand, socialization education is the transmission of the accumulated knowledge, cultural norms, attitudes of a society to the learner especially to the child of young generation to enable them fit into the society. It is a system of human interaction which affects positive change in the behavior of the subject with some degree of persistence (Datha 1984). Socialization is the process where by a learner is made to acquire those values, attitudes, skill and knowledge that will enable him to function as expected in a given society. Kneller, (1971) and Akinpelu (1988) maintained that curriculum, functional educational and socialization is effectively planned and administered by well-trained teachers to solve problems of Nigeria education. Thus socialization education is planned towards the realization of a holistic status in the society and Nigeria at large.

#### The concept of Holistic Education

Oxford dictionary (2000) defines the word "holistic" as entire, not broken into pieces. Holistic education as the name implies means educational system that embraces the total or entire development of the learner involving the physical, mental, emotional and economic aspect of the learner. Those who benefit from holistic education are usually the learners who obtained basic literary education (home) such as norm values, attitudes, self-esteem from the grass roots for positive adjustment in the society. To promote such effective holistic education among learners, teachers, instructors, government, parents as well as school administrators should be involved.

#### Socialization and Holistic Education

David (1984) defined socialization as a process whereby learners learn to play various social roles necessary for effective participation in the society. He maintained that through socialization, they acquire the knowledge skills and disposition that will enable them to perform in accordance with the expectations of others as they move from position to position in the social order overtime, from student to worker, as they occupy several positions. Socialization education is expected to prepare the students for the world of work as enshrined in the National Policy of Education (NPE, 1981). Since holistic education is concerns with all round educational development of the learner to achieve positive adjustment in the society and attainment of self-esteem, then socialization is the mean to achieve such an educational goal. Socialization prepares one to acquire norms, attitudes as well as character that will enable him fit into the society. Verrion (1998) defined socialization needs of secondary school students in Nigeria as comprising of:

- 1) need for personality Traits
- 2) need to relate academic preparation to conform with the cultural norms and the societal demands.
- 3) need to develop tolerant

- 4) need to obtain societal demand
- 5) need for mutual understanding towards one another.
- 6) to consult somebody about dynamic and social qualities of an individual.
- 7) to develop skills for social interest.
- 8) to choose social values that is acceptable to parent and important to others in the society.
- 9) to choose social norms and attitudes career of an individual in the society.
- 10) to choose the aspect of social culture that is important in the society.

In our Nigerian secondary school today, students need to be adequately guided in thought of social vices that will reflect on their adjustment to societal demands when they eventually leave the school. These social vices will follow the constraint that is state above. Mukherjee (1978) state that holistic education is expected to work in line with the aims of education in Africa. These include:

- 1) To acquire social norms and values.
- 2) To develop cultural pattern of individual in the society
- 3) To understand ones environment both outside and within.
- 4) To develop ethical character.
- 5) To develop scientific method towards solving problems.
- 6) To help the students in earlier time to develop positive altitude through self-understand and self equalization in problem solving and decision making.
- 7) To mobilize all the available resources for the satisfaction of the individuals to express their emotions and motives freely in the home and outside the house.

An effective means of providing these aims to students will go along way in equipping them with the needs for holistic education. An appropriate means of realizing this goal is through socialization education.

#### Socialization Techniques for achieving holistic Education

According to Brim (1996), socialization is the process by which individuals (learners) acquire knowledge, skill and dispositions that enable them to participate effectively as members of the society. Techniques of socialization are ways of acquiring and developing some special skills, characters, norms values, attitudes that will prepare the individual to be well adjusted socially, physically, emotionally, culturally etc. through his personal relationship, emotional feelings, co-operation, cultural pattern and physical characteristics. He maintained that socialization is to sharpen the personality of individual and to integrate individual members of the society irrespective of any difference in social behavior of an individual. Durojaiye (1976) stated that any technique that will be used in the Nigerian secondary school system of education should be meant to:

- 1) expose learners to various aspect of culture
- 2) enumerate theoretical methods relating to social norms and value.
- 3) provide adequate information regarding the achievement of societal norms.
- 4) assist the learner to acquire the acceptable characters that will enable him fit into the society, adjust and make progress where necessary.

Socialization is a process of assisting individual or a system of human interaction which affects changes in the behaviours of the subject with some degree of persistence (David 1999). This is what the school system offers learners through socialization agencies. He went further to say that professionals should be assisted with facilitative experience techniques to facilitate the development of learner positively in recanting to their external world (emotionally socially, culturally and truly effective and tolerant toward others). As stated above, socialization has the purpose of making the "complete person through holistic education, which in the Nigeria context of today, can only be actively provided via

socialization agencies. Socialization agencies are tools which are formalized in the school to enable individuals acquire knowledge and skills.

At the secondary educational level, there are specific techniques that are provided to assist learners to acquire behaviours that are acceptable in the society: These techniques include personality trait conference, mass media, clubs and association, peer-groups, mosque, church, family, school etc.

#### **Personality Traits conferences:**

These are organized to create awareness on socialization of individual on the acceptable norms and value in the society and nation at large Britanica (1994). At the conference, students gained the opportunity to be exposed to the content, purposes impression, also the merits and demerits of various norms, values, moral characters in all aspect of life of individual throughout his existence. He went further to describe the conference as an avenue for professionals in all aspects of education to deliberate on what the advantages and disadvantages of moral character, norms and values will have on the students' life.

#### **Mass-media**

Mass-media comprise of news-papers, television, magazines, and others that enable the students to acquire information as part of their learning package about the norms and values in the society. In mass-media, students learnt by reaching some of the already written articles on the norms, values, attitude and morals in the news-papers and magazines. It is also imperative for student to watching television programmes and cinema where some of the aspects of morals are taught that have educational relevance for accepted behavior in the society.

#### **Clubs and association**

This is a comprehensive organization where learners are exposed to different behavioural patterns. Such clubs and association are Rotary clubs Press Clubs etc. In secondary schools most students belongs to the above clubs and association and participate actively as part of their learning skills for character and moral development. Students have the opportunity of interacting (with one another) and ask questions relevant to the development of their behavioural pattern so as to become useful members of the society, Lovell (1976).

#### **Peer- group**

Individual gets socialized through peer-group (friends) especially in secondary school level of education. The influence pee group could either be positive or negative on the part of learner. Hence, there is need of care in the child rearing habits of parents and societies with emphasis on the realistic attitude towards behaviours patterns of individual to conform with culture demand of the society. Egbule, (2001).

#### **Church and Mosque**

According to Orita, Church and Mosque is a special place where individual come together to worship being and should be regarded as a special place where all the accepted moral are taught. He went further to say that church and mosques are found in all the secondary schools environment in Nigeria with the instructors (Priest and Imam) making contribution toward the development of acceptable Morals in the society which is pre-requisite for meaningful contribution to national development.

#### **Family**

Ogionwo (2000), stated that family is the grass root of socializing an individual where norms and values of the society are taught. The implication for socialization here is that in the course of socializing a learner within the family, if a learner is taught the value of love and peace which are also concept taught and embraced by the larger society, there is tendency for such a child to easily understand, and exhibit such concept or value when he moves into the larger society.

#### **Factor Hindering Provision of Holistic Education through Socialization.**

Socialization process vary from one learner to another also from schools to school and from one situations to another. Socialization is not uniformly provided in all secondary schools at all times, references and the following are some of the factors responsible for its irregularities:

- (1) Inadquate teaching of religion to students in secondary school by the Christian and Muslim teachers.
- (2) No appropriate curriculum to stress societal norms and values in our secondary school level of education in Nigeria.
- (3) Lack of churches and mosques in the school environment where students can freely go and learner morals and values that enable them participate effectively in the society and nation at large.

#### **Conclusion**

The hallmark of holistic education is to prepare all categories of learners for all embracing and functional life in the society. Socialization and general education are intertwined as both serve as tools for preparing people to "complete" or whole in the society. General education covers all aspects of education that expose learners to different field of life, while socialization is a process by which beings who are biologically human become socially human. Therefore the combination of general education and socialization education will make the learner unique and result oriented.

#### **Recommendation**

Socialisation and holistic education expose learners to different aspect of culture and therefore our primary schools, secondary schools and universities curriculum and socialization should be designed to include foundation courses

Socialization and holistic education is dependent on the conception of the purpose of education and the nature of the society. Therefore socialization is the society's code, and that code is dependent on the kind of society, since education will generally aim at the preparing the learner to function effectively and happily in the society. It is therefore imperative that the primary/secondary school curriculum be redesigned to accommodate some courses in cultural studies since every society has social institution which play a crucial part in imparting requisite knowledge to learning.

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