

**Department of Political Science**  
**Paper: General Sociology II**

**Topic: Meaning, definitions and features of Socialisation (Unit IV)**

**Meaning**

- Socialisation stands for the development of the human brain, body, attitude, behaviour and so forth.
- 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.
- 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 may be viewed as essential element of social interaction. In this case, individuals become socialised as they act in accordance with the expectations of others. The underlying process of socialisation is bound up with social interaction.
- Through the process of socialisation, the individual becomes a social person and attains his personality.
- Socialisation takes place at different stages such as primary, secondary and adult.
- The primary stage involves the socialisation of the young child in the family. The secondary stage involves the school and the third stage is adult socialisation.
- Socialisation is, thus, a process of cultural learning whereby a new person acquires necessary skills and education to play a regular part in a social system.
- The process is essentially the same in all societies, though institutional arrangements vary. The process continues throughout life as each new situation arises. Socialisation is the process of fitting individuals into particular forms of group life, transforming human organism into social beings and transmitting established cultural traditions.

**Definitions given by different scholars**

- Green defined socialisation “as the process by which the child acquires a cultural content, along with selfhood and personality”.
- According to Lundberg, socialisation consists of the “complex processes of interaction through which the individual learns the habits, skills, beliefs and

standard of judgement that are necessary for his effective participation in social groups and communities”.

- 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.
- Peter Worsley explains socialisation “as the process of “transmission of culture, the process whereby men learn the rules and practices of social groups”.

## Features of Socialisation

- **Inculcates basic discipline:** Socialisation inculcates basic discipline. A person learns to control his impulses through socialisation. He may show a disciplined behaviour to gain social approval.
- **Helps to control human behaviour:** It helps to control human behaviour. An individual from birth to death undergoes training and his, behaviour is controlled by numerous ways. In order to maintain the social order, there are definite procedures or mechanism in society. These procedures become part of the man’s life and man gets adjusted to the society. Through socialisation, society intends to control the behaviour of its members unconsciously.
- **Socialisation is continuous process:** Socialisation is a life-long process. It does not cease when a child becomes an adult. As socialisation does not cease when a child becomes an adult, internalisation of culture continues from generation to generation. Society perpetuates itself through the internalisation of culture. Its members transmit culture to the next generation and society continues to exist.
- **Socialisation is rapid if there is more humanity among the- agencies of socialisation:** Socialisation takes place rapidly if the agencies’ of socialisation are more unanimous in their ideas and skills. When there is conflict between the ideas, examples and skills transmitted in home and those transmitted by school or peer, socialisation of the individual tends to be slower and ineffective.
- **Socialisation takes place formally and informally:** Formal socialisation takes through direct instruction and education in schools and colleges. Family is, however, the primary and the most influential source of education. Children learn their language, customs, norms and values in the family.

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