

Week 1 guideline:

F4

1.(a) What is meant by the following terms:

- i. **Socialisation** – Process of learning the culture, norms and values of society
- ii. **Roles** - the behaviour expected of an individual who occupies a given social position or status
- iii. **Values** – are beliefs that something is good or bad.
- iv. **Norms** - refers to behaviour and attitudes which are considered normal, expected and accepted by society
- v. **Customs**- - are regular, patterned behaviour that is considered characteristic of life in a society, for e.g shaking hands, bowing, and kissing.

(b) Describe two agencies of secondary socialisation. [4]

Family is usually considered to be the most important agent of socialization. As infants, we are completely dependent on others to survive. Our parents, or those who play the parent role, are responsible for teaching us to function and care for ourselves. They, along with the rest of our family, also teach us about close relationships, group life, and how to share resources. Additionally, they provide us with our first system of values, norms, and beliefs - a system that is usually a reflection of their own social status, religion, ethnic group, and more.

The next important agent of childhood socialization is the school. Of course, the official purpose of school is to transfer subject knowledge and teach life skills, such as following directions and meeting deadlines. But, students don't just learn from the academic curriculum prepared by teachers and school administrators. In school, we also learn social skills through our interactions with teachers, staff, and other students. For example, we learn the importance of obeying authority and that to be successful, we must learn to be quiet, to wait, and sometimes to act interested even when we're not.

(c) Explain why there is role conflict . [6]

Role conflict happens when there are contradictions between different roles that a person takes on or plays in their everyday life. In some cases, the conflict is a result of opposing obligations which results in a conflict of interest, in others, when a person has roles that have different statuses, and it also occurs when people disagree about what the responsibilities for a particular role should be, whether in the personal or professional realms.

Because we all play multiple roles in our lives, all of us have or will experience one or more types of role conflict at least once. In some cases, we may take on different roles that are not compatible

and conflict ensues because of this. When we have opposing obligations in different roles, it may be difficult to satisfy either responsibility in an effective way.

Role conflict can occur, for example, when a parent coaches a baseball team that includes that parent's son. The role of the parent can conflict with the role of the coach who needs to be objective when determining the positions and batting lineup, for example, along with the need to interact with all the children equally. Another role conflict can arise if the parent's career impacts the time he can commit to coaching as well as parenting.

(d) To what extent does socialisation shape human behaviour? [10]

Socialisation is the lifelong process by which human behaviour is shaped through experience in social institutions (e.g. family, which is a crucial factor in primary socialisation). Through socialization, individuals learn the values, norms (formal and informal rules), and beliefs of a given society.

Argument for:

Focus on the importance of socialization, by providing examples of feral children and also consider the different stages of socialization. For e.g primary and secondary socialization.

Argument against:

Focus on the biological aspects of behaviour /human instincts/hormones etc