

Urban socialization between conceptual evidence and theoretical assumptions

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Received:21/02/2024

Accepted:04/06/2024

Published:30/06/2024

Abstract:

The present paper aims to highlight urban socialization, considered to be the first and most significant social process that an individual is confronted with throughout his or her life. It additionally examines the manner in which individuals have developed assumptions and perceptions about the conceptual evidence for urban socialization, particularly in light of changes to cities and technological advancements that have added social changes to families and altered style and lifestyle. Furthermore, the variety of the urban individual's daily activities, particularly as a result of women entering the workforce, has led to changes in the locations, roles, and jobs that are expected of them. New social media also play a role in the process of educating people within urban social structures.

Keywords: Socialization, urban socialization, urban, city.

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INTRODUCTION

Urban socialization has recently been the focal point of interest in research and is generally thought of as a separate social structure in and of itself in terms of its beginning, development, and the variables influencing it. Subsequently, it constitutes one of the most recent and significant themes in urban sociology.

The primary pillars of the family are now required to provide modern services that are represented in childcare providers and nurseries, as well as modern platforms that are now beginning to play a significant role in the process of socialization in alongside the social environment. This is due to the change in lifestyle, the high rate of urbanization, as well as the technological development in an urban digital world, and Changes in the economy, politics, and society.

Due to the numerous presumptions and perceptions surrounding this subject, a novel idea in urban sociology has emerged. Urbanization and the move to an urban environment are seen as fundamental indicators of the social change that is occurring in contemporary societies, which has an impact on a variety of social aspects, including values, customs, and family traditions. While the urban environment had an impact on the manner in which the family's social environment changed, particularly after women started to work, it is believed to be a recent phenomenon of urbanization that characterizes the urban family, and as a result, the child was subjected to a new style of upbringing whereby institutions became involved, leading to the appearance of new urban mediums that contributed to the process of socialization individuals, which can be observed in nurseries, childcare providers, and various other childcare facilities.

The present study aims to delve deeper into these dynamics by examining the significant conceptual indicators and theoretical assumptions related to urban socialization. It seeks to address the following research questions :

- What constitutes urban socialization ?
- What are the pivotal concepts associated with urban socialization?
- What are the primary theoretical assumptions underpinning this phenomenon?

1. Theoretical background of the study's concepts

1.2. The significance of the concept of urban socialization

Linguistic definition of Socialization: The Arabic word used for upbringing encompasses fostering in the context of living. Someone who receives instruction is brought up, is raised, signifying the process (Q. Bustani, Das, p. 793)

Conceptual definition of socialization: In order to scientifically describe the process by which culture is passed down from one generation to the next or to describe how people are formed beginning in childhood so that they can function in a society with culture, values, knowledge, and skills (A. Badawi, 1077, p. 400), the concept of socialization is frequently associated with the word social and the characteristics and attributes of socialization in three issues that produce an individual who has certain cultural patterns and is integrated into a specific medium with its valuable dimensions, behaviors, and reactions that are embodied in the way of life and dealing with the other.

Additionally, socialization is defined as the process through which a person acquires the fundamental traits of the society in which he or she lives, exemplified by the dominant values, attitudes, and conventions in that society, as well as the expectations for acceptable social behavior in that culture. (Darwish, 1999).

According to Emile Durkheim's definition, it is the procedure whereby social and cultural dimensions take the place of the

sociological aspect in order to become one of the fundamental guidelines for a person's behavior in society (Layla, 2006, p. 193). In this definition, upbringing was regarded as a social and cultural dimension, while the sociological aspect was excluded.

It is a process that tries to incorporate the components of culture into the personality system, according to American sociologist "Parsons," who defines it as an educational process based on imitation, simulation, autism, and the mental, emotional, and moral patterns of children and adults. (Rouisha, p. 144)

In light of this, Parsons underlines the importance of making a commitment to integrating cultural elements into social reality and including them in the domain of exchange interactions.

1.3. Urbanism: Urban indicates the type of life that emerges as the outcome of an assortment of processes that occur in the city and lead to an alteration in the population's values, concepts of vitality and behavior, as well as social relations, as represented by an incremental shift out of homogeneity (P. Markash, 1995, p. 8).

Others define it to refer to the population as a whole of an urban society distinguished by the diversity of occupations, separating from nature, increasing population density, heterogeneity, increasing disparity, social classification, intense mobility, the predominance of relationships, along with the inhabitants' lifestyle.

1.4. Urban socialization: It represents a number of the ways in which society operates via which a person's way of life can be modified so that it corresponds to modern social lives. (Al-Akhras, M., 1961, p. 191)

It can be characterized as well as the process of raising individuals using new social mediums including kindergarten and contemporary communication techniques that remain current in the modern age of technological advancement.

1.5. The concept of the city: The city is regarded as a social phenomenon whose existence is inextricably related to the existence of human society. As we attempt to define the city, we find challenging considering it is a complex phenomenon generated by the interaction of a number of intertwined factors, while scholars were divided in defining it. As a result, multiple definitions emerged centered on each researcher's point of view. (H. Rashwan, 2002, p. 05) According to legal customs, the name of a city was granted through a statement, document, or official document issued by a higher authority. (M. Ghaith, 1995, p. 125)

This definition is deemed ambiguous because the proclamation or official document is not always the one that defines whether or not a location is a city. It has a population of 20,000 or more people and is classified as a city (H. Rashwan, 2002, p. 57). Moreover, he focused on the statistical aspect and neglected the sociological aspect.

Park distinguishes the city as an ecosystem suitable for the living of civilized people, with its own cultural patterns, considering that it is an integrated building according to natural and social rules, with an unavoidable high degree of organization. (Park & Laville, 1979) The problem with the aforementioned notion is that it focuses on the cultural level, which I regard to be the framework.

It has been defined by Max Weber as "that social form that leads to the emergence of multiple and tangible patterns in the methods and ways of life, which allows the emergence of the highest degrees of social individualism and is thus a means of social change." Weber described the city in terms of social structures that allow for social regeneration and the development of individual capacities (H. Rashwan, 2002, p. 58).

According to Louis Wirth, it is a permanent dwelling site distinguished by its huge area and high population density. It is inhabited by socially diverse persons, and specific centers have been formed to spread ideas and practices that build the style and manner

of urban life (Wirth, 1979). What is problematic with this definition is that it focuses on three variables: size, density, and heterogeneity, all of which are characteristics of urban society in and of themselves.

Sorkin and Zimmerman identified eight characteristics that distinguish urban society from rural society: occupation, environment, community size, population density, population homogeneity and heterogeneity, social differentiation and legislation, social mobility and mobility, patterns of social interaction, and patterns of communication (Al-Naklawi, A., 1976, p. 159). The thing that is erroneous about this description is that eight features have been identified that differentiate the urban community from the rural community, both in terms of building type, internal social organization, and relationship quality.

As a result, we conclude that the city is a human gathering and a diverse economic activity, located on a large piece of land that aids in its survival, in which all industrial operations, facilities, and services congregate, and it has social characteristics distinguished by distinct functions.

2. Characteristics of socialization:

The following aspects that constitute socialization can be obtained based on what has been said previously about each of its concepts:

1- Socialization refers to a social learning process in which an individual learns his societal responsibilities plus the social standards that define these responsibilities through social interaction, and he acquires the attitudes and behavioral patterns that the group accepts and the society agrees on.

2- It turns the individual from a dependent child fixated on himself to a successful individual who understands the concept of societal duty.

3- It is a never-ending process that begins with life and continues till it finishes.

4- It differs in degree however not in type between one society to another.

5- It is a process that is not limited to the family but rather has many agents, beginning with the family and school and progressing to the new mediums.

6- Given that socialization is a process influenced by various elements, it does not have a single strict template or pattern. Instead, its pattern varies from one context to the next. M. Zaimi (2002), p. 38

3. Characteristics of the city (the urban center):

Several models, as well as contributions, have attempted to characterize the qualities of the city, as well as its style and lifestyle. Horas Minerz Horas stated in an article titled "An Introduction to the Study of the City and Modernization" the most important basic entrances that have become the subject of general agreement among researchers, and these entrances explain the essence of the city, its characteristics, and the urban lifestyle in it, and these entrances are as follows:

- The ultimate model entrance: Robert Redfield's contributions distinguish out in this category, indicated by traditional culture or local traditions and society features (Redfield, 2012).

The most essential aspects of popular society are: the simple and primitive living found among tribes, clans, or primitive communities, and what dominates in terms of popular rulings and procedures. The complex city society, which is defined by rising cultural disintegration and the society's propensity towards secularism and the growth of individualism, also distinguishes the urban society. It is spontaneous, and the unit of interaction is the family. (Al-Zuri, L., 2002, p. 62)

- Composite entry features:

The characteristics of the city are discussed in this section using empirical determinants such as

- size
- Density
- and occupational specialization of the population.

1.3 The rural-urban continuity:

The study of urban life within local communities entails an approach aimed at interpreting and analyzing its distinctive features. Among the various approaches utilized, the urban-rural continuum is widely regarded as a preferred framework for distinguishing between rural and urban regions. At the extreme end of this continuum, one finds the most advanced manifestations of rural life (Al-Zuri, 2002, p. 76).

Numerous studies have examined the impact of industrialization and technological growth on the transformation of urban characteristics. According to **Statelli Ahitzler**, such technological advancements have given rise to a range of social issues in both industrial areas and urban centers. Of particular concern is the persistent concentration and population growth experienced in industrial areas, which subsequently affects the neighboring urban centers.

Among the most important characteristics of industrial cities in general are the following:

Comprehensive interpretation of work.

- Lack of primary kinship ties.
- disintegration of primary groups leads to poor social organization.
- The interdependent family life is destroyed and its functions are transferred to specialized institutions.
- Social mobility and the rise of individual inclinations.

→ Social interaction turned superficial. (M. Ibrahim, 2000, p. 30)

Louis Wirth defines the characteristics of the city:

- The increasing size of the city's population.
- Characterized by a high population density.
- Heterogeneity among the population in the city.

Wirth recognized several of the features that distinguish city living, the most prominent of which are:

→ The growth of the city and the variation of its population leads to the lack of personal and direct knowledge of the rest of the city's population.

→ The division of labor leads to an increase in individualism and an increase in specialization.

→ The expansion of the city's limits results in the discovery of new and additional modes of communication to connect the parties to the city center.

As a result, Robert Park concentrated his thesis on three fundamental concepts:

3.1. The ecological concept: This means describing a city's qualities based on the status of its physical construction, such as its size, the diversity of its population, and the distinction between its many ethnic groups.

3.2. Social Organizational Concept: Urban life can be described by second-order relationships between people, the deterioration of kinship ties, the disappearance of neighborly ties, the deterioration of the traditional basis for social solidarity, and the spread of jobs in the care, health, and education sectors. These characteristics reveal the differentiating functional construction in urban society.

3.3 Psychological concept: Urbanism is connected to the spread of pathological phenomena and psychological issues, confirming the need for social restrictions that preserve society's equilibrium. Urban

expresses the development and evolution of the selfish personality. Urbanism is also linked to group communication strategies, as well as the economic and cultural shifts that come along with a city's growth and development (Park & Laville, 1979).

4 Factors Affecting the Change of Socialization

4.1. The economic factor: The economic dimension encompasses the nature of labor and income sources, particularly evident in the shift from traditional sectors to industrialization. This transition alters the structure of families as they increasingly rely on waged employment in factories. Concurrently, urbanization and openness foster significant shifts in interpersonal and familial dynamics. These transformations engender fundamental relationships within and between families. The alterations witnessed in various social systems yield noteworthy consequences, particularly in the economic and family domains. Notably, the economic system and the family system exhibit a close interconnection, given their reciprocal influence. The family, by contributing to the production of capable and creative individuals, plays a vital role, while the economy, in turn, provides employment opportunities, including for women, thereby facilitating workforce integration.

4.2. The Technological Factor: Technology encompasses a wide array of inventions across various domains, including machinery, production equipment, televisions, computers, and smartphones. These technological advancements serve as catalysts for transformative changes in social upbringing. Conversely, technology significantly impacts individuals' lives within society, influencing social values, and shaping the structure and functions of social systems.

One social system greatly affected by technology is the family, both in terms of its structure and functions. In societies where the use of smartphones, televisions, air conditioners, washing machines, and other devices is prevalent, the family experiences changes in size.

Moreover, its functions become more limited, primarily focusing on reproduction and socialization. As a result, socialization processes increasingly extend beyond the confines of the family unit and involve multiple institutions. With individuals becoming more reliant on modern technology, urban socialization is augmented through various media, communication channels, and other means.

5 Theoretical foundations in the study of urban socialization:

5.1. Classical theories

5.1.1. The theory of functional constructivist orientation:

This theory underscores the notion that socialization encompasses distinct roles for different species or genders, which they adhere to in the future. Parsons, in his analysis of social construction, examine the processes and mechanisms of learning during interaction with social groups. These processes include learning, substitution, and imitation. Additionally, he highlights the upbringing of children based on specific roles assigned to males and females. This differentiation between genders serves multiple purposes and benefits for the nuclear family, contributing to social system stability and fulfilling functions for both the family and society. From this perspective, the functionalist approach examines the process of socialization primarily from a social standpoint. It posits that this process involves multiple stages aimed at developing individuals who can effectively interact with other elements of the social system based on established norms and standards.

5.1.2. Social Learning Theory:

The process of socialization is inherently a form of learning, as it involves the modification of behavior through exposure to specific experiences and practices. From the perspective of learning theory, socialization is seen as a subset of learning that focuses on human social behavior. According to this theory, social development in

individuals follows the same principles of learning as acquiring other skills, through observation and imitation.

In particular, proponents of the theory of learning through imitation, such as Dollar and Miller, emphasize the importance of reinforcement in the learning process. They argue that behavior is either reinforced or changed based on the type of reinforcement or punishment employed. Consequently, learning theory provides an explanation of socialization as a process driven by various learning mechanisms that shape behavior in response to different situations.

5.1.3. Symbolic Interaction Theory:

The theory of socialization is primarily attributed to the works of scholars such as Charles Cooley, George Herbert Mead, and Wright Mills. According to this theory, socialization plays a pivotal role in the development of an individual's personality. Cooley argued that human society is a complex web of interactions, perceptions, and impressions. He emphasized the concept of the "looking-glass self," suggesting that individuals come to understand themselves through how they perceive others perceive them. Together, these scholars contributed to the theory of socialization by emphasizing its role in shaping individual identity and highlighting the importance of social interactions and shared meanings in the process.

5.1.4. Social Role Theory:

The social role represents an anticipated pattern of behavior for the individual who holds social positions throughout his interactions with other persons who occupy other social situations. It is a normal series of learned actions performed by one of the individuals in an interactive setting. 74–78 (A. Khoja, 2005) In order to understand the process of socialization, this theory focuses on two key ideas: social status and social role.

5.1.5 Sociological theory:

- **Emile Durkheim** defined the process of socialization as a mechanism for guiding behavior in accordance with moral rules. He believed that socialization relies on suggestions to accustom children to group life and instill values of order and respect. Durkheim observed that socialization begins in the early years and entails the subordination of personal behavior to the collective norms of the group. The process of socialization varies across different life stages, from infancy to preschool, schooling, and adulthood. It encompasses shaping behavior patterns related to eating, drinking, and sleeping, as well as learning cleanliness, calmness, obedience, and ethical conduct in interpersonal interactions (N. Timashev, 1989, p. 130).

- **Talcott Parsons** built upon the ideas of Durkheim and Freud in his analysis of socialization. Parsons emphasized that socialization is a dynamic process that unfolds throughout the various stages of personality development, rather than being confined to a specific age. Family dynamics play a crucial role in socialization, with the attitudes and feelings of adults toward children and other family members shaping their behavior. The process of socialization involves the transmission of mental and social rules and principles prevalent in society through interactions and upbringing within specific family situations (P. Khawaja, 2005, p. 73).

5.2. A sociological reading in theories of urban socialization (a new perspective)

The urban phenomenon has been a focal point of interest for thinkers and scholars throughout history. They have delved deep into the issues of urbanization and its associated problems, striving to understand and interpret them scientifically. The rapid changes experienced by cities have had a profound impact on economic, social, and political aspects of life. Consequently, the structure of the family has shifted from extended patterns to nuclear units, influenced by technological advancements and changing housing preferences. This transformation has also altered the nature of work and roles within families, leading to a smaller family size and changes in lifestyle and

modes of production. With the entry of women into the workforce, traditional gender roles and functions within the family have undergone significant changes, fostering a more collaborative authority between spouses within the nuclear family. The family remains the fundamental institution for the socialization process, but it is no longer solely responsible, as new media and other factors have emerged, redefining traditional concepts of socialization.

The urban environment possesses distinct characteristics and unique nature. Social life in urban areas differs greatly from rural or desert settings. German researcher Georg Simmel recognized the urban way of life as a signifier of this stark contrast. He emphasized the influence of urban living on the emergence of a new culture and the development of a distinct urban personality, particularly in terms of behavior and upbringing (Kh. Moawad, D.S., p. 50).

5.2.1. Urban culture

Urbanism as a way of life, according to Louis Wirth, encompasses the social existence of individuals in urban settings. Wirth highlights three defining characteristics of cities—size, density, and heterogeneity—which in turn give rise to various aspects related to urban life and the personalities of its inhabitants. From Wirth's perspective, urbanization represents a way of life that influences behavior patterns and alters individual upbringing.

- Another scholar, Manuel Castells, introduces the concept of the network society, asserting that we currently reside in a society shaped by interconnected networks facilitated by communication technologies and digitally processed information. In this networked society, traditional institutions of upbringing, such as family and school, have diminished in significance, serving primarily as places of residence. Thus, technology plays a crucial role in the process of urban socialization, as it transforms the dynamics of social interactions (Castells, 1972).

Considering the theories that elucidate socialization as the primary and fundamental social process individuals experience throughout their lives, along with genetic factors that contribute to their habits, dispositions, and behaviors, it becomes evident that socialization institutions play a vital role in shaping and directing individuals' development, enabling them to function within a society according to its distinct norms and traditions. These institutions encompass various factors, including family, environment, social structures, intellectual influences, cultural norms, and health-related aspects. While classical and modern social theories emphasize the significant impact of these institutions on individual development, new perspectives recognize the influence of media and other interconnected institutions in the lives of individuals. These perspectives acknowledge the role of media and the intertwined nature of contemporary socialization, which cannot be isolated from the experiences and realities of individuals in today's technologically advanced era.

CONCLUSION:

Building upon the aforementioned discussions, socialization has been a central focus of numerous social studies, acknowledging the diverse and varied effects of its factors. Theoretical approaches that delve into the concept of urban socialization have emerged, shaped by the advent of new technologies, such as the Internet, networks, and social communication platforms. These developments have resulted in shifts in social fields, altering the roles and responsibilities traditionally fulfilled by the family in the upbringing of individuals. In addition, the decline of influential institutions like the mosque and comrades' groups and the rise of new urban media have further transformed the dynamics of socialization.

However, it remains undeniable that socialization continues to hold paramount importance as the primary process within societies, even with the emergence of social media and the transformation of social structures. The new system, marked by significant changes in

its structure, particularly the increasing participation of women in the workforce, has impacted the fabric of urban families and their functioning.

Ultimately, the urban family stands as an organized structure wherein its members are interconnected, and characterized by distinct attributes, forms, and roles. These characteristics shape the dynamics of urban socialization within the family unit.

Through an examination of the theoretical frameworks explicating the concept of urban socialization, the study yielded the following results:

1. Sociological discourse has evolved to incorporate a range of theoretical assumptions, highlighting a transition from traditional to modern socialization practices. Both classical and contemporary theories have expanded their research scopes to accommodate these shifts.

2. This transition is characterized by the introduction of new social mediators, such as childcare providers and daycare centers, which have fundamentally reshaped the dynamics of socialization. These entities provide essential services that adapt to the changing structure of the urban family and the broader societal demands.

3. The term "urban socialization" has emerged as a pivotal development, reflecting the adaptive nature of socialization mechanisms in response to urbanization and technological advancements. This concept underscores the significant impact of urban environments on socialization processes, highlighting the necessity of continuous theoretical refinement to fully understand these complex dynamics.

In conclusion, while the dynamics of socialization have evolved considerably due to technological advancements and changes in societal structures, the process itself remains fundamental. The urban family, influenced by these changes, continues to play a crucial role in shaping socialization practices, necessitating ongoing research and theoretical refinement to keep pace with these developments.

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