

Socialization Process in ODL: An Effective Approach for Student Learning Support

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Abstract

Socialization is in the process of personality formation. Successful socialization can result in uniformity within a society. If all learners receive the same socialization, it is likely that they will share the same beliefs and expectations. Socialization is the ability of learners to identify with community, communicate purposefully in a trusting environment, and develop inter-personal relationships by way of protecting their individual personalities. Conflicts of the personality can be reduced through education which is a social activity. The process of socialization and conflict values are side by side. The study was conducted to (i) to highlight the role of Socialization process as an effective approach for distance Student learning system (ii) to identify the relationship between value conflict and socialization process. A sample of 100 students of B. Ed enrolled in semester autumn 2013 and 50 tutors of same programme were taken conveniently. A questionnaire for both samples One questionnaire was developed on five point Likert scale and same questionnaire was used to elicit the opinions of students and tutors of B. Ed programme was used as a research tool for the collection of data. Collected data were analyzed through SPSS XIV by running frequencies, mean score and chi square formulas. Main findings of the study revealed that Distance education is considered as a socializing agency. This learning system serves as a vehicle of social inheritance, a source for developing commitments and individual's capacities Socialization process contributes to a stable society as established behavior is transferred through socialization process. Socialization process is a major determinant of human nature , leads to position in the society and plays important role in grooming one' personality. Distance education helps in decreasing value conflicts among distance learners because

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value conflict cannot support each participant's expression of their values. Both students and tutors may be encouraged to increase their utilization level for resolving conflicts through socialization process.

Key words: Socialization process, ODL, learning support, Value conflict

Introduction

Education makes an individual perfect to discharge his responsibilities as a self-reliant useful member of the society and in this way every educated person enjoys the uses of education as well as the society. The process of socialization and conflict values are side by side. The higher educational program is planned to provide every student with the best experience that higher education can offer. It helps in the development of knowledge, skills, and abilities which are the common possession of educated persons as individual and as citizens in a free society. The institutions of higher education provide opportunity of socialization. The aim of specialization is to provide an opportunity for prospective students to study particular fields of knowledge both in breadth and depth.

Literature

Higher education has its own way to influence an individual. There are many factors influence the process of socialization i.e. economic factor, social factor and administrative factor Economics factor is an important factor which helps individuals in socialization. If a teacher is economically sound then he would enjoy high esteem in society. Education also helps to resolve inter and intra personal conflicts. To what extent conflict, according to Zaki, W.M. (1990, p.31) "Conflict is a predictable social phenomenon and should be changed to useful purpose. Conflicts within a person also require resolution for inner satisfaction of person. Conflicts with the people also need to be set for promotion of good social values. Tolerance, patience and respect for opinion help to resolve conflicts among individuals. This helps in broader perspective of socialization with in a society.

Distance Education serves the persons living in the isolated areas with inadequate facilities of formal education system as presented by Rai, N.A (2000) "Distance education has taken systematic teaching - learning process to persons living in isolated areas where facilities for the

traditional form of class room teaching cannot be developed. Distance education has numerous advantages.

According to Desforges, C. (2003, p.12) Pupils' achievement and adjustment are influenced by many people, processes and institutions. Through socialization we learn who we are and what is expected of us and others in our culture. All of our identities come from society. Socialization begins in earlier times and continues throughout our lives as we encounter and move through different institutions. Society defines what is deviant by defining what behavior is good. Socialization is thus 'the means by which social and cultural continuity are attained.

Socialization produces social patterns in that it provides both a body of expectations and ways to meet them that are more or less shared by other members of social group. From the point of view of individuals, socializations help them to cope with the demands of their social groups by giving them the capacity to meet these demands. From the point of view of a group, socializations contributes to its stability and continued existence by transmitting established behavior and value patterns to its members.

Socialization is important in the cultural process of learning. While much of human personality is the result of our genes, the socialization process can mold it in particular directions by encouraging specific beliefs and attitudes as well as selectively providing experiences. This very likely account for much of the difference between the common personality types in one society in comparison to another.

The socialization functions may be summed up as the development in individuals of the commitments and capacities which are essential prerequisites of their future role-performance. Commitments may be broken down in turn into two components: commitment to the implementation of the board values of society, and commitment to the performance of a specific type of role within the structure of society. Thus a person in a relatively humble occupation may be a 'solid citizen' in the sense of commitment to honest work in that occupation, without an intensive and sophisticated concern with the implementation of society's higher-level values.

In distance learning, the teacher, through the use of technology, delivers instructions to a student at a separate location (Siddiqui, 2004). Similarly, Distance education is gaining more importance in various advanced and developing countries especially to meet the new aspirations of the people, because of explosion of knowledge, exposition of population and of needs. The term open and distance learning represents approaches that focus on opening access to education and

training provision, freeing learners from the constraints of the time and place, and offering flexible learning opportunities to individuals and groups of the learners (Talesra, 2004).

According to Sadker, D.M. (2003, p.111) as the builder of a classroom learning community, the teacher is called on to be a guide or facilitator, skillful in conducting discussion, group work, debates, and dialogues. In this way, the teacher empowers the students to talk with one another and to rehearse the terminology and concepts involved in each discipline. Learning becomes a community effort, not an individual competition. Non-formal education has been regarded 'as a more effective approach to solving certain problems of education for national development and individual development and individual growth. Distance education is a style of teaching and learning that has grown significantly in the past 10 years as indicated by the number of higher education institutions that offer courses and/or full degree programs via distance learning.

Consequently the distance education as quoted by Mushtaq and Yasmeen (2010) serves as:

1. Educated the large masses
 2. Serves the remote areas
 3. Reducing conflicts within the society
 4. Provide educational facilities to the students who cannot take advantage of conventional system of education
 5. Use of modern technology
- http://ijonte.org/FileUpload/ks63207/File/03._dar-yasmin.pdf

Students in distance learning situations are now active participants in learning, which is not always true in traditional settings. As active participants, there must be a sense of ownership as to the learning goals (Savory and Duffy 1995).

Purpose of the Study

Objectives were the Following:

- i) To highlight the role of Socialization process as an effective approach for distance Student learning system
- ii. To identify the relationship between value conflict and socialization process.

The Study

It was a descriptive study therefore, survey was considered appropriate for this study. A sample of 100 students of B. Ed enrolled in semester autumn 2013 and 50 tutors of same programme were taken through convenient sampling technique. In this survey, a questionnaire for both samples was developed on five point (likert) to know the opinion of tutors and students. A numerical value was assigned to every option in the following way: Strongly agree =5, Agree=4, Uncertain=3, strongly disagree=2, Disagree=1. In the questionnaire items towards socializing agency, developing commitments and individual's capacities, social inheritance, grooming one' personality, value conflicts among distance learners and resolving conflicts through socialization process were asked to elicit the valuable opinions of the respective respondents. The finalized research tool was administered personally on the respective sample of tutor and through personally in their workshop on respective sample of students for the collection of data collected data were analyzed through SPSS XIV by running frequencies, mean score and chi square formulas.

Table 1
Questionnaire for Students

Sr.No	Statement	SA	A	UNC	DA	SDA	%	x	Chi Square
1	Distance education is considered as a socializing agency.	35	57	05	02	01	92	4.2	26.35
2	Distance learning system is a source for developing commitments and individual's capacities.	33	65	01	01	-	98	4.5	34.9
3	Distance learning system serves as a vehicle of social inheritance.	35	60	01	03	01	95	4.2	29.85
4	Socialization process is a major determinant of human nature.	29	68	02	01	-	97	4.1	36.52
5	Socialization process leads to position in the society.	26	71	02	01	-	97	4.2	39.17
6	Socialization process plays important role in grooming one' personality.	64	35	01	-	-	99	4.6	34.96
7	Distance education helps in decreasing value conflicts among distance learners.	31	68	01	-	-	99	4.3	37.74
8	Socialization process contributes to a stable society. .	45	54	01	-	-	99	4.4	30.96
10	Both students and tutors may be encouraged to increase their utilization level for resolving conflicts through socialization process.	41	59	-	-	-	100	4.4	33.28 p<0.01 df= 4

Table 2
Questionnaires for Tutors

Sr. No	Statement	SA	A	UNC	DA	SDA	%	x	Chi Square
1	Distance education is considered as a socializing agency.	19	30	01	-	-	98	4.4	8.02
2	Distance learning system is a source for developing commitments and individual's capacities.	15	35	-	-	-	100	4.3	10.0
3	Distance learning system serves as a vehicle of social inheritance.	27	21	01	01	-	96	4.5	7.07
4	Socialization process is a major determinant of human nature.	20	27	02	01	-	94	4.3	6.67
5	Socialization process leads to position in the society.	30	20	-	-	-	100	4.6	8.42
6	Socialization process plays important role in grooming one' personality.	27	23	-	-	-	100	4.5	7.97
7	Distance education helps in decreasing value conflicts among distance learners.	15	35	-	-	-	100	4.3	10.0
8	Socialization process contributes to a stable society.	16	33	01	-	-	98	4.3	8.90
9	Established behavior is transferred through socialization process.	19	30	01	-	-	98	4.4	8.02
10	Both students and tutors may be encouraged to increase their utilization level for resolving conflicts through socialization process.	34	16	-	-	-	100	4.6	9.60

p<0.01
df= 4

Discussion

It is evident from the above tables that tutors (98%, 4.4) and (92%, 4.2) students viewed about distance education is considered as a socializing agency, tutors (96%, 4.5) and students (95%, 4.2) distance learning system serves as a vehicle of social inheritance, tutors (94%, 4.3) and students (97%, 4.1) Socialization process is a major determinant of human nature, tutors (98%, 4.4) and students (99%, 4.3) distance education helps in decreasing value conflicts among distance learners and tutors (98%, 4.4) and students (97%, 4.3) established behavior is transferred through socialization process. Above all statements whether tutors or students mean score remained above 4.0 which shows positive attitude of both population.

Above tables shows that tutors (100%, 4.6) and students (97%, 4.2) Socialization process leads to position in the society, tutors (100%, 4.3) and students (99%, 4.6) Socialization process plays important role in grooming one' personality, tutors (100%, 4.6) and students (90%, 4.4) Socialization process contributes to a stable society and tutors (100%, 4.3) and students (98%, 4.5) distance learning system is a source for

developing commitments and individual's capacities. These statements show 100% tutors response than other response of students.

Both respondents' teachers (100%, 4.8) and students (100%, 4.4) agreed that both students and tutors may be encouraged to increase their utilization level for resolving conflicts through socialization process. Moreover, the values of chi square show that the agreement of the respondents with the statements is significant.

Conclusions

Main findings of the study exposed that distance education is considered as a socializing agency. This learning system serves as a vehicle of social inheritance, a source for developing commitments and individual's capacities socialization process contributes to a stable society as established behavior is transferred through socialization process. socialization process is a major determinant of human nature , leads to position in the society and plays important role in grooming one' personality and distance education helps in decreasing value conflicts among distance learners because value conflict cannot support each participant's expression of their values. Moreover, in this technological era, AIOU is trying to meet all necessities of his learners through professional training tutors.

Therefore it is suggested that both students and tutors may be encouraged to increase their utilization level for resolving conflicts through socialization process. Maximum provision of awareness may be ensured to mange socialization process in distance learning system so that this may prove effective for student learning support.

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