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Research Papers

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## Socialization Through Sports

**Dr. Showkat Hussain**

Assistant professor

Govt. College of Physical Education

Ganderbal

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### Abstract

*Socialization is the process of learning to live in and understand a culture or subcultures by utilizing its values, beliefs attitudes and norms. Sports socialization occurs through contact with socializing agents. Parents can be important socializing agents . Socialization is a process of learning the ways of one's society and becoming a functioning member of it along with exhibiting standards of behaviour in accordance with its rules, laws and customs, which have been formed due to our interaction in the society.*

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Sports sociology is an area of sociology that focuses on sports as a social phenomenon. All social and cultural structures, patterns and organizations are actively engaged in games and sports festivals. Physical education has often been seen as a fundamentally optimistic human endeavour characterized by aspirations for progress and betterment. Physical education is perceived as an institution where children can develop according to their unique needs and capabilities. It is also perceived as one of the best means of achieving greater social quality.

Man is a social animal and is distinctive from other animals due to his ability to learn. For a primitive man, food, shelter and clothing were his basic needs. Education health, recreation etc came to be added to his growing list of secondary needs. These needs can be classified as biological, sociological and psychological aspects of life.

At birth children are like animals, each is born with a unique genetic heritage including

temperament. No child is born with an already built- in social entity. Different institutions like family, school, state etc, socialize an individual. Socialization transforms an individual, and provides an opportunity to develop his individuality. The interaction of the man with nature, culture and environment gives shape to his behaviour.

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Games and sports are the initial activities which get even the babies and infants together.

**(a)Status:-** This is an important element in the socialization process because it is associated with self image and self-esteem. One positive factor of sports in the socialization process is in the era of social status. Today our society is sports oriented not only for youth but for adults as well. Status is related to participation in sports and status is gained through sports competitions. This

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acceptance becomes a dynamic factor in personality development.

**(b)Self- image: Body-** image is an important socialization concept as well as psychological one. The attitude and appreciation one has towards one's own body affect behaviour and ultimately the personality. This body – image complex is particularly important during adolescence for both boys and girls. The image one has of one's own body will be reflected in behaviour. And will himself adopt games and sports in which one elects to participate.

**(c)Co-operation and competition:-** are two social processes that are highly related to the area of games and sports. In fact they have become powerful forces in the socialization process, as well as motivates the learners in both intellectual pursuits and motor performance.

**(d)Sports and personality:** Games have a close relationship to personality. Personality is influenced by the activity that a person chooses to participate. Socialization process through games and sports are the best ways of helping the child to identify his self-image and formulate his ideal self. In a sense, this process of identification and discovery colours the personality of a player.

#### **Conclusion:-**

The physical educator recognizes the essence of sports in this quest of humaneness, and he accepts the current barriers that now block his envisioned ideal about sports as a challenge. His thrust at the cutting edge of this frontier does not leave him uniquely alone in his quest and donot isolated him from other disciplines. There must be an integration and a synthesis of many approaches to socialization through sports, but while other disciplines may well contribute to the evolution of the sports ideal, the application of this process will ultimately be left to the educator and the physical educator who organizes, administers, and teaches the sports curriculum, should design his activities accordingly.

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