

Explain the role of socialisation and the influence of agents of socialisation on the development of personal and social identity.

Socialisation is the way in which individuals internalise their roles within society. The development of personality and social identity is greatly impacted by the influence from agents of socialisation. Personality is the cognitive, emotional, and behavioural attributes displayed by an individual. Social identity is notably the affiliation with a group of community. These concepts are internally or externally affected by the agents of socialisation, which can inhibit or enhance the progression of character.

The personality of an individual starts at the basic building blocks from birth. It is over time that a person's traits become recognisable. This is due to the socialisation from family members and parents that is fundamental in enhancing personality traits. This can be evident in the way an individual may view marriage, as the subtleties that they pick up from observing their parents, can reflect their maturing ideals. This can be due to the fact that a child who grew up with extended family, holds more acceptance to diversity. A child who grew up in a nuclear family, may leave them unbeknown with how to deal with a vast array of personalities presented before them when they venture into society. This can cause major disruption within the development of personality, as those who are not comfortable with adapting to many situations may feel as though they are "alone" within a crowd. This was mainly seen through the changing nature of Australian families post World War Two. Prior to the war, extended families were most common within homes, whereas afterwards, de-facto and nuclear families became more common. The personality that the individual is born with begins to develop and reveal itself from the day the person was born. Over time, the familial agent of socialisation helps to nurture and influence an individual's personality by forming and instilling values.

An individual's social identity is the way in which they have an inherent desire to belong to a group of people who are alike to themselves. This may be extremely difficult and strenuous on one's culture, beliefs, or customs, due to conflicting ethnicities. An ethnic youth may feel the internal struggle to attain a complete social identity due to the juxtaposing societal values that they are exposed to on a daily basis. Such is the "Front Door Syndrome". An ethnic individual is someone who has been born in a non-English speaking country, or who has at least one parent from a non-English speaking background. They face every day Australian culture outside of the home through language, food, clothing, and laws. This is then 'left at the doorstep' a then enter the home and have to adhere to the principles of another culture, such as food and language, or views on marriage and religious beliefs. This idea of multiple affiliation can often leave an ethnic teenager feeling confused, by not forming a sense of social identity wholly within one or the other. Bilingualism plays an important role in this developmental stage as parents with a stronger linguistic ability in a language other than English may place formal or legal matters onto the teenager. This means that they will have to adhere to the principles of adulthood earlier than a child of a non-ethnic background, in a matter of parent-offspring role reversal. This places further pressure on combining the values and attributes of Australian society within their own. Ethnicity as a vital part of socialisation agents such as culture, language, and religion, can inhibit or enhance an individual's ability to form a social identity within Australian society. It

is a vital concept that helps ethnic youth to develop a full sense of self throughout the developmental stage.

The roles of family, kinship, and ethnicity are vital in the development of an individual's personality and social identity, through the ways in which they have socialised the individual. Together, they can positively or detrimentally impact one's role within society; the way in which they are made to interact with other in their surroundings. Personality holds the ability for one to express their values, and social identity gives one a sense of affiliation within the society they are in. Together, these create the basis for the sense of self.