

Socialization: The Most Prevalent Cause of Human Misery in American Society

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## **Is socialization the most prevalent cause of human misery in American Society?**

### **Introduction to Socialization in American Society**

Socialization is the process by which the members of a society – family, educators, political and religious leaders, teach its members the basic qualities of society (Charon, 2013). Socialization internally compels the community to learn and act according to intrinsic pressures and understandings (Charon, 2013). We must learn thousands of things in order to completely conform to a society, and individual characteristics are created through socialization (Charon, 2013). Our talents, preferences, interest, values, personality traits, and morals are not qualities we have at birth, but we develop them through the socialization process (Charon, 2013). In effect, American society dictates what is to be expected of its members.

### **The Cause of Misery in American Society**

Misery is conditional; that is to say, some conditions in the world foster misery, and if we desire inherent peace and joy, then we must avert those conditions that propagate misery (Charon, 2013). Charon (2013) also suggests that various forces are at work in American society; thus, society produces its own internal social construct. For some, American socialization is inadequate and the lack of individual social and emotional support, and from the perspective of social norms, a person who does not learn the self-control needed for successful problem solving is considered aberrant in behavior and is ultimately marginalized, or even, institutionalized for extreme deviations from societal norms (Charon, 2013).

Human misery is divisive in American society. One such cause of commiserating misery in America stems from its mostly capitalistic community. Money has its purpose but when is enough, truly enough? American society transforms currency into power and control and the abundance of the power/control dynamic creates a separation of social status. American society reflects various economic-social classes, and overt *social inequality* is evidently present. In a

class society, one is advantaged and the other disadvantaged, contingent on accumulating one's economic resources.

The wealthy often suffer from thoughts of superiority and lack empathy, which, over time, develop great inequalities. The distribution of America's resources is imbalanced, favoring the wealthy, insulating the affluent, and inflating their sense of security (Charon, 2013).

Contrarily, the disadvantaged, because of the lack of accessible resources, are barely making enough to support themselves or their families and suffer poor physical and mental conditions, resulting in debilitating hopelessness. They work in high-risk jobs that pay below the poverty line, underpinning tremendous disparity in American society (Charon, 2013).

### **What role does Deconstructive Conflict play in American Society?**

To comprehensively answer this question, let us focus our attention on the relationship between the impoverished and *deconstructive conflict* in American society. Conflict does not always report negative results; however, deconstructive conflict causes degradation of society's principles. Opportunities are never equal, and the lack of opportunities, education, employment, and safe neighborhoods, makes stealing, prostitution, selling illegal drugs, and violent crimes attractive to those that have low expectations (Charon, 2013). Welfare, judicial bias, medical and prison systems perpetually victimize the poor by exercising control while insulating the rest of society (Charon, 2013). For others who increase their economic positions but still are not accepted as equal members in society, conflict is their only alternative. We can look to messages of hope in the Bible, trusting the God who continually cares for his "*special people*." It was Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who said in Matthew 10:34, "*Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.*" This two-fold message epitomizes the essence of deconstructive conflict.

### **Inadequate Socialization in American Society**

Socialization is another cause of misery for many Americans. We have previously defined *socialization*, and now we will explore how socialization, or more accurately *inadequate* or *improper socialization* causes misery in American society. Insufficient family love, the lack of learned self-control, and isolation contribute to a deficit in understanding social values.

Misery through the lens of Christian exemplifies this best, for the Bible emphasizes the type of love that has no boundaries or conditions (*agape*). People who have not experienced love have difficulty loving themselves (Charon, 2013). To know God is to know love because God is love (1 John 4:8). The Christian view of misery in the face of suffering, tribulation, and emotional angst, compels us toward God, who freely gives to those that believe, understand, and enjoy his peace. God's gift of peace initiates the power of *self-control* in our lives.

### **Is proper socialization an escape for misery in American society?**

By comparison, *alienation*, the definitive source of misery, leads to despair and causes the world to become impersonal and individualistic (Charon, 2013). The absence of collaboration, human connectivity, cultural, and ethnic unification are all qualifiers that identify socialization as one the most important causes of misery in American Society.

### **Conclusion**

Misery emanates from social pressures and choices, but the preeminent factor that maintains the course of human suffering is due to sin. Therefore, human misery is an inevitable condition. Action must be taken to combat misery's pervasive existence as both a community and as individuals. Each person must take account of their contributions to the problem of misery in American Society. The expression of love articulated in the bible provides a way of escape and is meant to tear down the walls of socialization in American society. A further response of proper communication, empathy, and interrelationships will also represent a salve for misery, established by the American motto "*E Pluribus Unum*," "Out of Many, One."

**References**

Charon, J. (2013). *Ten Questions: A Sociological Perspective*. *Cengage Textbook*. Kindle Edition.