

A warm welcome to this session

The program is Bachelor of Arts First year.

Course title: Psychology of adolescence.

The title of the unit: The Adolescent's social world

Module name: family processes.

In this session we are going to look at
Reciprocal socialization and family as a system

The outline of the module

Reciprocal socialization and family as a system

The learning outcomes

Students will understand the importance of the process of socialization.

Student will also understand the importance of family as a unit.

To begin with

Reciprocal socialization and the family as a system

For many years, socialization between parents and adolescence or children was considered to be a one way process. It means children in adolescence were seen as the products of their parents' socialization techniques. However, today parent adolescent interaction is viewed as a reciprocal process.

What is reciprocal socialization?

It is a process by which children and adolescents socialize parents just as parents socialize them. To understand better what is reciprocal socialization?

Let us consider the following two situations.

First one, which emphasizes the impact of growing up in a single parent home and second presenting the dilemma of a talented teenage ice skater.

In the first situation, The speaker is 14 year old I've never seen my father. He never married my mother.

And she had to quit school to help supporters. Maybe my mother and I better off that he did not marry her because he apparently did not love her. But sometimes I get depressed about not having a father. especially when I see a lot of my friends with their fathers at ball games. My father still lives around here.

But he's married and I guess he wants to forget about me and my mother. A lot of times I wish my mother would get married and I could at least have a stepfather to talk with about things and to do things with me.

In the second situation, the speaker is 13 year old Kathy. Mother, My skating coach says that I have a lot of talent. But it is going to take a lot of lessons and travel to fully develop it. Her mother responds, Katie.

I just don't know. We will have to talk with your father about it tonight when he gets home from work.

That evening Katie's, Father tells his wife. Look to do that for Katie, I will have to get a second job or you will have to get a job. There is no way we can afford what she wants with what I make. This was a two situations which trying to explain reciprocal socialization.

Next family as a system

As a social system, the family can be thought of as a constellation of subsystems defined in terms of generation, gender, and role. Each family member is a participant in several subsystems. Some are dyadic, which involves two people while others are polyadic having more than two people.

The father and adolescent represent one dyadic subsystem. The mother and father form another. While the mother, father, adolescent, represent one polyadic subsystem and finally mother and two siblings form another polyadic.

Marital relations,

Parenting and adolescent behaviour can have both direct and indirect effects on each other. Example of a direct effect is the influence of the parents' behaviour on the adolescent. Example of an indirect effect is how the relationship between the spouses mediates the way a parent acts towards their dollar sent. Interaction between individuals in a family can change depending on who is present. In one investigation where 44 adolescents were observed, either separately with their mother and father or in the presence of both parents, the presence of the father improved mother-son relationships. But the presence of the mother decreased the quality of father-son relations. This occurs because the father takes the strain of the mother by controlling their adolescent or because the modest presence reduces father-son interaction.

In another investigation, sons directed more negative behaviour towards their mothers than their fathers in dyadic situations. In a triadic context of adolescent mother, father's helped rescue mothers by attempting to control the sons negative behaviour.

In a study that focused on adolescence in middle socioeconomic status of African American families, both mothers and fathers' communication was more positive in dyadic than triadic interactions.

Now let's look at marital relationships and parenting.

Besides studying the parent adolescent relationship an increasingly studied aspect of the family system involves the link between marital relationships and parenting. The most consistent findings are that family happily married parents are most sensitive, responsive, warm and affectionate towards their children and adolescence.

Researchers have also found that marital satisfaction is often related to good parenting. The marital relationship is an important support for parenting. When parents report more intimacy and better communication in their marriage, they are more affectionate to their children and adolescence. Thus, an important benefit of marriage enhancement program is the improvement of parenting resulting in healthier children and adolescents.

Here are some references.

Thank you.

