

MORAL EDUCATION & THE SOCIALIZATION PROCESS

Moral education is a component of the socialization process, which starts at birth and continues throughout the individual's life. According to some social psychologists, the socialization process consists in learning the rules of the social game to the point of "internalizing" them and of feeling guilty when violating them. This is certainly part of the process, but not the whole of it, just as learning to write involves the mastering of the rules of grammar, which are however insufficient to ensure good writing. Moral education involves also (a) the cultivation of moral sensibility (sympathy, compassion, benevolence, sense of fairness,) and (b) learning to pose, discuss and solve moral problems in the light of rules, reason, and experience, as well as of moral sensibility.

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