

The Place of Family in the Political Socialization; A Case Study in Bushehr Universities

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Abstract: According to sociologists, socialization is defined as coordination of an individual with social values, norms and insights. Political socialization is one of the fundamental and important concepts in the social science, today. Political socialization is a process through which an individual gets acquainted with his responsibilities, rights and political roles in the society. During this process the political culture of the society transfers from one generation to the next or from one institution to different social groups. The institutions of political socialization, provide both continuation of the political life and its value system, and cause political, social and traditional culture establishments. The purpose of this study is to survey the place of family in political socialization of the university students in Bushehr. Population of this study includes all the university students of Bushehr from among whom 150 participants are chosen using systematic random sampling. The results of the study show that family as an institution plays an important role in the political socialization of the students.

Keywords: Political Socialization, University Students, Family

Introduction

Generally, sociologists define socialization as a process through which human beings acquire the existing beliefs, values and tendencies in a society. "Socialization in its common sense is a process that leads to the transference and acquisition of social values, roles and behaviors. The concept of political socialization, however, relates to a part of socialization manifestations and with its emphasis on the political concept, it gets more restricted and clearer. Political socialization is a process in daily life of the members of society which is a continuous one and a part of social rule which embodies education and acquisition of certain political behaviors for the new members of

the society to enable them think, along with the political order in which they are living. In this regard the political socialization teaches the political aspects and special ways of political behavior to the members of that society (Kamali, 2004; 62).

Therefore, political socialization is among very important concepts in sociology by whose investigation, it is possible to examine different political behaviors of the members. When a society decides to choose political cooperation and political culture of society as a fundamental principle in the improvement of society, irrespective of effective factors in political socialization, it seems useless. (Mikaeeli Manie, 2003; 20).

Political socialization is definable in two minor and major levels. At the minor level, the individual acquires social norms, ideas, and values: At the major level, however, cultural transfer from one generation to the next is considered (Mehrdad, 1997; 13).

Political socialization starts from the childhood and continues to the young adulthood. During the young adulthood period numerous changes occur and it gets more complete and relatively more stable. That's why some researches account for incomplete political socialization of the childhood and young adulthood (Mehrpavar, 2001; 43)

Yet, many researchers claim that the foundation of an individual's character is laid during his childhood and all personality developments happen on this basis. As an example most of the political insights and behavioral patterns get developed during this period (Ghiasvand, 2001; 17)

The principle issue this survey study is going to deal with is finding out the real role family plays in individuals political socialization. To survey about this fundamental question, the researcher has chosen the students of the universities of Bushehr as his research sample.

Research questions

1. Can family affect university students political interest and political effectiveness?
2. Can the internal family relationships create special political benefits among students?
3. Is it possible that peculiarities like family's political stance effect students political interest and trust?
4. What is the position of family in presentation of political behaviours?

Theoretical Overview:

Typology of political socialization theories

- **The Theory of Cognitive Development**

Evolution of individual's cognitive system is based on a society through which s/he spends different periods of his life (infancy, adolescence, development, and logicalization (Kousary, 2002; 19)

- **The Theory of Social Education**

The emphasis of this theory is on the elementary levels of one's life which plays the most remarkable role because of its effect on establishment and development of awareness and knowledge (Kamali,1995, 27).

- **The Theory of Psycho Analysis**

This theory deals with the construct of one's character from the very childhood, especially how it is shaped, by studying one's behavioral patterns (Ghavam, 2000; 82).

- **The Theory of Social Role**

This theory emphasizes on learning and acquisition of social roles, transfer of criteria, inclinations, values, and likes or dislikes. This type of learning develops in the sociability elements like family that is why it has most effective function in one's compatibility with the outside environment. (Ghiasvand, 2002;17).

Factors of Political Socialization

- **Family**

The process of child's socialization starts from the family. Family is everything that has surrounded a tiny kid. What s/he pictures of oneself is a delicate reflection of the family members toward him. Therefore, the imagination people have of themselves and of the world and of the people around themselves is, directly, under the impact of their family's beliefs and ideas. (Coleman, 1998;43). Values an individual learns and different roles s/he is expected to perform, are all learned in the family relations framework (Alagheband, 1988;43).

Sociologists put emphasis on the role parents and family on the transfer of culture and one's political socialization. Specifically, a child gains all his cultural properties, even his party inclinations or political leaderships from his parents, and this is obvious from the very early stages of childhood (Abdol Rahman, 2001;43).

Thus, the early familiarization with political concepts, topics and currents is undertaken by family. Moreover, the social initial core that relates one to his society, also his peace, tranquility and localization depends on family. Kids and youngsters are, naturally, under the influence of and depended to parents. In this way, the parents' insights, likes and dislikes, political, ethnic and religious tendencies are transferred to children. This indicates that family along with other powerful elements like media, societies, and even political parties can have deep roles in shaping one's political character (Sharifi, 2002;16).

Some researchers believe that family establishes a person's political beliefs: too much suggestion and coverage, rearing the child in a specific social context and forming the child's character. (Share Pour, 1996;49).

Formal Educational System (Schools, Universities, etc, ...)

Schools, also, exert overt and covert effects. Schools play important roles in shaping attitudes related to not written roles of political games. Schools are more responsible in civil training; the purposes on which they are established, i.e. common socializations. Students acquire political socialization, primarily, from the educational system, and it appears from among the pages of the books or teaching procedures, or from among daily activities or the inner construction of these institutes. These institutions, also shape the concept of citizenship among their students (Coleman, 1998;48).

Identical Groups

Identical groups play important roles in the process of political socialization or acquisition of the learning activity, in general, either in politics or the issue of gender identity, and other subjects. Individuals are along with their peers or friends, either in their games or in the lessons, and this takes longer than the time s/he spends with his family. Therefore, there is longer time for them to acquire skills, training and political and mental socialization, much before their adolescence. The results of most investigations indicate that opposite cultures and subcultures are shaped from among these groups and the effects their friends exert on them (Moradzadeh, 1994; 51).

Mass Media

Researchers put emphasis on the fundamental effects of mass media on political socialization, creating tendencies, values, political beliefs and political schools among children and the young, especially, when the individual satisfies his basic needs concerning information, news and events by reference to mass media. These instruments are, also, effective in making one's future interests, tendencies and knowledge (Mikaeeli Manie, 2003; 40). Mass Media can be of importance in consolidating and coordinating individuals' ideas toward a political system and make their road maps. Some thinkers believe that mass media are the most suitable means for socialization (Mehrparvar, 2001;42).

Research Hypotheses

1. It seems that there is a relationship between the presence of political talks in families and the degree of political socialization.
2. It seems that there is a relationship between the factor of the distribution of

- power in family and the degree of political socialization.
3. It seems that there is a relationship between the degree of cooperation in the family affairs and the degree of the political socialization.
 4. It seems that there is a relationship between the degree of the getting benefits from the mass media and the degree of political socialization.

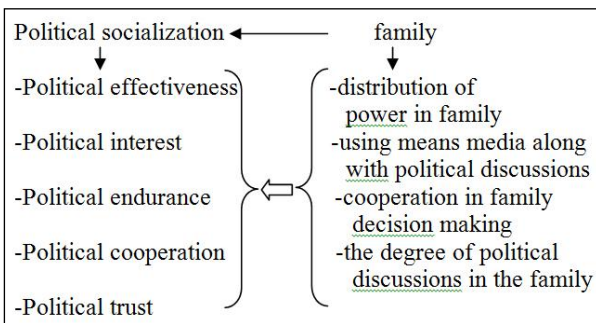


Figure 1=Conceptual model

Methodology

Basic concepts

Political effectiveness

This term refers to one's expectations and evaluations of himself and his capabilities in succeeding in political affairs and achieving the valuable political objectives and purposes through one's activities (Saeedi Moghadam, 1995;28).

Political Cooperation

Participation in Political Affairs and Selection of Political Leaders by People

In cases political participation is actualized through elections but in many other cases, some don't get satisfied and play their roles in political propaganda or participation in political parties (Sarookhani, 1991; 162).

Political Trust

The term refers to a series of positive ideas towards political affairs, and thus can, itself, refer to both the political system and powerful authorities of the society. In fact, political trust is a kind of support from the political system and the powerful political authorities (Ghavam, 1990; 82).

Political Tolerance

This term means giving permission to opponents to express their ideas and tolerating their ideas (Kamali, 1995; 27).

Political Interests

Political interest is one's inclination toward political trends present in the society (Sharifi, 2002; 16).

Sampling

This research was a survey study conducted in 2010, with the participation of university students of Bushehr. 150 students were randomly selected from the above mentioned population using Cochran Formula. The sampling was selected through multiple- level cluster and systematic sampling.

Data Collection

The instrument used for collecting the data was a questionnaire, to make the questionnaire criteria selected for each variable were detected and evaluated. To validate the instrument, construct validity was used, while information was also acquired from experts and professors, about its validity. All variables of the research were structured and prepared in likert type format. Cronbach α was used for all ranges and they all were turned to be above 0.73.

Research Findings

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1: Frequency distribution of respondents depending on their gender

gender	Frequency	Percentage
Girl	73	48.66
Boy	77	51.33
total	150	100

Table one indicates the distribution of the frequency of respondents according to their sexes. In this research, the sample included 150 university students of Bushehr (bath state and Azad university) from whom 73 were girls and 77 were boys. Therefore majority of the population was boys.

Testing the Hypotheses

H1= it seems that there is a relationship between the degree of political talks at home and the degree of political socialization.

Table 2: Kruskal valies test (political talks at home and political socialization.

Talking levels	frequency	mean	DF	sig	T
Many	50	126.2	2	0.005	13.25
Moderate	67	121.5			
Low	33	132.2			
total	150				

H2: It seems that there is a relationship between the power distribution in the family and in the degree of political socialization.

Table 3: the test of kruscal valis (the distribution of power and political socialization

subjects	frequency	mean	Df.	Sig.	T
Parental and children	38	25.33	3	0.0925	2.15
Parents	49	32.66			
Mother	18	12			
Father	45	30			
total	150				

Table 3 shows that there is no meaningful relationship between variables. In other words, it cannot be claimed that there is any relationship between the way of power distribution in the family and political socialization. It can be concluded that the second hypothesis is not supported.

H3= It seems that there is a kind of relationship between the degree of cooperation in the family affairs and the degree of the political socialization

Table4: test of kruscal valis (cooperation in the family affairs and the degree of political socialization

Degree of cooperation	Frequency	Mean	Df	Sig.	T
Much	20	112.23	2	0.005	13.42
Moderate	88	141.21			
Low	42	121.51			
total	150				

Table4 indicates that there is a meaningful relationship between the variables of the study. In other words, it can be claimed with high degree of significant that there is relationship between the amount of participation in family affairs and the degree of political socialization, thus, it can be concluded that the third hypothesis indicating this type of relationship is supported.

H4= It seems that there is a relationship between the amount of benefit from the mass media by the family and the degree of political socialization

Table5= test of knuscal valis, the amount of family's benefit from mass media and the degree of political socialization.

The ameute of using mass media	frequency	mean	df	sig	t
much	85	129.15	2	0.005	11.42
Moderate	48	97.29			
Low	17	53.27			
total	150				

Table 4 indicates a meaningful relationship between the variables. In other words, it can be claimed with a relatively high degree of significance that there is a relationship between the degree of family's usage from the mass media and political socialization. Therefore, it can be concluded that the fourth hypothesis indicating the relationship between the variables of the study is confirmed.

Conclusion

Any social system tries to suggest patterns and ideas in line with the establishment and continuity of its politics to its members and especially to the young generation. In every political system gradual acquisition of political norms, behaviors and tendencies which are accepted by the society are of utmost importance. In fact, political socialization is one of the most important strategies through which every political system tries to transfer the political culture to young people of the society.

Since political socialization is a process through which one acquires the political knowledge and skill to participate actively in the political domain, any discrepancy in this process might lead to indifference and lack of participation of citizens in the political domains (Bretzer, 2002;25). Therefore, understanding the factors that affect political socialization among different groups and societies, today, has occupied the mind of social scientists and is of utmost importance to governments (saedi moghadam, 1995;28).

For political socialization in the domains like a generation's familiarity with its own political culture, recognition of the reasons for instability in a political system and continuation of political culture life, some important roles can be identified. In a special society, its members can get familiar with their own political culture and system, by emphasis on the, process of political socialization and their understanding from politics and their

reactions toward political phenomena can be determined (Gabriel 2008; 101).

By making use of the political socialization it is possible to access the cultural transfer channels of society and the means to empower those groups of values that help political stabilization and consolidation of society in addition to diagnosing the reasons of instability in a political system, and attempt to cure it very fast, and prevent nurturing the norms that might hurt the social unity, and might increase the danger of political culture disintegration. Therefore, one of the factors of political socialization is the family. According to Social scientists the bases of many political perspectives can be sought in the family. (Papadakis, 2004; 18). As it was stated in the hypothesis testing, there is a relationship between the amount of political discussions, the degree of participation in the family affairs and the degree of using the mass media, and political socialization, but no relationship was indicated between the variables of distribution of power in the family and political socialization.

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