

UNIT I: Self From Various Perspectives  
LESSON 2  
**SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF SELF**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Describe the self as a social structure.
2. Analyze the importance of socialization for individuals and society.
3. Describe both the conformity of behavior in society and the existence of individual uniqueness.
4. Learn the roles of families and peer groups in socialization.
5. Explain the stages of self-development.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:**

How does society influence you?

How do you affect society?

Who are you as a person in the community?

**Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions.**

- ✚ human behavior
- ✚ society
- ✚ patterns of social relationships
- ✚ social interaction
- ✚ culture

**Why SOCIALIZATION matters?** It helps uphold societies and culture. It is also a key part of individual development.

**Major Influences:**

**NATURE** hormonal and genetic composition

**NURTURE** cultural surroundings

**THE SELF AS A PRODUCT OF MODERN SOCIETY AMONG OTHER CONSTRUCTION**

**Modernization** has significantly changed society, and this has affected how an individual builds and develops his or her self-identity.

**KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERNITY (According to Giddens)**

1. **Industrialism.** Extensive use of material power and machinery in all processes of production
2. **Capitalism.** Competitive product markets and commodification of labor power
3. **Institutions of Surveillance.** Increase power and reach by institutions.
4. **Dynamism.** Vigorous activity and progress. Society has full of possibilities.

**SOCIAL GROUP AND SOCIAL NETWORK**

**George Simmel** expressed that people create social networks by joining social groups.

**Social Group** is having two or more people interacting with another, sharing similar characteristics, and whose members identify themselves as part of the group.

- a. **Organic.** Naturally occurring; highly influenced by your family.
- b. **Rational.** Occur in modern society; formed as a matter of shared self-interest and free-will.

**Social Network** refers to the ties and connections that link you to your social group.

**Charles Horton Cooley** believed that self is constructed and a concept of an individual on how others see them.

- ✚ **Looking-glass self** is their conceptualization of how others see them.

## **CORE ASSUMPTIONS OF LOOKING GLASS SELF THEORY**

1. An individual in a social situation imagines how they appear to others.
2. That individual imagines others' judgment of that appearance.
3. The individual develops feelings about and responds to those perceived judgments.

**George Herbet Mead** claimed that "self" is not present at birth; rather it develops over time through social experiences and activities.

### **Stages of Self-development according to Mead:**

- a. **Language.** Individuals express themselves through shared understanding of symbols gestures, and sound.
- b. **Play.** Individuals play or assume the roles and perspectives of others.
- c. **Game.** Individuals consider and adhere to societal rules.

## **TWO COMPONENTS OF SELF**

**ME.** Product of social interaction and standards.

**I.** Socialized and spontaneous.