



# MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY

## College of Teacher Education

*Center of Excellence in Teacher Education*



# The Teacher and the Community, School Culture and Organizational Leadership

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# Three Social Theories



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# Objectives

- To be able to identify the three social theories of education.
- To be able to explain the implications of the social theories to education.



# Structural-functional Theory



# Herbert Spencer

- The proponent views society as a system of interconnected parts each with a unique function
- The parts have to work together for stability and balance of society
- **Society has different but interrelated components:**
  - A. family
  - B. the state
  - C. the school
  - D. the church
  - E. mass media
  - F. economics



- When one component of society does not do its part, society will not function well
- If families do their part in bringing forth children, nurturing and socializing them there is peace, stability, equilibrium and harmony.
- If education or schools effectively transmit knowledge, skills and values
- If economics takes care of food production, distribution of goods and services.
- If religion strengthens the moral fiber of the members of the society.
- Failure of one social institution to do its part means disruption of stability in society.
- The rise of single parent and dual earner families means families have less time or sometimes no more time left for the supervision of children in homework.



- Result an increase of non-performing students in school.
- In a high tech world, educational institution must teach adults the new skills to relate to the tech-savvy young and the world and to be more effective in the workplace .
- With more women in the workplace, policies against sexual harassment and discrimination were formulated.
- Cybercrime Act of 2012 came about to address legal issues concerning online interactions and the internet in the Philippines.





- **The functionalist theory of education** focuses on how education serves the need of society through the development of skills encouraging social cohesion.
- **Role of schools-** to prepare students for participation in the institutions of society.
  - transmission of core values for social control
  - is concerned with socializing people by bringing together people from different backgrounds.



- Functionalist see education as a beneficial contribution to an ordered society.
- Functionalist theory is focused on social stability and solidarity.
- Functionalism does not encourage people to take an active role in changing their social environment.
- Sees active social change as undesirable because the various parts of society will compensate naturally for any problems that may rise
- Schools compensate for the lack of time and the lack of parental advice from home.



## • Purposes of Schooling according to Functionalists

1. Intellectual purposes- acquisition of cognitive skills, inquiry skills.
2. Political purposes-educate future citizens; promote patriotism; promote assimilation of immigrants; ensure order, public civility and conformity to laws
3. economic purposes- prepare students for later work roles; select and train the labor needed by society.
4. social purposes- promote a sense of social and moral responsibility; serve as a site for the solution or resolution of social problems; supplement the efforts of other institutions of socialization such as the family and the church.



# Conflict Theory



There are always two sides in a conflict situation

- People takes sides between maintaining the status quo and introducing change then arrive at an agreement.
- Conflict theorists find potential conflict between any groups where inequality exists: Racial, gender, religious, political, and economic.
- Conflict theorists note that unequal groups compete against one another.
- This forms the basis for the ever-changing nature of society.
- The factory workers want change –better working conditions and higher salaries and factory owners naturally are opposed to such.
- The resolution of the conflict leads to a compromise, change in the way the factory is managed where both the workers and the owner/s are happy .



# How Proponents of Conflict Theory Regard Education

- Education is not truly a social benefit or opportunity Education is a powerful means of maintaining power structures and creating a docile work force for capitalism
- Purpose of education is to maintain social inequality and to preserve the power of those who dominate society to teach those in the working class to accept their position as a lower class worker of the society



- Conflict theorists call this the “hidden curriculum”
- It socializes young people into obedience and conformity for them to be developed as docile workers
- Functionalists disagree strongly
- They assert that if schools teach adherence to policies, obedience to rules, respect for persons including authorities, punctuality and honesty, civil right it is because they are the very principles dear to a democratic way of life
- It is not because they want to make the workers remain docile, unquestioning and subservient forever while those in power remain in power.



# The Symbolic Interactionist Theory Perspective





Three tenets of symbolic interactionist theory are:

1. an individual's action depends on meaning

- we act based on the meaning we give to symbols
- symbols may be actions, objects or words
- if a student believes that teacher believes in his ability he tries his best to prove that he is able.



2. Different people may give different meanings to the same thing.

- when teachers are strict, some students see it as an expression care
- others may rebel because they perceive teacher's behavior as limiting their moves and desires.



3. meaning change as individuals interact with one another.

- a negative meaning that you used to associate with hospital where you went to a hospital which looks more as a hotel than the usual hospital you know is changed.
- after you have taught well your first impression of teaching as boring is changed to teaching is exciting.



# Implications to Teaching

- continue to teach for meaning
- promote and create opportunities for genuine interaction among our students, teachers between students and teachers
- use positive symbols-in the form of gestures, words, actions and appearances – to express our trust, belief in our students’ abilities, an affirmation of their being.
- our belief in our students also has positive effect in us.
- The symbolic interactionism directs sociologist to consider the symbols and details of everyday life, what these symbols mean, and how people interact with each other



# References

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