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## **Sociology And Society The Relevance Of Teaching Social Skills To Children For Communication**

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**Abstract** This study explores the relevance of teaching social skills to children as a means of enhancing communication and fostering positive social interactions within society. It emphasizes the importance of equipping children with essential social competencies such as active listening, cooperation, respect, and empathy from an early age. These skills are crucial for cognitive, emotional, and behavioral development, contributing to academic success and social cooperation. The study examines various strategies for teaching social skills in primary education, highlighting the role of teachers, caregivers, and the broader educational system in facilitating this process. It further discusses how social skills not only improve personal relationships but also address societal challenges by promoting social integration and cohesion. Additionally, the study identifies barriers such as socioeconomic and cultural factors that can hinder social skills acquisition and suggests practical approaches to overcoming these challenges. Ultimately, the research underscores the long-term benefits of social skills acquisition for children's future, including professional development, emotional intelligence, and overall well-being.

**Keywords:** *social skills, communication, social cooperation, primary education, empathy, societal challenges*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The relevance of teaching social skills to children for effective communication is a fundamental aspect of their development and social integration. Sociology, as a discipline, highlights the importance of human interactions within society, emphasizing the way individuals and groups communicate to form cohesive social structures. Social skills, such as communication, empathy, and conflict resolution, are essential for children to successfully navigate these social structures (Ayasrah et al, 2022). Teaching children these skills equip them to build positive relationships, effectively express their

ideas, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Effective communication is a cornerstone of social interaction, and children who develop strong social skills are better prepared to express themselves in a variety of social settings. According to Novik and Podgórecki (2015), children with well-developed communication skills are more likely to succeed in both educational and social environments, as they can articulate their thoughts, engage in meaningful conversations, and resolve conflicts constructively. These skills not only enhance their academic performance but also foster better relationships with peers, teachers, and family members.

In addition to verbal communication, non-verbal communication plays a significant role in social interactions. As noted by Okeke et al, (2022), children must also learn to interpret body language, facial expressions, and other non-verbal cues to fully understand social dynamics. This is particularly important in diverse social environments, where children are exposed to a variety of cultural norms and communication styles. Teaching children to recognize and appropriately respond to these cues can help them navigate different social situations and avoid misunderstandings. Furthermore, social skills are linked to emotional intelligence, which is crucial for understanding and managing emotions in oneself and others. According to Elegbe and Nwachukwu (2017), children who learn to regulate their emotions and show empathy towards others are better able to engage in positive social interactions. Emotional intelligence helps children develop resilience and adaptability, which are essential for coping with challenges in their social and academic lives.

The interrelationship between sociology and society is vital for understanding the existence of humans in a community. Since time immemorial, humans have proven to be interdependent, a characteristic that sets them apart from other animals. As Ebonyi and Abok. (2020) asserts, humans are inherently community-building creatures, driven by the need for coexistence with others, for “to live with others is the condition of rational existence.” This perspective underscores the idea that the foundation of human survival and progress is tied to the study of societal structures and sociological issues. Sociology, which examines human relationships within society, offers valuable insights into the patterns of human behavior and societal functioning. Sociology, as a discipline,

does not have a single universally accepted definition. Its scope and interpretations are wide-ranging, reflecting the dynamic nature of society itself. Ajiboye (2021) emphasizes that sociology covers a broad spectrum of human life, from social systems and institutions to individual behaviors and interactions. As such, the study of sociology extends beyond a mere academic pursuit – it is crucial for understanding the forces that bind society together and the ones that drive social change. Bamel et al, (2023) further notes that sociology synthesizes information from all other social sciences to develop generalizations about human behavior. In this way, sociology is deeply embedded in the complex web of human society and culture.

The origin of sociology as a scientific discipline can be traced to the work of Auguste Comte, who sought to apply scientific reasoning to the study of society. He is considered the father of sociology for his efforts to create a systematic study of social life. Comte believed that society could be understood through the examination of human relationships, institutions, and the ways in which individuals' actions shape and are shaped by the society in which they live. The study of these relationships is essential for uncovering regularities in human behavior, which Comte and other sociologists sought to categorize and explain. Society itself, as the focal point of sociology, can be seen as an organization of individuals who share common interests, values, and goals (Egbetokun et al, 2022). Society is not static; it evolves through the interactions of its members and the dynamic processes that influence social institutions, norms, and behaviors. The way people organize their lives within a society has far-reaching implications for their development, well-being, and the direction of societal progress.

In terms of types of society, rural and urban communities provide stark contrasts in terms of their social structures and lifestyle. Rural societies, traditionally focused on agriculture and family lineage, exhibit a sense of communal unity and shared values. Rural dwellers are often closely-knit, with strong family ties and a simpler, more religious way of life. However, the rise of urbanization has brought significant changes to rural communities. The influx of industrialization and commercialization, along with the challenges of modern living, has altered the traditional fabric of rural life. Urban societies, on the other hand, are marked by a higher degree of social stratification and

industrialization. Olofinyehun et al, (2022) suggests that cities often emerge in areas where societies gain control over resources, which can support the growth of industries and commerce. Urban areas are characterized by a complex social structure, with significant disparities between the wealthy and the poor. Despite the wealth of opportunities in cities, these areas also face challenges such as poverty, homelessness, and inequality. Moreover, urbanization fosters access to better social amenities such as education, healthcare, and recreational facilities, which can influence social mobility and the development of individuals within society.

## **METHOD**

### **2.1 Research Design**

The research method employed was a Systematic Literature Review (SLR), which provided a structured and comprehensive approach to reviewing relevant literature following a specific protocol. The focus of this review was on sociology and society the relevance of teaching social skills to children for communication.

### **2.2 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria**

The inclusion criteria for the literature review were: (1) sociology and society the relevance of teaching social skills to children for communication; (2) Articles published within the last 10-15 years; (3) Articles indexed in reputable databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and other similar sources; (4) Studies that employed quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods relevant to the evaluation process.

Exclusion criteria included: (1) Literature that was not directly related to sociology and society the relevance of teaching social skills; (2) Articles that discussed sociology and society the relevance of teaching social skills without applying it to real-world practices; (3) Articles written in languages inaccessible to the researchers.

### **2.3 Data Source**

Data for this research was sourced from various electronic databases, including Scopus, Web of Science, ERIC, Google Scholar, and ResearchGate. The keywords used in the data collection process included “sociology” AND “society,” “teaching” AND “social skills.

## **2.4 Literature Search and Selection Process**

The literature search and selection process involved several stages: (1) Identification – this stage entailed searching for articles using keywords across multiple databases; (2) Screening – in this stage, titles and abstracts were reviewed to assess the relevance of the articles to the research focus; (3) Eligibility Evaluation – this step involved reading the full text of articles that passed the screening stage to ensure they met the inclusion criteria, ensuring the focus on teacher performance evaluation and psychometric models.

## **2.5 Data Extraction**

The data extraction process focused on key aspects of the literature: (1) Sociology and society; (2) the relevance of teaching social skills; (3) children and communication.

## **2.6 Data Analysis and Synthesis**

The data analysis and synthesis process consisted of five stages: (1) Thematic Analysis – identifying themes and patterns emerging from the literature; (2) Identification of Key Themes – highlighting recurring themes related to the effectiveness of psychometric models in teacher performance evaluation; (3) Types of Psychometric Models Used – classifying the models commonly applied in teacher assessments; (4) Criteria for Validity and Reliability – evaluating how these criteria were applied in the context of sociology and society.

# **RESULTS**

## **3.1 Sociology as a bridge to social problems found in the society by teaching the children social skills**

Sociology plays a pivotal role in understanding and addressing social problems within society. Education becomes a bridge that connects them to societal norms and values, thus fostering social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Social skills, as described by Nzewuji et al, (2024), are essential tools that promote healthy and harmonious interactions between individuals. These skills, when taught early in primary education, help children develop positive relationships and contribute to the reduction of social problems such as conflict, violence, and isolation. Given the dynamic nature of society,

it is imperative to begin teaching these skills at the primary level to lay a solid foundation for future social integration and personal growth. One key social skill that can be imparted to children is active listening. Active listening, as a skill, enables children to engage fully with others by understanding verbal and non-verbal cues, ensuring meaningful communication (Adams et al, 2023). Teachers can encourage active listening by asking open-ended questions, ensuring that children focus on the speaker, and helping them interpret sounds or noises outside the classroom to understand environmental cues. This skill fosters better communication and strengthens relationships among peers and adults. It also aids children in developing empathy and respect for others, as they become more attuned to different perspectives. Cooperation is another vital social skill that children must learn. The concept of "a tree cannot make a forest" emphasizes the importance of teamwork and collective effort in achieving common goals. In a classroom setting, cooperation can be taught by encouraging children to share materials like pencils or pens, highlighting the benefits of helping each other. This practice promotes unity, mutual respect, and a sense of belonging, which are foundational to maintaining harmony in society. As Big-Alabo and Opuowei, (2024) asserts, cooperation and collaboration are essential in fostering peaceful relationships and mitigating conflict in both school and community settings. Respect is an integral component of social skills education. Teaching children to respect one another and their elders cultivates a sense of dignity and mutual consideration. According to Oporum and Dibia (2022), respect fosters unity and inclusivity, making individuals feel valued and accepted within their communities. In primary education, this can be achieved through structured activities that encourage politeness, courtesy, and acknowledgment of others' contributions. Respect also helps children understand social hierarchies, learning to interact appropriately with people from different social backgrounds and age groups.

Empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, is another critical social skill. Educators can help reduce social problems such as bullying and exclusion. As Zaky (2024) notes, empathy can be nurtured through classroom practices, such as encouraging children to apologize when they hurt someone's feelings or to comfort

peers who are upset. Demonstrating kindness and understanding helps children build strong emotional connections with others, thereby fostering a supportive and compassionate environment. Ecumenical collaboration, or group work, is a valuable social skill that promotes collective effort and problem-solving. Teachers can encourage collaboration by assigning group tasks that require children to work together, pooling their knowledge and resources to achieve common objectives. This type of cooperative engagement helps children understand the importance of community, collective responsibility, and shared goals. As Nwosu et al, (2023) emphasizes, teaching children to collaborate instills a sense of teamwork and teaches them to value others' contributions.

Finally, dramatization serves as an effective tool for developing social skills. Through role-playing and drama activities, children can imitate characters and behaviors, learning to express themselves confidently and effectively. Children develop the ability to communicate assertively, express emotions, and solve problems creatively. Dramatization also fosters social awareness, as children gain insight into the experiences of others through character emulation.

### **3.2. The importance of Social skills Acquisition on the Learners for Social cooperation in the Society.**

Social skills acquisition is essential for learners to successfully navigate their social environments and thrive within society. A child's ability to interact positively with peers, family members, and the broader community plays a significant role in shaping their social behavior, emotional intelligence, and future success. Social skills, when learned and practiced from an early age, help learners adjust to societal demands, respond to stressors, and contribute meaningfully to social cohesion. As social beings, humans are constantly interacting within various social contexts, and these interactions can influence an individual's personal and professional development throughout life. One of the key benefits of acquiring good social skills is the ability to engage effectively with others. According to Okeke et al, (2022), social skills enable learners to build and maintain positive relationships by encouraging them to interact constructively with peers, teachers, and other members of society. This is particularly vital in educational

settings, where students are required to collaborate with others to achieve common goals. For instance, in group assignments or peer-based learning activities, students must be able to listen actively, communicate clearly, and respect others' opinions. These interpersonal interactions help children develop the confidence to express themselves and navigate social challenges. Effective communication and the ability to work as part of a team are critical for academic success and social integration, and they form the foundation of future professional relationships (Okolie et al, 2022).

Good social skills also empower learners to possess their place in any community or environment. According to Oluwagbohunmi and Alonge (2023), social competence allows children to engage in their environment without feeling overwhelmed or withdrawing in the face of adversity. Learning to cope with the challenges of social life, such as peer pressure, bullying, and other stressors, is crucial for a child's mental and emotional growth. Children who have strong social skills are better equipped to handle conflict, manage stress, and build resilience. This sense of self-assurance helps them navigate both academic and personal challenges without feeling alienated. Furthermore, when children are able to interact and cooperate with others, they can confidently express their thoughts and feelings without fear of rejection. Empathy is another essential component of social skills that facilitates social cooperation in society. Children who are taught to understand and respond to the emotions of others develop stronger emotional intelligence. Adeowu and Bakare (2024) emphasizes the importance of teaching children to be mindful of others' feelings, particularly when it comes to expressing empathy towards those in need or sharing in others' happiness. Empathy enables children to respond appropriately to others' emotional states, helping to create a supportive and caring environment. When children are able to share in others' joy or provide comfort during difficult times, they build trust and emotional bonds that strengthen their social connections. This empathy contributes to harmonious relationships in school, family, and community settings, fostering a culture of mutual respect and kindness.

Social interaction from a young age also plays a significant role in shaping a child's development and improving their quality of life. As Ikie et al, (2022) notes, social

engagement not only enhances cognitive and emotional growth but also provides opportunities for children to learn from diverse perspectives. Through interactions with peers and adults, children can develop problem-solving skills, learn how to handle disagreement, and understand the consequences of their actions in social settings. These interactions can be particularly beneficial in educational contexts, where children are exposed to a variety of ideas, cultures, and backgrounds. The ability to interact positively with others helps children adapt to changing environments and prepares them for future social roles in society. Additionally, acquiring social skills promotes positive relationships and friendships. Enelamah et al, (2023) argues that children who develop social skills tend to form stronger friendships and earn the favor of others. These friendships, built on mutual respect, trust, and cooperation, provide emotional support and a sense of belonging, which is vital for mental well-being. Good social skills can also lead to greater opportunities in adulthood, as they enable individuals to network, collaborate, and navigate professional relationships effectively. As a result, children who acquire strong social skills are more likely to succeed in various social spheres, both academically and professionally.

### **3.3. The Impact of Social Skills on Children's Development**

The impact of social skills on children's development is profound, influencing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral outcomes that shape their academic and social success. Social skills, which include abilities like communication, cooperation, empathy, and active listening, play a critical role in fostering well-rounded development. Social skills are intrinsically linked to cognitive development. Children who interact positively with peers and adults are better able to process social information and develop problem-solving skills. As noted by Akobi and Okeke (2023), children with strong social competencies tend to exhibit enhanced cognitive abilities because they are constantly engaging in social interactions that challenge their reasoning and decision-making. These interactions enable them to better understand social norms, which in turn supports their ability to adapt to new situations. Furthermore, social competence helps children navigate social complexities, enhancing their ability to focus on tasks and think critically (Nwosu et al, 2022). Therefore, fostering social skills in early education lays

the foundation for improved cognitive abilities that children will continue to rely on as they grow.

The acquisition of social skills also significantly influences children's emotional and behavioral development. Socially competent children tend to exhibit higher levels of emotional intelligence, which includes self-regulation, empathy, and an understanding of others' emotions. According to Johnson (2022), emotional intelligence helps children manage conflicts and navigate challenging situations, which in turn improves their behavioral outcomes. Furthermore, children who possess strong social skills are more likely to have positive relationships with their peers and adults, leading to better emotional well-being and reduced behavioral problems. For instance, children who are taught empathy and respect are less likely to exhibit aggressive or disruptive behaviors, as they are more attuned to the emotions of others and can express their feelings appropriately.

Social skills are also critical for academic achievement. Studies have shown that children with good social skills tend to have better academic outcomes because they are able to collaborate effectively with their peers, communicate their thoughts clearly, and engage actively in classroom activities. These children are more likely to participate in group discussions, ask questions when unsure, and offer assistance to classmates, which enhances the overall learning environment. Furthermore, social competence helps children build confidence in their abilities, fostering a growth mindset that is essential for academic success. As a result, teaching social skills from an early age contributes not only to emotional and behavioral development but also to the academic achievement of children.

#### **3.4. Teaching Social Skills in Early Education**

Teaching social skills in early education is crucial for children's development, helping them build the necessary foundation for successful social interactions and emotional well-being. Early education serves as a critical period in fostering key social skills that shape children's interactions and behaviors throughout their lives. In primary education, children are in the formative stages of their social development, making it vital to integrate social skills into the curriculum. According to Adeowu and Bakare

(2024), effective strategies for teaching social skills include role-playing, cooperative learning activities, and structured group work. These strategies provide children with opportunities to practice social interactions in a controlled environment. Additionally, teachers can use positive reinforcement to encourage appropriate social behavior, such as praising students who demonstrate helpfulness, kindness, or problem-solving skills in social situations. Incorporating interactive activities, such as peer discussions and group problem-solving, also allows children to practice skills like active listening, cooperation, and respect in real-time scenarios.

Teachers and caregivers play a pivotal role in teaching social skills by modeling positive behavior and creating an environment conducive to social learning. According to Adebola (2022), teachers who demonstrate empathy, patience, and respect can foster similar traits in their students. By setting clear expectations for respectful behavior, teachers create a safe space where children can freely practice these skills without fear of judgment. Moreover, teachers and caregivers are responsible for guiding children through conflicts and teaching them how to manage their emotions and resolve disagreements peacefully (Tadesse, 2023). Teachers also act as role models, as children often mimic the behavior they observe, making it essential for educators to demonstrate positive communication and conflict resolution skills.

Practical approaches to teaching social skills include emphasizing active listening, cooperation, and respect. Active listening can be taught by encouraging children to focus on their peers when they speak, ask clarifying questions, and paraphrase what others have said to demonstrate understanding (Johnson, 2022). Teachers can implement activities like "show and tell" or storytelling sessions, where children practice listening and responding thoughtfully. Cooperation can be fostered by assigning group tasks that require teamwork, such as collaborative art projects or joint problem-solving exercises. Respect, one of the core social skills, can be taught by creating classroom norms that emphasize kindness, tolerance, and understanding. Activities like sharing, taking turns, and helping others can instill the value of respect in children from an early age.

### **3.5. Social Skills and Social Cooperation in Society**

Social skills are essential in fostering social cooperation, contributing significantly to social integration, relationship building, and addressing societal challenges. These skills enable individuals to navigate social environments, form meaningful connections, and cooperate effectively with others, all of which are vital for a peaceful and cohesive society. Social integration, which refers to the process of individuals becoming part of a larger social structure, is heavily influenced by communication skills. According to Adepegba (2023), effective communication serves as a foundation for social integration by enabling individuals to express themselves, understand others, and navigate societal norms. Communication fosters mutual understanding and respect, which are key components of integration into any social group or community. In Nigerian societies, where diverse ethnic groups coexist, effective communication skills play a crucial role in reducing misunderstandings and promoting harmony (Okeke et al, 2022). Thus, teaching communication as a social skill in early education can help children build the necessary tools for seamless integration into society.

Social skills also play a pivotal role in the development of relationships and friendships, which are fundamental to social cooperation. Salami et al, (2024) emphasizes that the ability to communicate, listen actively, cooperate, and show empathy significantly influences how individuals relate to one another. Children who acquire these skills early are better equipped to build lasting friendships, which serve as a support network throughout life. The ability to respect others, listen attentively, and collaborate in group activities not only helps children form relationships but also nurtures a sense of belonging and community (Chinedu & Akobi, 2022). In Nigerian contexts, where social ties are highly valued, these skills are particularly important in ensuring smooth interactions and fostering long-term, supportive relationships.

Social skills also play an important role in addressing societal challenges, particularly those related to conflict resolution, inequality, and social cohesion. According to Leonard and Olubunmi (2022), individuals with strong social skills are more likely to engage in constructive dialogue and peaceful negotiations, which can help resolve conflicts and reduce social tensions. In Nigeria, where ethnic, religious, and political divides often lead to conflict, the ability to engage in respectful communication and

cooperation is critical. Social skills enable individuals to navigate these complexities by fostering mutual respect and understanding. Moreover, teaching social skills in schools equips children with the tools needed to address future societal challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination, by promoting inclusivity and empathy.

### **3.6. Empathy and Its Role in Social Skill Development**

Empathy plays a crucial role in social skill development by fostering understanding, cooperation, and cohesion within communities. It is an essential social skill that allows individuals to connect emotionally with others and respond to their needs, enhancing both personal relationships and broader societal harmony. Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person, which is fundamental in building strong social connections. According to Oluwagbohunmi and Alonge (2023), empathy involves not only recognizing others' emotions but also feeling and responding to them appropriately. In social interactions, empathy fosters mutual understanding and strengthens emotional bonds, making it an indispensable part of effective communication. Okolie et al, (2022) asserts that empathy enables individuals to appreciate the perspectives of others, reducing conflicts and promoting peaceful coexistence, particularly in multicultural societies like Nigeria, where people from diverse backgrounds must interact regularly. Thus, empathy is essential for nurturing positive relationships in any social context.

Teaching empathy from an early age is crucial for the development of prosocial behaviors that promote social cohesion. According to Okeke et al, (2022), educators and caregivers play a pivotal role in instilling empathy in children by modeling compassionate behavior and creating opportunities for children to practice empathetic responses. Classroom activities, such as role-playing, group discussions, and storytelling, can help children understand and relate to the emotions of others. Additionally, providing a safe and supportive environment where children can express their feelings encourages empathy and emotional intelligence. As Nwosu et al, (2023) suggests, teaching empathy to children in primary education helps them internalize values such as kindness, fairness, and concern for others, laying the foundation for cooperative social behaviors in adulthood.

Empathy significantly impacts social cooperation and cohesion by promoting prosocial behaviors such as helping, sharing, and collaborating. Zaky (2024) explains that empathetic individuals are more likely to engage in behaviors that benefit the collective, as they are attuned to the needs and emotions of others. In Nigerian communities, where collective well-being is often prioritized over individual success, empathy enhances social harmony by fostering a spirit of cooperation. Furthermore, empathy helps prevent social isolation and marginalization by encouraging inclusion and understanding, particularly in diverse societies. Opurum and Dibia (2022) emphasizes that the presence of empathy in social interactions strengthens community ties, as individuals are more likely to work together to resolve conflicts and promote shared goals.

### **3.7. The Benefits of Acquiring Social Skills for Children's Future**

Acquiring social skills in childhood has significant long-term benefits that contribute to future success in personal, academic, and professional domains. These skills enable individuals to navigate various social contexts, fostering positive relationships, emotional well-being, and career advancement. Social skills are foundational to long-term success as they facilitate effective communication, collaboration, and conflict resolution. According to Big-Alabo and Opuwei (2024), children who develop strong social skills are better equipped to handle social challenges and build lasting relationships, which are essential for personal and professional growth. Social competence during childhood sets the stage for adaptive behaviors in adulthood, enabling individuals to thrive in diverse social environments. Adams et al, (2023) highlights that social skills promote self-confidence, which plays a critical role in the achievement of both academic and career goals. As such, children who master the art of engaging with others in a respectful and cooperative manner are more likely to achieve sustained success throughout their lives.

In the professional realm, social skills are indispensable for building networks, negotiating, and working effectively in teams. According to Nzewuji et al, (2024), the ability to collaborate with colleagues, communicate clearly, and adapt to different work cultures is crucial for career advancement. These skills are often more highly valued by

employers than technical expertise, as they enable employees to contribute to a positive workplace environment and maintain productive relationships with clients and colleagues. Olofinyehun et al, (2022) also emphasizes the importance of social skills in leadership roles, where the ability to motivate and communicate with a diverse team is key to achieving organizational objectives. Thus, the social skills children develop early in life directly influence their ability to succeed professionally in the future.

Acquiring social skills also plays a crucial role in the development of emotional intelligence (EI), which is essential for mental health and overall well-being. Emotional intelligence, which involves recognizing and managing one's emotions and the emotions of others, is closely linked to the social skills children learn. Egbetokun et al, (2022) asserts that children who develop strong interpersonal skills are better equipped to manage stress, resolve conflicts, and maintain healthy relationships. These skills promote emotional regulation, empathy, and self-awareness, all of which contribute to mental well-being. Bamel et al, (2023) further argues that individuals with high emotional intelligence tend to experience greater life satisfaction and resilience, making social skills essential not just for professional success but for emotional health.

### **3.8. Challenges in Teaching Social Skills to Children**

Teaching social skills to children presents several challenges that can hinder their effective acquisition, particularly in early education settings. These challenges stem from barriers within the education system, as well as socioeconomic and cultural factors, which influence the development of social skills in children. One of the major challenges in teaching social skills is the lack of adequate resources and trained personnel within early education systems. According to Ajiboye (2021), many Nigerian schools face significant constraints in terms of infrastructure, teaching materials, and qualified educators. Teachers often lack the professional development necessary to effectively teach social skills, and they may focus more on academic subjects due to curriculum demands. This neglects the importance of social skill education, which is vital for children's holistic development. Additionally, large class sizes and the emphasis on rote learning further limit the ability of educators to engage children in meaningful social skill-building activities (Okeke et al, 2022). Thus, the current

educational framework often fails to prioritize or adequately support social skills acquisition.

Socioeconomic and cultural factors also play a significant role in shaping children's ability to acquire social skills. In many Nigerian communities, economic instability can affect the resources available for education, including access to quality teachers and learning materials (Ebonyi & Abok, 2020). Children from low-income families may face additional stressors, such as limited access to extracurricular activities, which are essential for developing social skills through play and interaction. Furthermore, cultural norms and values can influence how social skills are taught and learned. In some cultures, the emphasis on collective values and hierarchical relationships may limit opportunities for children to develop assertiveness or practice equal social exchanges (Ayasrah et al, 2022). These cultural influences may affect the way children express empathy, cooperate, or respect others in social settings.

Despite these challenges, there are ways to overcome them and ensure effective social skills education for children. One strategy is integrating social skills training into the existing curriculum, ensuring that educators are equipped with the necessary resources and strategies to teach these skills effectively. Novik and Podgórecki (2015) suggests that collaboration between teachers, parents, and community leaders is essential for fostering an environment where social skills are prioritized. Furthermore, incorporating culturally relevant practices and materials that resonate with children's lived experiences can help make social skills education more relatable and impactful. Finally, promoting experiential learning opportunities, such as cooperative games, role-playing, and peer group activities, can help children practice social interactions in a safe and supportive environment.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The study highlights the critical role of teaching social skills to children as a foundation for effective communication and social integration. Social skills, such as active listening, cooperation, respect, and empathy, not only foster positive relationships among peers but also enhance cognitive, emotional, and behavioral

development, which are crucial for success in both academic and social spheres. The research emphasizes that early education is the ideal time to instill these skills, as children are at a developmental stage where they can easily absorb and apply social competencies. Moreover, the role of teachers and caregivers is pivotal in guiding children through structured activities that promote social interaction and cooperation. As children acquire social skills, they become better equipped to navigate societal challenges, contributing to their personal growth and the well-being of the larger community. The study also acknowledges the barriers in the education system, including inadequate resources, cultural influences, and socioeconomic factors, which can hinder the effective teaching of social skills. However, it suggests that by integrating social skills education into the broader curriculum, involving parents and communities, and adopting culturally relevant strategies, these challenges can be mitigated.

Ultimately, the acquisition of social skills in early education provides children with the tools to thrive in diverse social environments, fostering harmonious relationships and contributing to the overall cohesion and progress of society. Therefore, sociology is crucial in training a child for the achievement of peaceful coexistence in the society. It can also instill patriotism, truthfulness, honesty, national consciousness and integration. Sociology attempts to offer solutions to societal problems by teaching social skills to the learners from primary level of education and beyond. However, the study of sociology revelation with society enhances peaceful relationship.

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