THE PEOPLE

Most infants are guided through life by a parent or guardian and taugh how to talk, walk, eat and generally behave. The socialization process beigins as soon as we are born when we being to imitate people around us, copying the shapes and noises in our environment. Many other people and circumstances affect our appearance, attitude and behavior, such as work, lifestyle, ethnicity, family, environment, peer group (friends), gender, media etc.

Human beings are very different throughout the world and opinions of what constitures a natural or nurtured human being differ enormously. Without socialization, an individual would bear little resemblance to any human being defined as “normal” by the standards of his or her society.

There have been some instances where a person has been deprived of the assistance of a parent or any other social and human presenc. Thsee beings are oftern referred to as feral peopol meaning “wild”.

An example of feral people was the Wolf-infants of Midnapore who were reportedly found in a wolf den in a Bengal forest in 1920. The infants, age two and eight, walked on all fours, preferred a diet of raw meat, howled like wolves and lacked any form of speech.

(Adapted from: Mckenzie and Bryden (2004:50), Introducing Word 2000 for Windows)