

# PRIMARY & SECONDARY GROUP



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# WHAT ARE GROUPS

- ◉ Group- Two or more people who have one or more goals in common and share common ways of thinking and behaving.
- ◉ Key features :
- ◉ Regular contact with one another
- ◉ Takes one another's behavior into account
- ◉ Have one or more goal and interest in common
- ◉ Share same ways of thinking, behaving & feeling

# PRIMARY GROUPS

- ◉ The term primary group was first used by symbolic interactionist Charles Cooley
- ◉ Primary group is made up of people who are emotionally close, know each other very well and seek each others company
- ◉ Primary groups are important in socialization.
- ◉ People participate in primary group throughout their life.
- ◉ People in these groups have primary relationship with each other
- ◉ Cooley writes: “By primary groups, I mean those groups characterized by intimate face-to-face association and cooperation. They are primary in several senses but chiefly in that they are fundamental in forming the social nature and ideals of the individual.”
- ◉ Families, friendship, circles, clique, play groups (sports club), small village, neighborhood, work team are some of the examples of primary groups.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A PRIMARY GROUP:

The essential characteristics of a primary group are intimate feelings and close identification.

**(i) Physical Proximity:**

**(ii) Small Size:**

**(iii) Stability:**

**(v) Limited Self-interest:**

**(vi) Intensity of Shared Interests:**

# IMPORTANCE OF PRIMARY GROUPS:

Primary groups are important both to the individual as well as to the society. They are particularly important in shaping the personality, in formulating self-concepts, in developing a sense of worth and in becoming an accepted member of society. In the words of Cooley, primary groups are the “the nursery of human nature”.

- (1) They are primary for the formation of habits and attitudes;
- (2) They are fundamental to the development of ‘social self and moral knowledge;
- (3) They impart basic training in social stability, solidarity and cooperation among persons;
- (4) They play a pivotal role both in the socialisation process and in the development of roles and statuses;
- (5) They are most efficient humaniser of animal drives (sex, hunger, anger etc.) than any other form of association; and
- (6) They are the important agency for the development of personality (socialisation) of the individual.

# SECONDARY GROUP

- ◉ The secondary groups are just opposite of primary groups.
- ◉ A secondary group is organised around secondary relationships. These relationships are more formal, impersonal, segmental and utilitarian than primary group interactions.
- ◉ Formal organisations and larger instrumental associations such as trade associations, labour unions, corporations, political parties, international cartel, a club and many others are a few examples of secondary groups. In such groups, one is not concerned with the other person as a person, but as a functionary who is filling a role.
- ◉ In the secondary group not total personality but a segmental (partial) personality of a person is involved. These groups are wholly lacking in intimacy of association as we generally find in primary groups. Defining these groups, Ogburn and Nimkoff (1950) write: “The groups which provide experience lacking in intimacy are called secondary groups.” Kimball Young (1942) has termed these groups as ‘special interest groups’ because they are formed to fulfill certain specific end or ends.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF SECONDARY GROUP

- ◉ 1. Spatial distance between members.
- ◉ 2. Short duration.
- ◉ 3. Large number.
- ◉ 4. Lack of intimacy among members.
- ◉ ADVERTISEMENTS:
- ◉ 5. Formal relationships and partial involvement of personality.
- ◉ 6. Casualness of contact.
- ◉ 7. Impersonal and based on status.
- ◉ 8. Specific aims or interest of formation.
- ◉ ADVERTISEMENTS:
- ◉ 9. Deliberately and consciously formed.
- ◉ 10. Feeling of individualism among members.
- ◉ 11. Voluntary membership.

## FUNCTION OF SECONDARY GROUP

1. To help in fulfilling various kinds of increasing human needs.
2. To help in bringing social awareness and social change.
3. To help in removing conservatism and superstition through education and rational thinking.
4. To increase social mobility.
5. To help in satisfying various special interests such as sports, dance, music, touring etc.