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Lesson No.

- 1.1 : Social Interaction & Social Processes
(Integrative Processes)
- 1.2 : Disintegrative Social Processes
- 1.3 : Social Group
- 1.4 : Types of Groups

Department website : www.pbidde.org

**SOCIAL INTERACTION & SOCIAL PROCESSES
(INTEGRATIVE SOCIAL PROCESSES)**

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1.0 OBJECTIVES

A study of this lesson would enable you to :

- * explain the concepts of social interaction and social processes.
- * differentiate between integrative and disintegrative social processes.
- * explain various integrative social processes like cooperation, accommodation and assimilation.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Many sociologists have analysed society in terms of a study of social processes. **Ratzenhofler** conceives sociology as primarily the study of social processes. **A.W. Small** viewed society as a social process and sociology as the discipline concerned with the study of that process. He viewed the study of social processes as a key to understand the phenomena of group life. American sociologist **E.C. Hays** is of the view that the main objective of the sociology is to study the factors that influences the social process. Many others like **Tonnies, Vierkandt, George Simmel, Park Burgers** and **Ross** also hold similar view. However many other have criticised these sociologist for cutting out sociology from its other more vital parts, but one thing is clear that the concept of social process is a very important and vital to sociology. In this lesson we shall discuss in detail this concept and its various forms especially those which integrates a society. We shall study how human beings interact with each other, how these interactions form various patterns which results in to different social processes, how these processes are important for the society.

1.2 MEANING OF SOCIAL INTERACTION

The social groups that exists in societies are not static. Members of these groups continuously interact with each other and they influence each other. As a result of these influences, these groups continuously change and become modified. Members of these groups interact and behave with others in a certain manner. When an individual interacts and behaves with others, he is aware of how others will probably respond. Interaction is reciprocal as each person is aware of responses to the actions and reactions of others. This interaction is the

essence of social life and behaviour system grows out of it. There shall be no social life without it. If you say "hello" to a friend, you expect a "hello" in return.

Social interaction refers to all types of social relationships in which there is mutual stimulation and response between individuals. This social interaction also include symbolic interaction - verbal or gestural - among the individuals. Social interaction influences social relations among human beings and determine the nature of mutual relations among them. Social relations can be positive as well as negative. They are positive when they produce mutual cooperation, understanding and assimilation. They are termed as negative when they create conflict and antagonism.

1.3 MEANING OF SOCIAL PROCESS

Although social interaction is not governed by rigid rules, it is not totally haphazard either. We can see enough patterns and repetition of social interaction among individuals and groups. On the basis of study of these patterns we can predict the behaviour of individuals and groups in a given situation. Many of these patterns are already well established. These established patterns of behaviour determine our behaviour in daily life. In small societies these established patterns of behaviour are very important for its members. One or more of these patterns are called social processes. Thus social processes refer to the repetitive forms of behaviour which are commonly found in social life.

MacIver in his book "Society" has defined the social process as "the manner in which the relations of the members of a group, once brought together, acquire a certain distinctive character."

According to **Ginsberg**, "Social process means the various modes of interaction between individuals or groups including cooperation and conflict, social differentiation and integration, development, arrest and decay." Thus social interaction and social processes are interrelated. One can not be understood without the other.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Define social interaction?

- (ii) Define social process?

1.4 FORMS OF SOCIAL PROCESSES

Social processes have been classified in a number of ways by different sociologists. They range from the extremes of isolation to unity. On the one hand is an absolute isolation -as unattainable as absolute zero- there is no interaction, and on the other hand is a completely unified society, many social processes are operating fully. But these are considered idealistic and only theoretical situations.

According to some sociologists, there are only two forms of social processes namely of a cooperative nature or an oppositional nature, of a conjunctive nature or a disjunctive nature, of an integrative or conflicting nature and of an associative and dis-associative nature.

For our discussion can classify these processes into two categories namely integrative social process and disintegrative process. Among the integrative processes we can put the fundamental processes of Cooperation, accommodation and assimilation. Among the disintegrative processes we can put the fundamental processes of competition and conflict. In this lesson we shall however discuss only integrative social processes in detail.

1.5 MEANING OF INTEGRATIVE PROCESSES

Integrative processes are those repetitive patterns of interaction among the individuals and group that tend to produce unity among them like Cooperation, accommodation and assimilation. This unity or integration may be within a group and culture or it may be among different groups and cultures, sometimes even among antagonistic groups and cultures. The unity within a group, generally, takes the form of Cooperation and among different groups it may take the form of accommodation or assimilation.

1.5.1 COOPERATION

Etymologically the word cooperation has been derived from two Latin words, 'co' meaning together and 'operari' meaning to work. It is thus joint activity in pursuit of common goals or shared reward, Cooperation is a basic social process involving two or more persons or groups working jointly in a common enterprise for a shared goal. Cooperation is considered basic because without it life would be difficult, if not impossible. It is an integrating activity and considered opposite of competition and conflict.

Cooperation, however, is not equally strong in all groups. For example, there will be more cooperation in a primary group than in a secondary group. However there can be an opposite situation.

1.5.1.1 DEFINITIONS OF COOPERATION

According to **Cooley**, "Cooperation arises when men see that they have a common interest and have at the same time, sufficient intelligence and self-control to seek this interest through united action: perceived unity of interest and faculty of organisation are the essential facts in intelligent combination."

Green has defined cooperation as "the continuous and common endeavour of two or more persons to perform a task or to reach a goal that is commonly cherished."

Merrill and **Eldredge** has defined it as "a form social interaction wherein two or more persons work together to gain a common end."

Fairchild has defined it as "the process by which individuals or groups combine their effort, in a more or less organised way for the attainment of common objective."

Thus cooperation means that form of interaction in which individuals and groups pour their energies and resources together for the achievements of common ends or objectives, but in such a way all parties tend to benefit from it.

1.5.1.2 TYPES OF COOPERATION:

We can classify the cooperation in following categories:

1.5.1.2.1 Direct Cooperation :

When individual members of a group perform identical functions to achieve a common goal, then the cooperation is direct. The element of this kind of cooperation is that people in group collectively perform such functions which can also be performed individually. They work collectively because social situation demands so and it benefits them. Fifty years earlier people used to help each other to cultivate their land collectively. It was a good example of direct cooperation.

1.5.1.2.2 Indirect Cooperation :

When members of a group perform different and unidentical function to achieve a common goal, then the cooperation is indirect. In this type of cooperation different members have different specialisations and they perform specialised functions, but their goal is common. For example a doctor, nurse, and pharmacist in a hospital perform different function, but their goal is common. Even different doctors have their specialised function in a big hospital and they cooperate with each other while performing- different functions individually or collectively. In modern industrial society with the development of specialisation in every minor branch of science and technology, the indirect cooperation is becoming more and more important than direct cooperation.

1.5.1.2.3 Primary Cooperation :

When primary groups cooperate with each other for the attainment of common goals, it is called primary cooperation. Achievement of common interest results in to the achievement of individual interest.

1.5.1.2.4 Secondary Cooperation :

Members of secondary groups also cooperate with each other, but generally they do not cooperate directly. Different members perform different function, some times they have different interests also. In such groups cooperation is of secondary nature, and in place of cooperation there is competition among the members. We can see such a combination of cooperation and competition among students preparing for competitive exams.

1.5.1.3 IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation is universal phenomenon. It is so important in the life of an individual that it is impossible to survive without it. We need cooperation of others to meet our various needs daily. From birth till death we need cooperation and help of others. A child can not survive without the care of others, especially his mother. Even lowest animals such as ants and honeybees cooperate with each other. Cooperation is our psycho-social need. Cooperation starts from the family. The physical, mental and even spiritual needs of the individual can not be satisfied, without the cooperation of fellow members of his society. Because if one does not cooperate with others, they too will not cooperate with him. Thus cooperation is a mutual aid.

All the progress that we have made in the various fields of life is the result of cooperation among us. No big dam was possible without the cooperation of thousands of workers, technocrats and managers. All achievements in the field of science, technology, medical, sports, etc. are the result of cooperation of some kind.

It is the reason that today all governments and international bodies are emphasizing the need of *Self Help Groups* for the empowerment of weaker sections of society.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Define Cooperation.

- (ii) Point out types of Cooperation.

- (iii) Define Indirect Cooperation.

1.5.2 ACCOMMODATION

On the other end of the process of cooperation is the process of social conflict, but in between the process of cooperation and conflict are the processes of accommodation and assimilation. These are actually the by-products of the processes of cooperation and conflict. These can not be isolated fully from each other, but for the purpose of some clarity we shall study them here as separate processes. After dominance of one or the other opposing party in a conflict, a peace making process starts. This process is called accommodation. Accommodation does not settle issue permanently. It simply keeps things under cool and control, in a state of temporary, peaceful coexistence. Contradictions remain present, but under surface and may erupt again when become sharp. But sometimes, cooperation and accommodation after conflict may resolve the problem and the weaker group may assimilate into a larger and stronger group.

Conflicts are exhausting if not annihilating. These must, therefore, be resolved for making social life peaceful. Accommodation is process to resolve the conflict, which means adjusting oneself to the new environment. The social order is the result of this process of accommodation. Parties in conflict must eventually work out some compromise for their survival. Accommodation is the process of getting along in spite of differences. It is a way of making some social adjustment, which enable them to work together, even if they do not like it. Agreements, treaties, rules and laws are enacted to define the rules and terms of accommodation. The term accommodation was first used by the psychologist **James Mark Baldwin**. He used the term to denote acquired changes in the behaviour of individuals which enable them to adjust to their environment. These adjustments may be to physical or social environment. He termed adjustments to the physical environment which take place through organic or social modification transmitted by heredity as *adaptation*, whereas adjustment

which an individual achieves through acquisition of behaviour patterns transmitted to him socially and through adopting new ways of behaviour he termed as *accommodation*. Thus lower animals adjust themselves physically through adaptation, while human beings adjust themselves socially through accommodation, it is because man is a social animal. Thus accommodation is a social process, whereas adaptation is biological process.

Accommodation has external and internal aspects. When fighting parties reach on an agreement because they think continuations of fight may cause too severe losses to one or both sides, such an agreement is a formal, impersonal and external adjustment to conflict. However sometimes the accommodation may be of a more lasting character, permanently altering the internal life of the group. It happens when parties to the agreement recognize each other as equals and the agreement provides for satisfaction of many of the interests which were in conflict. Accommodation may also be relatively permanent if one group is so powerful to enforce its unequal decrees as was the case of caste system in traditional society in India.

1.5.2.1 DEFINITIONS OF ACCOMMODATION

Some of the definitions of accommodation are the following :

Gillin and **Gillin** defined accommodation as, "the process by which competing and conflicting individuals and groups adjust their relationship to each other in order to overcome the difficulties which arise in competition, contravention or conflict."

Park and **Burgess** defined it as, "a natural resolution of conflicts. In accommodation the antagonism of the hostile element is for the time being regulated and conflict disappears as overt action although it remains latent as a potential."

According to **MacIver**, "The term accommodation refers particularly to the process in which man attains a sense of harmony with his environment."

According to **Lundberg**, "The word accommodation has been used to designate the adjustments which people in groups make to relieve the fatigue and tensions of competition and conflict."

According to **Ogburn** and **Nimkoff**, "Accommodation is a term used by the sociologists to describe the adjustment of hostile individuals or groups."

According to **Sutherland** and others, "Accommodation is the process by which those once in conflict can work together in common enterprises."

1.5.2.2 TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is social adaptation; where by one ethnic group adapts the mode of life of an other group. It is basically concerned with adjustments arising out of conflicts between individuals and groups. Accommodation or resolutions of conflicts may take various forms. Most important types of accommodation are given below:

1.5.2.2.1 Acclimatisation :

Park and **Burgers** has divided accommodation into two major types as acclimatisation and naturalization. Acclimatisation is adjustment to new natural conditions which involves adjustment with a new climate, types of soil etc. In acclimatisation the person has to change, more or less, physiologically, a process which is for the most part adaptation.

1.5.2.2.2 Naturalisation :

Naturalisation is adjustment to new social conditions which involves adjustments to new folkways, mores and institutions. Naturalisation in its original sense means the process where by an individual becomes "natural". In naturalisation individual has to under go changes in attitude and behaviour, which fundamentally involves psychological modifications. This process is beset by a great many difficulties.

1.5.2.2.3 Yielding to Coercion :

Coercion refers to the use of force or threat of force to end a conflict. When parties to the conflict are of unequal strength, the weaker party is forced to admit his defeat. A peace treaty after a war is an example of this form of accommodation. After defeat in a war, the loser has to choose between submitting to the terms of peace imposed by the victor. The birth of Bangladesh is an example of such an accommodation after the defeat of Pakistan in a war with India.

1.5.2.2.4 Compromise :

When groups recognise each other as equals, they accommodate each other on the basis of a co-ordinate relationship. Neither tries to dominate or subjugate the other, yet each negotiates for a favourable- position when settling differences. The process is one of give and take, calling for adjustments in the interests of all parties. In compromise each party to the dispute makes some concessions to the other and also demands some concessions for itself from the other. In compromise everyone finds some satisfaction.

1.5.2.2.5 Superordination and Subordination :

According to Simmel, the accommodation in the sphere of personal relations takes the form of superordination and subordination. The organisation of any society is essentially the result of such a type of accommodation. The superiority and inferiority of persons and groups is never absolute and one sided. It is only on the surface that a superior person or group seems to dictate and exert all the influence, whereas the inferior just obeys and is influenced by the superior. But in reality, the inferior also influences the decisions of the superior many a time. Every dictator has to take in to consideration the reactions of his subjects. In a very real sense the master is the slave of his slaves. When individuals ordinarily accept their relative position as a matter of fact, accommodation is said to have reached a state of perfection.

1.5.2.2.6 Arbitration and Conciliation :

Sometime a third party attempts to bring about an end to the conflict through arbitration and conciliation between the conflicting parties. Success of such conciliation is also achieved through accommodation. Generally conflicts in industry, family and even among other social groups are resolved through conciliation and arbitration.

1.5.2.2.7 Toleration :

Toleration is that form of accommodation when a weaker group tries to avoid an overt conflict for the time being without any concession or change in affairs. It is the weaker group which bears with the stronger group without any compromise. When toleration exhausts and crosses its limits the dispute again takes a serious turn. We see such toleration among religious groups and different castes, where for a long time they tolerate each other, but when the excesses of dominant group crosses all limits, a direct conflict arises.

1.5.2.3 UNIVERSAL PHENOMENON

Since in all societies and groups we find some sort of conflict, therefore to resolve those conflicts in all societies and groups efforts are made for accommodation. It is universal phenomenon. All societies are so constituted that their members behave and act in conformity with established norms. Accommodation is essential to any kind of social life as it checks conflicts and enables individuals and groups to maintain cooperation which is the *sine quo non* of social life. Individual members of the society generally accept the established rules and their behaviour is guided by them. Accommodation brings equilibrium in the society. When there is any conflict, it enables the individuals to adjust themselves to changed conditions. It helps in the maintenance of social order, even through it reduces social control by giving some concessions to conflicting parties, but at the same time it creates new social control. Society is essentially the result of Accommodation.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Define Accommodation.

- (ii) What is the difference between acclimatisation and naturalisation?

- (iii) Define the role of accommodation in maintenance of social order?

1.5.3 ASSIMILATION

Assimilation is another process of interaction, where by a person or group acquire the culture of another group with whom they have been interacting for a long time. They adopt its attitudes values, pattern of thinking and ways of behaving. It is a process concerned with the absorption and incorporation of

culture of one group by another group. In the process of assimilation individuals and groups give up their own culture and adopt a new culture with whom they are interacting for a long time and may be in a conflict with it in past. It is essentially a process of fusion, in which one individual or group becomes completely accepted as a part of another group. This is usually a slow process, where by the group that Assimilates itself adopts the culture of the other group, usually dominant group and becomes a part of that society.

1.5.3.1 DEFINITIONS OF ASSIMILATION

Some of the definitions of assimilation are the following :

According to **Park** and **Burgess**, "Assimilation is a process by which persons and groups acquire the memories, sentiments, attitudes of other persons or groups and by sharing their experiences and history are incorporated with them in a cultural life."

According to **Mack** and **Young**, "Assimilation is the fusion or blending of two previously distinct groups into one. Obviously, assimilation requires more fundamental changes than antagonistic co-operation, which are called Accommodation."

According to **Nimkoff**, "Assimilation is the process whereby individuals or groups once dissimilar become similar, and identified in their interest and outlook"

According to **Lundberg**, "Assimilation is a word used to designate a process of mutual adjustment through which culturally different groups gradually *obliterate* their differences to the point where they are no longer regarded as socially significant or observable."

We can sum up it as a process of fusion by which one individual or group completely accepts the culture of another group and absorbs itself into that group. **H.P. Fairchild** has described this process as *denationalisation and renationalisation*. When two different cultures come in to contact, they find the sentiment of mutual conflicts in the initial stage, but later on gradually and slowly one group assimilates into another by adopting its way of life. It is not just a compromise, actually one group starts imitating another dominating group and slowly becomes an insupportable part of that group.

1.5.3.2 FROM ACCULTURATION TO ASSIMILATION

Assimilation is a slow and gradual process. Before the total assimilation of an individual or group in to another group, the process passes through the stage of acculturation. Acculturation is the first step to assimilation. It is that stage when one cultural group which is in contact with another appropriates or borrows from it certain cultural elements and incorporates them into its own culture, thus modifying it. Contact between the two groups inevitably affects both, but it is generally 'weaker' group which adopts the culture of the dominant group and modify itself according to the dominant group culture. However the dominant group also takes some traits from the culture of weaker group. The adoption of some traits of the dominant culture by another cultural group paves the way for the absorption of the new cultural group into the dominant culture.

Assimilation is the final product of social contact. The speed of the process of assimilation depends upon the nature of contacts. The process occurs naturally and most rapidly in case of primary contacts, as in the case of assimilation of a bride in the new family after her marriage. On the other hand if contacts are secondary, i.e., indirect and superficial, the result is accommodation rather than assimilation. Assimilation depends upon communication, which requires a common language.

1.5.3.3 FACTORS RETARDING ASSIMILATION

Assimilation is a long and complex process. While there are certain factors which facilitate and others retard it. The rate of assimilation of a cultural minority depends upon whether the facilitating or retarding factors dominate. Here we shall first discuss the factors that retard or hinder the process of assimilation. **Gillin** and **Gillin** has pointed out that hindering or retarding factors are isolating conditions of life, attitude of superiority on the part of dominant group, excessive cultural and social differences between the two groups, and persecution of the minority group by the majority group. However other sociologists have also pointed some more factors, we can give following retarding factors :

1.5.3.3.1 Extreme Differences in Culture :

If there are no common elements in two culture, the group may remain near each other physically but far apart socially. They may struggle for supremacy in intermittent conflict, or one group may suffer disorganisation through its inability to make an adjustment to the conflict.

1.5.3.3.2 Prejudice :

Prejudice is the attitude which promotes separateness among the groups and thus hinders the process of assimilation. It impedes assimilation between the constituent groups with in a society. Religious groups maintain social distance created by prejudice to maintain their separateness. Prejudice with in a community, a family or any group plays functions which prefer disunity to a fusion of interests.

1.5.3.3.3 Physical Differences :

Dominating group label differences in physical appearance as a tool to make their discrimination effective. In competition this tool is employed to defeat weaker sections psychologically. When people are identified on the basis of their physical appearance to discriminate them, they start feeling isolated which results as a hindrance to assimilation.

1.5.3.3.4 Number involved :

If the proportion of newcomers is larger, the original group starts feeling negatively about the newcomers. The established group starts opposing them and looks them as a danger to their interests. Moreno in his book "Who Shall Survive" has pointed that increase in resentment is the result of increase in number of newcomers.

1.5.3.4 FACTORS FACILITATING ASSIMILATION

Gillin and **Gillin** has pointed out that factors facilitating assimilation are

toleration, equal economic opportunity, -sympathetic attitude on the part of dominating group towards the minority group, exposure to the dominant culture, similarity between the cultures of the minority and dominant groups and amalgamation or intermarriage. We can point out following facilitating factors

1.5.3.4.1 Sympathetic Attitude of Dominant Group :

When majority group is itself secure and hospitable to differences, the immigrant groups, have a greater opportunity to mingle and participate in the total community life.

1.5.3.4.2 Equal Opportunity :

If a society provides equal opportunities to all irrespective of sex, race, colour, creed, nationality, religion etc. that society offer greater opportunities for assimilation to outsiders.

1.5.3.4.3 Needed Occupational Skills :

If the immigrant already possesses the skills and training for which there is a need in the new country, his scope of assimilation in the new society will be greater. For instance the demand of IT professionals and Nurses in US and Canada is greater these days, therefore, people qualified with these skills are accepted more and they get assimilated there readily.

1.5.3.5 DESIRABILITY OF ASSIMILATION

Generally speaking, assimilation is an accommodation process which resolves the cultural conflicts between two divergent groups. However it is a matter of degree. In large societies a complete assimilation is perhaps a hypothetical situation rather than practical. The minority group subjected to resists the inroads made by the dominant culture. The minority culture not only contributes to the dominant culture, but retains many of their own ways. As a result, over a long period, there is a clash between the old and new ways and it results in to cultural pluralism which may represent incomplete assimilation.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Define assimilation.

- (ii) What is Acculturation?

- (iii) Define Acclimatisation.

1.6 LET US SUM UP

In this lesson we discussed the meaning of the concepts of social interaction and social processes. These Social Processes are of two types i.e. integrative social processes and disintegrative social processes. Integrative social processes are also

discussed in detail, namely cooperation, accommodation and assimilation, which unite the society. In cooperation first we defined the concept and then discussed its types and importance for the society. Thereafter we defined the concept of accommodation and discussed its types, and finally we defined the concept of assimilation and also discussed factors retarding and helping assimilation.

1.7 KEY CONCEPTS

Acclimatisation : Adjustment to new natural conditions like environment, climate, soil, etc.

Accommodation : Process by which conflicting parties adjust their relations in order to solve the problem temporarily.

Adaptation : Adjustments to physical environment that take place through organic modifications.

Assimilation: A process whereby one group or person acquires the culture of an other group.

Cooperation : Two or more persons work jointly for a common goal.

Integrative Social Processes : Those repetitive actions between two or more than two persons or groups which integrates them.

Naturalisation : Adjustments to new social environment, like culture traits, norms etc.

Social Interaction : Meaningful action between two or more than two persons.

Social Processes : Repetitive patterns of behaviour which commonly found in social life.

1.8 EXERCISE QUESTIONS

Long Questions

- (1) What is social Interaction?
- (2) What do you mean by Social Processes? Explain types of Social Processes.
- (3) What is Cooperation? Discuss its types.
- (4) Define Assimilation and explain its retarding and facilitating factors.
- (5) Explain Accommodation and discuss its types.

Short Questions

Define

- (1) Social Interaction
- (2) Social Process
- (3) Integrative Social Process
- (4) Cooperation
- (5) Accommodation
- (6) Assimilation
- (7) Direct Cooperation
- (8) Indirect Cooperation
- (9) Primary Cooperation

- (10) Secondary Cooperation
- (11) Adaptation
- (12) Acclimatisation
- (13) Naturalisation
- (14) Compromise
- (15) Coercion
- (16) Toleration
- (17) Acculturation

1.9 FURTHER READINGS

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DISINTEGRATIVE SOCIAL PROCESSES

STRUCTURE :

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2.3.4.3 Cultural Competition

2.3.4.4 Competition for Status and Role

2.3.5 Importance of Competition

2.3.5.1 Determination of Status

2.3.5.2 Source of Motivation

2.3.5.3 Conducive to Progress

2.4 Summary

2.5 Key Words

2.6 Exercise Questions

2.7 Further Readings

2.0 OBJECTIVES :

A study of this lesson would enable you to :

- * define the meaning of disintegrative processes,
- * explain the meaning of term conflict,
- * throw light on the causes and types of conflict,
- * explain the role played by conflict in social organisation,
- * define the term competition and
- * explain the characteristics and importance of competition.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous lesson we discussed the meaning of concept of social process and its two broader types namely integrative social process and disintegrative process. We discussed in detail three integrative processes.

In this lesson we shall focus our attention on two equally important disintegrative processes namely conflict and competition. Disintegrative social processes are those processes which divide the society into various social segments and groups. These processes hinder the growth of unity in the society. These processes also stratify the society into classes, castes and communities. Let us discuss these two processes in detail.

2.2 CONFLICT

The opposite of the cooperation is conflict. It consists a process by which two or more persons or groups try to prevent or thwart the attainment of certain objectives by others even to the extent of injuring them. It generally occurs when the interests are exclusive and inharmonious.

2.2.1 DEFINITION OF THE CONFLICT

Various sociologists have given following definitions of the term conflict:

According to **Kimball Young** and **R.W. Mack**, "Conflict may be considered the process in which opposing parties attempt to injure or destroy each other to

achieve the ultimate goal in question."

A.W. Green has defined the conflict, "as the deliberate attempt to oppose, resist or coerce the will of another or others."

According to **Horton** and **Hunt**, "conflict may be defined as a process of seeking to monopolise rewards by eliminating or weakening the competitors."

According to **Gillin** and **Gillin**, "Conflict is the social individuals or groups seek their ends by directly challenging violence or threat of violence."

According to **Mazumdar**, "Conflict is opposition or struggle involving (a) an emotional attitude of hostility as well as (b) violent interference with one's autonomous choices."

Thus conflict is a competition in its more occasional, personal and hostile forms. It is a process of taking rewards by eliminating or weakening the competitors. Through it one party attempts to destroy or annihilate or at least reduce to a subordinate position to the other party. But it differs from competition in that it involves contact, it takes place on a conscious level, it is personal, it involves violence or at least threat of violence. Competition determines the position that an individual or group occupies in the community, whereas conflict determine his place in society.

Although conflict is present in every aspect of human life, and is believed by many to be a permanent condition of humanity, it is characteristically intermittent, it can not exist constantly. One of the opposing parties finally wins and other loses. Then conflict subsides, at least temporarily, and again erupts.

Conflict does not necessarily involves violence, although very often it does. Civil disobedience and *satya graha* of Gandhi ji is the best example of non-violent conflict. In its higher forms it becomes an impersonal struggle to establish and preserve rules of justice and moral precepts. On higher levels the conflict is not generally resolved through violence and strength but by weight of public opinion.

Conflicts are not totally disruptive and negative. In the face a common enemy, the group unity is enhanced. Conflict is a fundamental human and societal trait. **Gumpłowicz** regarded conflict as underlying societal evolution and progress. **Simmel** is of the view that a completely conflict-free, harmonious society is practically impossible. Such a group would be devoid of the essential life process and would have no stable structure. A society entirely devoid of conflict would become lifeless, because conflict, like friction in the physical world is a force that impels towards action. In reality, society requires for its formation and growth, both harmony and disharmony, association and dissociation.

Thus societies should not try to eliminate conflicts totally, instead they should provide proper channels through which conflict can be resolved without violence and psychological harm as far as possible.

In between the social processes of competition and conflict there is a process called *contravention*. Contravention is a situation in which relationships are

characterised by hidden animosity or hostility towards the person, group or issues involved. In this situation an element of uncertainty towards person, group or issues is also involved. This situation may finally, but not necessarily, develop into conflict.

2.2.2 CAUSES OF CONFLICT

As discussed earlier conflict is universal and occurs in all times and places, however causes of conflicts at different places, on different times and among different parties may be different and numerous.

2.2.2.1 Scarcity of Resources :

According to famous economist **Malthus** shortage in supply of the means of livelihood is the cause of conflict.

2.2.2.2 Struggle for Existence :

Evolutionary thinkers **Charles Darwin** and **Herbet Spencer** propagated the theory of "survival of the fittest" through the struggle for existence as the main cause of conflict.

2.2.2.3 Innate Instinct :

Psychologist **Freud** has emphasised that the innate instinct for aggression in man is the main cause of conflicts.

2.2.2.4 Creative Quality of Violence :

Sorel and **Nietzsche** have stressed upon the creative quality of violence and war as the main cause of conflicts.

2.2.2.5 Economic Exploitation :

Karl Marx stressed upon the exploitation of worker by capitalists as the sole factor responsible for conflict.

2.2.2.6 Individual Differences :

Generally among all human being we find differences in their nature, attitudes, ideals and interests. These differences may lead to conflict among them when they fail to accommodate each other.

2.2.2.7 Cultural Differences :

All groups have their own way of life, known as culture. The cultural differences among the groups may cause tension and lead to conflict if the groups do not accommodate each other. Communal violence in various parts of the world is the result of cultural and religious differences.

2.2.2.8 Differences in Self-interests :

Sometimes the self-interests of different groups or persons clash with each other. This clash of interests leads to conflicts. Most of the conflicts are the result of clash of interests.

2.2.2.9 Social Change :

Social change may also cause a conflict in society if a part of the society does not change along with other parts of that society which undergo changes. It is

generally known as cultural lag.

Critics feel that the scarcity of goods does not necessarily cause conflict, but may be, and often is, an incentive to cooperation in order to reduce the scarcity.

MacIver declares that society is 'cooperation crossed by conflict' especially if we have in mind the historical records of strife and violence. Those who take similarities between the strife in animal kingdoms and human being forget the fact that man is intelligent and moral animal capable of self-control and self denial in the service of his fellowmen. They also ignore the cases of solidarity and cooperation, sometimes very remarkable, even among animals.

2.2.3 TYPES OF CONFLICT

2.2.3.1 War :

According to **Simmel**, war is one of the four types of conflicts. Before the establishment of a world order in the 20th century, war was the only means of contact between alien groups. According to Simmel, man has a strong impulse of antagonism and war is the result of this impulse. Man's desire to gain material wealth activate this impulse to loot the wealth of others.

2.2.3.2 Feud :

Simmel has pointed that feud is another form of conflict. It is an intra-group form of conflict which may arise because of injustice alleged to have done by one group to the other.

2.2.3.3 Litigation :

Simmel has pointed out that litigation is also a form of conflict. It is a conflict which assumes judicial form. It is a legal struggle fought by an individual or group to protect his certain rights on the basis of some objective evidences. In legal struggle subjective factors are not given any importance, one has to produce objective facts in his favour.

2.2.3.4 Impersonal Ideals :

According to **Simmel** finally there is conflict of impersonal ideals. Conflict of impersonal ideals is a struggle differentiated from the persons fighting it. It is not carried by the individuals for themselves, but for their ideals. It often assumes an extremely fierce and merciless character. In this struggle individual and personalities are not given any importance and every means to attain the ends is justified.

2.2.3.5 Rivalry :

It is the form of conflict in which antagonists are aware of and seek to defeat each other. In rivalry both the scarce community and the competitor are important.

2.2.3.6 Coercion :

In this type of conflict an individual or group imposes its will on another individual or group, often, but not always through the threat of force. In fact, coercion can take the form of the deliberate avoidance of force. Gandhiji effectively used this method of coercion.

2.2.3.7 Direct Conflict :

If the action of opposing party is directly and immediately against the efforts of the others to debar them from attaining their ends then the conflict is direct.

2.2.3.8 Indirect Conflict :

On the other hand, if instead of acting directly the opposing parties try to accomplish certain objectives by preventing others from attaining them, then the conflict is indirect.

2.2.3.9 Latent and Overt Conflict :

Generally before conflicts erupts open, it exists in latent form as a social tension and dissatisfaction. It becomes overt conflict when hostile action is declared or taken openly.

2.2.3.10 Group and Personal Conflict :

Group conflict occurs among the groups within a society or between two societies, where as personal conflict occurs within a group among its members.

Gillin and **Gillin** have mentioned five types of conflict namely (i) personal conflict, (ii) racial conflict, (iii) class conflict, (iv) political conflict, and (v) international conflict.

2.2.4 ROLE OF CONFLICT

As mentioned earlier conflict is not entirely destructive and negative, instead it also plays constructive and positive role in society. It is a fundamental human and societal trait and is regarded as a dynamic force of societal evolution and progress. History of evolution and progress of human society is the history of struggle and conflicts. Conflicts and struggles resulted in revolutions. Greek philosopher **Empedocles** believed that love and hatred, repulsion and attraction were the basic elements of everything in the universe, including society.

H.T. Mazumdar has mentioned following positives functions of the conflict:

- (i) It tends to strengthen the morale and promote solidarity in a group.
- (ii) It may lead to enlargement of victorious group numerically.
- (iii) It may redefine value system.
- (iv) It may find out non-violent techniques of struggle.
- (v) It may change the relative status of the conflicting parties.
- (vi) It may lead to new consensus.

George Simmel gave a positive connotation to the term conflict. He maintain that conflict is, "a way of achieving some kind of unity, even if it to be through the annihilation of one of the conflicting parties." Further he maintains that, "social phenomena appears in a new light when seen from the angle of this sociologically positive character of conflict."

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Define conflict.

- (ii) Briefly point out major causes of conflicts.

- (iii) Point out the main types of conflict.

- (iv) What is the importance of conflict?

2.3 COMPETITION

Competition is the most elementary type of the four major forms of interaction described by **Park** and **Burgess**. It is universal phenomena not only in human societies but also in plants and animal worlds. It is result of universal struggle for existence among all living things, but there are wide differences in the struggles of animals, plants and human being.

2.3.1 MEANING OF COMPETITION

The human society is based on competition and it is based on the fact that individuals are capable to work and think independently, have capacity for and the opportunity of gaining an individual experience as a result of independent action. On the other the human society is organised through rules and norms of behaviour. It gives an individual freedom to work independently on the basis of these rules. Competition determines who is to perform what function and how to perform it.

Competition is a struggle among individuals that is impersonal, universal, continuous and devoid of actual violence. Here the antagonist focus on the reward rather than on each other. They have nothing against each other personally, both simply want the same scarce object or intangible value. Competition takes place on an unconscious level. **Park** and **Burgess** has termed competition as "interaction without contact."

2.3.2 DEFINITIONS OF COMPETITION

According to **Sutherland**, **Woodward** and **Maxwell**, "Competition is an impersonal, unconscious, continuous struggle between individuals or groups for satisfaction which, because of their limited supply, all may not have."

According to **Biesanz**, "Competition is the striving of two or more persons for the same goal which is limited so that all cannot share it."

Bogardus has defined it as, "a contest to obtain something which does not exist in a quantity sufficient to meet the demand."

Majumdar has defined it as, "impersonalized struggle among resembling creatures for goods and service which are scarce or limited in quantity."

According to **Anderson** and **Parker**, "Competition is that form of social action in which we strive against each other for the possession of or use of so limited material or

non-material good.

It is an effort to defeat the competitor in achieving some mutually desired goal. Its aim is not to annihilate or destroy the opponent. It is not coercion. The competitors observe rules of competition which eliminate force and fraud. When these rules are broken, it becomes conflict. Competition is never entirely unrestricted.

2.3.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPETITION

Following are the characteristics of competition :

2.3.3.1 Impersonal Struggle :

As pointed earlier **Park** and **Burgess** have termed competition as "interaction without social contact." In other words it is a struggle between individuals which is not personal. The competitors focus on rewards rather than on each other. They have nothing against each other personally. Generally competitors are not in direct contact and do not know each other. Thus competition is impersonal.

2.3.3.2 Unconscious Activity :

Competition takes place on the unconscious level. Individuals compete to achieve their objectives, but they are not conscious about the competitive character of their activities. Nor they are aware about their competitors.

2.3.3.3 Universal Phenomenon :

Competition is found not only in all human societies, but also in the plant and animal worlds. It is found in all ages, at all places and in all groups. It is the natural result of universal struggle for existence.

2.3.4 FORMS OF COMPETITIONS

The following are the main forms of competition :

2.3.4.1 Economic Competition :

The most conspicuous form of competition is economic one. Economists study intensively the process of competition for goods and services. Whenever and wherever commodities which people want are available in a limited supply, there starts competition for that commodity. In modern times the struggle is usually one for a standard of living rather than for the bare means of existence. Economic competition has many varieties as the economic system is very complex. It may be between economic groups such as commercial and industrial establishments. It may be for jobs, customers, clients, wages, positions etc.

2.3.4.2 Personal and Impersonal Competition :

Competition is said to be unconscious and impersonal, but according to **Gillin** and **Gillin** all competition is not unconscious. According to him, individuals compete with each other for work, job, social prestige, leadership, or business their competition is personal. On the other hand, when they compete with another group their competition is impersonal.

2.3.4.3 Cultural Competition :

Cultural competition occurs when people or group with different cultures

interact with each other. This type of competition is found between Catholics and Protestants.

2.3.4.4 Competition for Status and Role :

High level occupational and prestigious roles may be limited. Thus individual compete for good jobs, and high positions with higher income and status. Every individual and group wants recognition and self-esteem. This quest for recognition and self-esteem gives rise to competition. It is found in all spheres of life, like economic achievement, academic achievement, professional achievements, political achievements, etc.

2.3.4.5 Racial Competition :

When racial groups compete with each other for supremacy in economic sphere or for control over a territory it is called racial competition.

2.3.5 IMPORTANCE OF COMPETITION

Competition, like cooperation, is indispensable in social life. Some sociologists are of the view that it is even more basic process than cooperation. Competition performs many useful functions in the society. It is a dynamic process. We can summarise its functions as below:

2.3.5.1 Determination of Status :

Competition determines the status of individuals in the social system. Each individual in the society is ascribed a status and is expected to perform his role according to his status. Competition determines the status and role of individuals. Those who perform better in the competition are ascribed a higher status and role, while those who perform poorly are ascribed a lower status and role. In the words of **E.A. Ross**, "competition performs the broad function of assigning to each individual his place in this social world."

2.3.5.2 Source of Motivation :

Competition is the source of motivation in the desire to excel. As rewards are attached with the role performance in competition, individuals who work hard in companies and achieve their targets are given these rewards which motivates them to excel in competition.

In the words of **Eldredge**, "Competition between individuals and groups is largely towards the objective of preserving or improving their respective statuses rather than survival."

2.3.5.3 Conducive to Progress :

Competition accelerates the economic activity and helps in economic as well as social progress, and even to individual welfare. Many thinkers regard it as the essential feature of civilisation.

Ogburn and **Nimkoff** observe that competition provides the individuals better opportunities to satisfy their desires for new experiences and recognition. It is the opposite of ascribed status. It believes in achieved status.

However, it should not be presumed that competition is a pre-requisite to

social progress. Instead it also performs many negative functions. **Mazumdar** has mentioned its three negative functions. Firstly it may lead to frustration; secondly it may lead to monopoly, and third it may lead to conflicts.

Competition should always be healthy and fair. Everyone involved must work out and agree upon some rules. Only then it can be advantageous for the individual progress and welfare of the group. If it is uncontrolled and unregulated it becomes a conflict.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Define competition.

- (ii) Point out briefly forms of competition.

- (iii) Briefly point out the importance of competition.

2.4 SUMMARY

In this lesson we discussed two main disintegrative social processes i.e. conflict and competition. In conflict we explained the meaning of the conflict as defined by many sociologists. Thus we defined it as a process by which two or more persons or groups try to prevent or thwart the attainment of certain objectives by others even to the extent of injuring them.

Then we discussed various causes of conflict. We briefly discussed economic, psychological, sociological, physiological, cultural and natural causes of conflicts. Then we discussed various forms of conflicts.

In competition first we defined the concept as a struggle among individuals that is impersonal, universal, continuous and devoid of actual violence. Then we discussed its characteristics, various forms and importance.

2.5 KEY CONCEPTS

Competition : A struggle among individuals that is impersonal, universal, continuous and devoid of actual violence.

Conflict: Two or more persons or groups try to prevent the attainment of certain objectives by others even to the extent of injuring them.

Cultural Competition : When people or group with different cultures compete with each other.

Direct Conflict : When the action of opposing party is directly and immediately against the efforts of the others.

Disintegrative Process : Which divide the society into various social segments and groups.

Economic Competition : Competition for goods, services, jobs, customers, clients, wages, positions etc.

Group Conflict : Which occurs among the groups within a society or between two societies.

Indirect Conflict : If opposing parties try to accomplish certain objectives by preventing others from attaining them.

Integrative Process : Which strengthen unity in society.

Latent Conflict : When the conflict is temporarily not active and visible.

Overt Conflict: When conflict is declared publically.

2.6 EXERCISE QUESTIONS

Long Questions

- (1) Discuss the process of competition. What is its importance for the society?
- (2) How do you define the concept of conflict? What are its main types?
- (3) Discuss various factors which give birth to the conflicts in the society. What role it plays in the society?

Short Questions

Define

- (1) Conflict
- (2) War
- (3) Feud
- (4) Direct Conflict
- (5) Indirect Conflict
- (6) Latent and Overt Conflict
- (7) Group and Personal Conflict
- (8) Litigation
- (9) Rivalry
- (10) Competition
- (11) Economic Competition
- (12) Cultural Competition
- (13) Personal and Impersonal Competition
- (14) Racial Competition

2.7 FURTHER READINGS

Koeing, Samuel : (1957) *Sociology : An Introduction to the Science of Society*, Barnes & Noble, Inc. New York (Chapter 17)

Sutherland, Woodward and Maxwell, *Introductory Sociology*, Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Bombay, 1979. (Chapter 8 and 9)

SOCIAL GROUP

STRUCTURE :

- 3.0 Objectives
- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Meaning of Social Group
- 3.3 Definitions of Social Group
- 3.4 Characteristics of Social Groups
 - 3.4.1 Social Relations
 - 3.4.2 Consistency in Relationships
 - 3.4.3 Consciousness of Membership
 - 3.4.4 Unity Feeling
 - 3.4.5 Common Interest
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- 3.5 Classification of Social Groups
 - 3.5.1 Sumner's Classification
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 - 3.5.3 Sanderson's Classification
 - 3.5.4 Cooley's Classification
 - 3.5.5 Tonnies Classification
 - 3.5.6 C.A. Elwood's Classification
 - 3.5.7 Goerge Hasen's Classification
- 3.6 Summary
- 3.7 Key Words
- 3.8 Exercise Questions
- 3.9 Further Readings

3.0 OBJECTIVES

A study of this lesson would enable you to :

- * define the term social groups
- * explain the meaning of social groups
- * discuss the characteristics of social groups.
- * distinguish and classify the social groups.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The concept of social groups is one of the most important topics of sociology. Harry. M. Johnson has defined sociology as the study of groups. It is a term which

we use in everyday life in various forms, but in sociology it has a technical or special meaning. In this lesson we shall introduce and explain you this concept.

The human being is a product of a group called family. From his birth till death he interacts with numerous groups and his behaviour is influenced by these groups. After conception he forms a strong physical association with the mother as he totally depends upon her body at that time. After birth he depends upon his family. He starts playing with his peers, joins a school and later on joins some work organisation and thus becomes a member of various groups like friendship club, student organisation, school, cultural club, tutorial groups etc.

Through constant and regular relationship with these groups he learns many characteristics and traits of a social being. All social characteristics are learned through participation in some kind of group activities. He not only joins the existing groups but he also create new groups through marriage, family and association with fellows.

Throughout his life, he maintains his relationship with some temporary and permanent groups for the fulfilment of his various needs and achievement of goal. His personality mainly depends upon the groups to which he belongs and on the quality of his relationship with them.

3.2 MEANING OF SOCIAL GROUPS

Let us first discuss the meaning of a groups and then define the term social groups. In common sense the word group denotes a collection of a number of units of anything in close proximity to one another at one place at a time. But in sociology we give a special or technical meaning to the term group.

In sociology we differentiate a social group from an *aggregate*. If some passengers are waiting for a bus at a bus stand without knowing each other and without having any interaction, we do not call them a social group. We call them an aggregate. But if they start interaction with each other and know that they all are daily passengers on the same route, at the same time and they form a daily Passengers Association and develop some sort of social relationship we shall start calling them a social group.

We also differentiate a social groups from a *category*. Many people share many characteristics without even knowing each other, we do not call them a social group. Many people in your city may be fat, their eating habits may be similar, all of them may be patients of hypertension and diabetes, we can't call them a social group, instead we shall call them a category. If they form an association to share their problem and knowledge to improve their health conditions, then we shall call them a social group.

In brief, we may say that any aggregate of human beings who are into some sort of relationship and have some common goal is called a social group.

3.3 DEFINITIONS OF SOCIAL GROUP

Sociologists are not unanimous regarding the definition of a social group. Some of them have defined it in very vague terms while some others have given elaborative definitions of the term. Some of the important definitions of the concept are given below :

MacIver and **Page** have given a very simple definition of the concept as "By a group we mean any collection of social beings who enter into distinctive social relationships with one another. A group, then as we understand it, involves reciprocity between its members."

Anthony Giddens has emphasised the element of regularity into social relationship and defines a social group as "simply a number of people who interact with each other on a regular basis. Such regularity of interaction tends to weld participants together as a distinct unit with an overall social identity." Further he states that "Members of a group expect certain forms of behaviour from one another that is not demanded of non-members."

Horton and **Hunt** have emphasised the element of consciousness in their definition. They define a group as "aggregates or categories of people who have a consciousness of membership and interaction."

Similarly according to **Ogburn** and **Nimkoff**, "Whenever two or more individuals come together and influence one another, they may be said to constitute a social group."

Eldredge and **Merril** have emphasised on time period and common functions. They define a social group as "two or more persons who are in communication over an appreciable period of time and who act in accordance with a common function or purpose."

Similarly **Green** and **Arnold** also emphasised time period and common activity aspect of relationships. According to them, "A social group is an aggregate of individuals which persists in time, which has one or more interests and activities in common and which is organised."

Some other sociologists have given more comprehensive definitions of the term social groups as follows:

Bogardus has defined a social group as "a number" of persons, two or more, who have some common objects of attention, who are stimulating each other, who have common loyalty and participate in similar activities."

Sheriff and **Sheriff** has defined it as, "a social unit which consists of a number of individuals who stand in (more or less) definite status' and role relationship to one another and which possesses a set of values or norms of its own regulating the behaviour of individual members at least in matters of consequences to the group."

According to **Gillin** and **Gillin**, "A social group grows out of and requires a situation which permits meaningful inter-stimulation and meaningful response between the individuals involved, common focusing of attention, common stimuli and, or interests and development of certain common derives, motivations or emotions."

Thus we may conclude that a social relationship is the core element of a social group. It is not only physical relationship instead symbolic and psychic interaction among the member is more important for the formation of a group. A social group thus may be defined as a collection of individuals, two or more, interacting with each other over a period of time, who have some common goal and who participate in common activities. It may be a couple or an international group consisting of millions of people.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Give a definition of a social group.

- (ii) Differentiate an aggregate from a group.

- (iii) What is the difference between a category and a group?

3.4 CHARACTERISTIC OF SOCIAL GROUPS

On the basis of these definitions we may point out following characteristic of social groups:

3.4.1 Social Relations :

The core element of all social groups is mutual social relationship. Such relationship may be a physical relationship involving close proximity, but a symbolic interaction among its members is more important. A gathering of persons form a social group only when they are inter-related. But such relationship is not necessarily a physical relationship. Members of a group may be spread across the nations, and relationship among them may be through modern means of communication. For sociologists, symbolic interaction is the vital prerequisite for determining whether a collection of people is a group or not. Symbolic interaction may be through speech, gestures, writings or even music. Such symbolic interaction need not involve face-to-face communication. Family members, relatives and friends living in different countries may interact with each other through modern means of communication and can maintain their group identity.

3.4.2 Consistency in Relationships :

Casual or temporary relationship do not form a stable group. Many sociologists have emphasized that only regular relationships developed over a period of time results into the formation of a group. **Park** and **Burgess** remarks that a social group must be "capable of consistent action." A distinction can always be made between members and non-members of a particular group. Members have some rights, obligation or duties which non-members do not have.

3.4.3 Consciousness of Membership :

Members of a group are conscious about their membership. They feel themselves the members of a group and other members of the group also feel them the members of their group. It creates we feeling among the members of the group. They emotionally attach themselves to a particular group and they strive to maintain that group. They help each other and defend their interests collectively. This we feeling is strong in smaller groups than larger groups.

According to **Harry M. Johnson**, "One never can observe a group in a flash of time" he further adds that, "the existence of a group must be inferred from observations made over a span of time."

3.4.4 Unity Feeling :

The members of a group are united to achieve their goal through collective action. This desire to achieve goal creates sense of unity among the members. As **A.W. Small** has remarked that "They must be thought of together."

3.4.5 Common Interest :

Groups are formed to attain some common goals. To attain the common goals members cooperate with each other. Edward Sapir has emphasized this common interest basis of group life and remarked, "Any group is constituted by the fact that there is some interest which holds its members together. The community of interest may range from a passing event which assemble people in a momentary aggregate to a relatively permanent functional interest which creates and maintains a cohesive unit."

3.4.6 Similar Behaviour :

Rights, duties or obligations of the members are essentially rules of behaviour. These rules of behaviour results into similar behaviour by the members for the attainment of common goals of the group. Cooperation among the members of a group is a reflection of such a common behaviour.

3.4.7 Normative Pattern :

Rules of behaviour of a group constitutes a complex normative pattern. Members are oriented toward one another and towards non-members according to these norms. Members follow these norms.

3.5 CLASSIFICATION OF GROUPS

Social groups have been classified in various ways. These classifications are

overlapping and not mutually exclusive. While some thinkers have used simple classification, others have used more elaborative classification. Some of these classifications are given below :

3.5.1 Sumner's Classification : Sumner in, his book "folkways" has classified social groups into "**in-groups**" and "**out-groups**". This classification is made from the point of view of a particular individual. The group to which one belongs as a member is called in-group, whereas the group whose one is not a member is called an out-group.

3.5.2 Sorokin's Classification : Sorokin has divided groups on the basis of their size. He has classified groups into two categories - the **horizontal** and the **vertical**. Horizontal groups are large, all inclusive groups like nations, religious organisations, political parties etc. whereas vertical groups are smaller groups within larger horizontal groups. Miller has also divided groups into these two categories.

3.5.3 Sanderson's Classification: Dwight Sanderson has divided groups into three categories namely **voluntary groups, involuntary groups** and **delegate groups**. A voluntary group is that which one joins voluntarily without any compulsion and he may leave the group if he desires so. Involuntary group is one in which membership is not based on choice, but one becomes its member by birth such as family group, caste group etc. A delegate group is a representative groups. In such groups some members are elected or nominated by other to represent them. **F.H. Giddings** has termed voluntary and involuntary groups as congregate and genetic groups respectively.

3.5.4 Cooley's Classification : Cooley has classified social groups into **primary** and **secondary groups**. In primary groups member have face-to-face, direct, intimate relation such as in a family whereas in secondary groups members have indirect, impersonal and less intimate relations such as in a community.

3.5.5 Tonnies Classification : Ferdinand Tonnies in examining different kinds of societies, arrived at concepts similar to those of primary and secondary groups. He noted that in small, homogeneous societies members interacted with one another on an informal, personal, face-to-face basis and tradition dictated behaviour. Tonnies called this kind of society a **Gemeinschaft**, which is translated more or less as "a communal, or traditional, society."

Relationships are much different in societies that are large and heterogeneous, like modern industrial societies. In these societies, relationships among members are impersonal, formal, functional, and specialized. Furthermore, they are often contractual-dealing are spelled out in legal contracts rather than being governed by tradition. Tonnies called these societies **Gesellschaft**, or "associational societies."

Some other sociologists have given more elaborative and complex divisions of social groups.

3.5.6 Charles A. Elwood has classified groups into (i) **involuntary and voluntary groups** (ii) **institutional and non-institutional groups** and (iii) **temporary and permanent groups**.

3.5.7 George Hasen has classified groups on the basis of one group's relationship to other group as **unsocial groups, pseudo-social groups, antisocial and pro-social group**. An unsocial groups keeps itself isolated from other groups. A pseudo-social group is selfish group which cooperates and interacts with other groups for its own benefits only. An antisocial group is one which acts against the interests of masses in a society. A pro-social group is group which works into the larger interests of a society.

Thus groups can be classified on the basis of their size, nature and types of relationships within a group and with other groups, permanence of a group, and purposes of groups.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) How Sumner has classified Groups?

- (ii) How Tonnies has classified Social Groups?

- (iii) How Sorokin has divided Groups?

3.6 SUMMARY

In this lesson we discussed the meaning, definition and different classifications of groups. Now we can say social group refers to an aggregate of two or more than two people who have more or less enduring mutual social relationship and they participate in similar activities and cooperate with each other to attain some common goal. They are conscious about their membership of a particular group and they differentiate their members from non-members. Over a period of time every group evolves its own norms which determine the behaviour of its members.

3.7 KEY CONCEPTS

Aggregate : A number of people who are in the same place at the same time but lack any organisation or lasting pattern of inter-relationship.

Anti-social Group : A group whose members behaviour reflect the rejection of social norms and values accepted and considered important by the society.

Category: A number of people who have some common characteristics, but who are not in contact with each other.

Delegate Group: A group represented by the members elected or nominated by other members.

Horizontal Group : Very large, all inclusive, groups.

In-Group: A group to which one belongs as a member.

Involuntary Group: A group in which membership is not by choice, but by birth.

Out-Group: A group to which one does not belong as a member.

Primary Group : A small group in which members have face-to-face, direct and intimate relations with each others.

Pro-social Group: A group which works for the welfare of the society.

Pseudo-social Group : A selfish group which prefers its own interests than those of the group.

Secondary Group : A large group in which members have indirect, impersonal and less intimate relations.

Social Group : A social group is an aggregate of people who have an enduring relation for the attainment of common goals.

Symbolic Interaction : Meaningful communication through speech, gestures, writing or even music.

Vertical Group: A small group within a large horizontal group.

Voluntary Group: A group in which membership is by voluntary choice.

Unsocial Group: A group which keeps itself isolated from others.

3.8 EXERCISE QUESTIONS

Long Questions

- (1) What do you mean by a social group? How do you classify social groups?
- (2) Define social groups and discuss their characteristics?

Short Questions

- (1) Definition of Social Group
- (2) Meaning of Social Group
- (3) Sumner's Classification of Groups
- (4) Sorokin's Classification of Groups
- (5) Sanderson's Classification of Social Groups
- (6) Cooley's Classification of Social Groups
- (7) Elwood's Classification of Groups
- (8) Hasen's Classification of Groups
- (9) Define Gemeinschaft Society
- (10) Define Gesellschaft Society.

3.9 FURTHER READINGS

Koeing, Samuel: (1957) *Sociology: An Introduction to the Science of Society*, Barnes & Noble, Inc. New York (Chapter 15)

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TYPES OF GROUPS

STRUCTURE :

- 4.0 Objectives
- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Cooley's Concept of Primary Groups
 - 4.2.1 Characteristics of Primary Groups
 - 4.2.1.1 Intimate Relations
 - 4.2.1.2 Physical Nearness
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- 4.6 Membership Group & Reference Group
 - 4.6.1 Membership Group
 - 4.6.2 Reference Group
 - 4.6.3 Definition of Reference Group
 - 4.6.4 Characteristics of Reference Group

4.6.5 Importance of Reference Groups

4.7 Summary

4.8 Key Words

4.9 Exercise Questions

4.10 Further Readings

4.0 OBJECTIVES

A study of this lesson would enable you to :

- * explain the concept of primary groups and secondary groups,
- * discuss the importance of these groups,
- * distinguish between primary and secondary groups,
- * know the concepts of in-groups and out-groups,
- * define the meaning of membership and reference groups,
- * explain the characteristics and importance of reference groups.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous lesson we have discussed the concept of social groups, their characteristics and classifications and learnt that sociologists have classified social groups in numerous ways on the basis of the nature of their interests, the degree of organisation, the extent of their permanence, the kind of contact among the members, their size, relation with other groups, etc.

In this lesson we shall discuss two most important classifications of the social groups in more details given by **Cooley** and **Sumner**. As discussed in the previous lesson, **Charles H. Cooley** has classified social groups into two categories namely the primary groups and the secondary groups, whereas Sumner has divided social groups into in-groups and out-groups.

4.2 COOLEY'S CONCEPT OF PRIMARY GROUP

The term primary group was coined by **Charles Horton Cooley**, a pioneer American sociologist. The primary group is the nucleus of social structure. It is a small group having only few members who come into direct contact with one another. He used the term primary groups for such groups in which members enter into intimate, face-to-face and direct interaction and among them there is cooperation which influence the development of an individual's personality.

Cooley defined primary groups in following words:

"By primary group I mean those characterised by intimate, face-to-face association and cooperation. They are primary, in several senses, but chiefly in that they are fundamental in framing the social nature and ideals of the individual. "

He has also termed the primary group as "we group". He explained that a primary group "involves the sort of sympathy and mutual identification for which 'we' is the natural expression."

It is the 'we' feeling, the quality of 'sympathy and mutual identification' that distinguishes the primary groups from the secondary groups.

According to him, the most important primary groups are family, the play group of children and the neighbourhood. There are universal groups belonging to all times and stages of development, and are a chief basis of human nature, and ideals. He has termed these groups as "the nursery of human nature".

These groups mould the human personality and are a source of love, freedom, justice etc. It is not only the love, freedom, unity and harmony, but submission to the will of the group and willingness to sacrifice for it are also characteristic of the primary groups and it generates the ideals of democracy and freedom. Modern democracy emerged from the small village community.

4.2.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF A PRIMARY GROUP

On the basis of above discussion we may point out following characteristics of a primary group:

4.2.1.1 Intimate Relations :

Cooley designated those groups as primary groups in which members enter into intimate face-to-face relations and cooperation. He considered these characteristics essential for a primary group.

4.2.1.2 Physical Nearness :

For the development of face-to-face relations it is necessary that members of the group should be physically close. Physical nearness makes the intimate interaction and cooperation easy. For exchange of ideas through gestures it is must.

Even though **Cooley** has given emphasis on this feature of the primary groups his critics disagree with him.

Ellsworth Faris points out that "But do any groups not face-to-face have the properties of a primary group? There is reason to think so. A kinship group widely scattered in space, communicating only by letter, may be characterised by a common feeling of unity, exhibit "a certain fusion of individualities in a common whole", and be accurately classed as a primary group."

Thus we may say that whether or not physical nearness will provide an opportunity for the development of intimate relations depends on the situation as defined in the culture. Due to cultural factors intimacy of relationship may not develop among people living in neighbourhood while it may develop over great distances through modern means of communication.

4.2.1.3 Small Size :

Primary groups are small in size. Intimate and personal relations can develop only in small groups. In smaller groups the members know each other and they develop intimacy more quickly. Members identify themselves with the group and thus develop a group character.

4.2.1.4 Self-Concept :

In primary groups each member's self-concept is tied to the group.

4.2.1.5 Similar Background :

For a cohesive and stable primary group the members should have a similar back ground. They should be equally experienced and intelligent. They should be able to share their experiences and knowledge with each other. Similar background, experiences and knowledge ties them together, whereas differences in background, experiences and knowledge may lead to disintegration of a smaller group. We can give the example of disintegrating joint families in India. With the spread of knowledge and new experiences the new generation develops differences with the old generation over minor issues and that leads to disintegration of joint family.

4.2.1.6 Stability of Group :

Intimate and close relations develop in stable and consistent groups over a period of time. Thus primary groups are considered more stable and consistent.

4.2.1.7 Primary Groups are Universal :

Primary groups like family, play groups of children and the neighbourhood or community group of elders are universally found every where in all the times.

4.2.1.8 Group Interest above the Self-interest :

In primary groups, even though members have their own self-interests, but the group interests are given priority over the self-interest. Members bear the spirit to participate cooperatively to achieve the common goals of the group. Members in the primary group sacrifice their self interests for the sake of common goals.

When members of a primary group start giving preference to their self interests the group disintegrates. We have example of a children's play group. When members of a children's play group grow younger, they start giving preference to their self interest than the common interests of the group. They starts competing with each other and gradually that group disintegrates when members totally give up the common goal.

4.2.1.9 Stronger We-feeling :

Cooley has characterised the primary groups as "we groups". He explained that a primary group involves the sort of sympathy and mutual identification for which "we" is the natural expression. Even though we can find this "we feeling" in larger and secondary groups, this feeling is much stronger in the primary groups than the secondary groups.

4.2.2 IMPORTANCE OF PRIMARY GROUPS

Primary groups are equally important for sociologists as well as psychologists. Primary group is the most effective agency of socializing as well as the nuclear cell of social organisation. Human beings learn culture first of all through the primary groups. These groups create a social order through social control. They play an important role in shaping personalities of individuals. These groups also play an important role for fulfillment of human needs for a spontaneous

life.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Define a primary group.

- (ii) Point out important characteristics of a primary group.

- (iii) What is the importance of primary groups?

4.3 THE SECONDARY GROUPS

On the opposite side of primary group is the concept of secondary group. Secondary groups tend to be large and have special significance in modern industrial societies. In modern industrial societies we find organisations like cities, political parties, multination corporations, trade unions etc. Which are very important for these societies. In these large groups relationships among the members are superficial, formal, utilitarian, specialised and sometimes undefined and temporary. In secondary groups, the members are not interested primarily in one another as persons, but in terms of the roles and functions they perform in the group. In these groups the specialisation of functions and division of work is the rule and the worker can not consider the finished product as the exclusive fruit of his labour. A worker in industrial organisations cooperate with his fellow workers indirectly. He does not know all the member of his group personally. Usually he communicates with other members of the group in a very formal way through indirect means like internal circulars, letters, advertisements through print and electronic media, etc.

4.3.1 DEFINITIONS OF SECONDARY GROUP

Some of the definitions of the secondary groups are as follow :

According to **Ogburn**, "The group which provide experience lacking in intimacy are called secondary groups."

According to **H.T. Mazumdar**, "When face-to-face contacts are not present in the relations of members, we have secondary groups."

Anthony Giddens has defined a secondary group as "a number of people who meet regularly, but whose relationships are mainly impersonal. Individuals in secondary groups do not have intimate ties with each other, and normally come together for specific practical purposes."

4.3.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF SECONDARY GROUPS

On the basis of above discussion we can point out following characteristics

of secondary group :

4.3.2.1 Large in Size :

Secondary groups are very large in size. Some of these groups are spread across the countries, like many multi-nation companies (MNCs) are doing business throughout the world.

4.3.2.2 Type of Relations :

The relations of members in secondary group are of formal, superficial, impersonal, utilitarian, and sometimes undefined and temporary. The members do not have face-to-face relations in such groups. They cooperate with each other indirectly and do not know all the members of the group personally. The members communicate with the other members of the group in a very formal way through indirect means like internal circulars, letters, notifications, advertisements etc.

4.3.2.3 Membership :

Generally the membership of the secondary group is not compulsory. The membership is voluntary and one can join or leave a group when he desire so. One can become a share holder of a big MNC by purchasing its shares and he can also sell his shares when he desires so. A person may become a member of more than one organisations simultaneously if their objectives are not contradictory and their rules permit so.

In secondary group generally there are two types of members. Some members play active role in the organisations, while others remain inactive; A large number of members of a political party or a trade union do not play any active role in the organisations, only a few leaders play active role.

4.3.2.4 Goal Oriental Group :

Secondary groups have specific goals and the members of the group work to achieve those specific goals. These goals may be of a long term or short term nature. When a specific goal is achieved the members generally quit the group.

4.3.2.5 Formal Rules :

Secondary groups are regulated by formal, generally written, rules. There is a formal authority which controls the members according to the prescribed rules and regulations. In big organizations the specialisation of functions and division of labour is the rule. A secondary group is systematically organised. The stability of a secondary group depends upon the way it is organised than upon uncertain sentimental attachments. In a systematically organised secondary group rules are well defined.

4.3.2.6 Status and Role of Members :

In a secondary group and role of every member is well defined. The status of a member depends upon the role he performs in the organisations. Hierarchy in the secondary group is well defined and every body is expected to perform his role according to that hierarchical status.

4.3.3 IMPORTANCE OF SECONDARY GROUP

The primary groups were important in simple, small and primitive societies. Now those smaller and primitive societies are vanishing and a global society is emerging. Industrialisation, urbanisation and migration of people from one place to another place have diminished the role of primary groups in the life of their members, and secondary groups have taken importance in the modern age. Man now depends for his needs more on secondary groups than primary groups. The role which primary group was playing earlier is increasingly being played by the formal and specialised agencies in an organised way. New organisations like hospitals, old age homes, creches, school, training centres etc. are gaining more importance than the traditional primary organisations performing these services.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Give a definition of secondary groups.

- (ii) Point out major features of a secondary groups.

4.4 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRIMARY & SECONDARY GROUPS

As pointed earlier the secondary groups are on the opposite side of the primary groups. We may point out following major differences between the primary groups and secondary groups :

4.4.1 Physical Conditions :

The primary and the secondary groups have opposite physical conditions. Firstly, primary group is smaller in size, whereas secondary group is very large. Secondly, primary group has long duration and it continues from generation to generation, whereas a secondary group may be of a short duration for the achievement of a temporary and specific goal. Thirdly primary groups have physical proximity whereas a secondary group may be spread over the whole world.

4.4.2 Social Characteristics :

In primary groups, relations among the members are informal, direct, intimate and personal, whereas relations among the members of a secondary group are formal, indirect and impersonal. In primary groups members have inclusive knowledge of other members, whereas in secondary groups the members have specialised and limited knowledge about other members. Goals of primary groups are universal and identical, whereas two similar secondary groups may have different goals.

4.4.3 Types of Structure :

Primary groups are informal groups. There is spontaneous adjustment in

the working of the group. No formal rules are adopted. The structure is simple. Whereas secondary groups are regulated by formal and prescribed rules. A formal authority controls the working of the group according to these rules. Various functions are performed by the members according to a division of labour. The whole system of a secondary group works systematically.

Though in modern society, the secondary groups have gained more importance, yet the importance of primary groups can not be ignored. Primary groups meet many basic needs of human beings like love, sympathy, and intimacy. Man can not live without love and sympathy. Some sociologists are of the view that classification of groups into primary and secondary categories is not very satisfactory. No group can be termed purely primary or secondary. A secondary group also needs primary groups for its existence. Primary groups within a secondary group provide intimacy and personal response in an impersonal situation. They help to articulate and integrate the different parts of a secondary group.

4.5 SUMNER'S CONCEPT OF IN-GROUPS AND OUT-GROUP

In his famous book "folkways" **Sumner** has made a classification of groups on the basis of one's relation to the group. The groups to which one belongs as a member are called his in-groups. Thus a family, tribe, race or a college of which one is member are called his in-groups. The members of an in-group identify themselves with one another and the group as a whole. The members of an in-group display similar qualities, attitudes and reactions. In-group creates a sense of belonging together among its members, which is the core elements of group life. Their relationships are characterised by peace and order. The members of an in-group display cooperation, goodwill, mutual help and respect for one another's rights. They possess a sense of solidarity, a feeling of brotherhood, loyalty to the group and readiness to sacrifice for it. They feel that their personal welfare is in some way tied up with that of the whole group. Thus they help each other and exhibit sympathy towards each other. The pleasure of any member of an in-group also gives some pleasure to other members of the group. Thus an in-group is any association, either primary or secondary, to which we belong and have a sense of solidarity, loyalty, friendliness and cooperation. The members of an in-group express their unity by the word "we" and they refer non-members as "they". "We feeling" keeps the members of an in-group apart from other people. Sumner explained that an in-group needs internal peace, accord, and cohesion without which it could hardly exist or face the ever present danger of attack by outsiders.

An out-group can be defined in relation to the in-group. The group to which one does not belong as a member is his out-group. These are the groups to which one refers as "they". These are the groups towards which we generally do not have a sense of solidarity, loyalty, friendliness and cooperation. Since the members of an in-group are sympathetic towards each other, their treatment

towards out-group totally differs. Thus an out-group consists of those persons, whether formally organised or not, towards whom one feels a sense of indifference, avoidance, disgust, competition, or outright conflict. The distinction between the in-group and out-group is a matter of situational definition. The individual belongs to many groups simultaneously. Thus the membership of various groups overlap. Family is an in-group for a husband and wife as members of the family, but they work in different groups. Thus wife's work group becomes an out-group for the husband and his work group becomes an out-group for her. Thus the distinction between in-group and out-group is overlapping and often confusing and contradictory. An individual belongs to many groups simultaneously to fulfill his various needs, but these groups are not necessarily complementary groups, indeed they are often conflicting. Sometimes his activities in a group may be in violation of another group to which he belongs. In such cases his in-group and out-group would depend upon the circumstances of the movement.

Check Your Knowledge

- (i) Define in-groups.

- (ii) Define out-groups.

4.6 MEMBERSHIP GROUP & REFERENCE GROUP

Beside the above discussed types of groups these groups can also be classified into reference groups and membership groups.

4.6.1 MEMBERSHIP GROUP

Membership groups are the formal or informal organizations to which an individual belongs. It is a group in which an individual is a member. The term is synonymous to the term social group, but it is used strictly in contrast to Reference Group. Individual behaviour can rarely be understood merely in terms of any one of an individual's many group memberships.

4.6.2 REFERENCE GROUP

Sociologists have long ago recognised that attitudes, self-evaluations, and behaviours are shaped by the group to which an individual belongs. Man has an instinctive desire to imitate other individuals and groups. He imitates those role models whom he likes. He wants to be like them. He compares himself with them and tries to behave like them in order to be like them and achieve their status and position. Such behaviour is called 'Reference Behaviour' and such group, with whom he imitates and compares himself, are called 'Reference Groups'.

Thus the concept 'Reference Group' refers to the group to which an individual orients himself, regardless of actual membership, calls attention to the fact that

evaluations, attitudes and behaviour may also be shaped by the groupings other than the person's own. When a child plays the role of a teacher with his peers, then teacher becomes his reference group.

The term 'Reference Group' was first used by social psychologist **H.H. Hyman** in 1942. Later on **Turner, Singer, Stouffer, Murton, Newcomb, Rossi** and **Sheriff** further contributed to the concept.

Hyman hypothesizes that the way individuals evaluate their social status is based on their choices of a social framework for comparison. Reference function may be served by individuals and by status categories as well as social groups, and that individual may orient himself to groups or categories to which he does or does not belong. The people almost always have multiple reference groups and these may conflict with one another. Reference group may serve negative as well as positive functions, for example may teach what behaviour is to be avoided or emulated.

According to **Kelley** the reference groups serves the *comparative* and the *normative* functions. When a referent serves as standard of comparison for an evaluation of some sort it performs comparative function and when the referent serves as source of individual's norms, attitude, or values it performs the normative function. However, sometimes the same referent may serve both normative and comparative functions, but both functions enter into the process of self or social evaluation.

Self- and social appraisal may be done in two ways. In the first, the individual accepts the evaluations done by others and applies them to himself and he accepts these others as normative referents. He also accepts their evaluative judgements. In the second way, self- or social evaluations are made through a process of comparison with others. An individual's judgement of how well he is performing is made by not only on the basis of evaluations made by others, but also by comparing his situation with that of others.

4.6.3 DEFINITIONS OF REFERENCE GROUP

Sheriff has defined Reference Groups as, "those groups to which an individual relates himself as a part or to which he relates himself psychologically".

According to **Merton**, "Reference Group behaviour theory aims to systematise the determinants and consequences of those processes of evaluation and sub-appraisal in which the individual takes the values or standards of other individuals and groups, as a comparative frame of reference."

Thus, we can define a reference group as that group whose norms and values become the ideal standard for an individual and he imitates them. He aspires to belong to such groups and he patterns his behaviour according to them. In the context of reference group behaviour there are three kinds of members : Aspiring Members, Potential Members and Actual Members.

4.6.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF REFERENCE GROUP

The following characteristics of reference group behaviour may be pointed out :

(i) **Others as Ideals** : The individual or group considers the behaviour of other groups or individuals as role model ideal behaviour and tries to imitate

it.

(ii) **Comparison with Others :** Individual or group compares himself of itself with the others, whom he considers role model.

(iii) **High Desires :** The individual or group desires to rise higher in social hierarchy and as such the group or individual feels his relative defects or weaknesses.

(iv) **Feeling of Relative Deprivation :** The feeling of relative weaknesses or defects leads to the feeling of relative deprivation in individual or group.

4.6.5 IMPORTANCE OF REFERENCE GROUP

The importance of this theory lies in the fact that it tells us about group behaviour of society and informs us of the direction an individuals behaviour may take in a particular social environment. It can also help to explain the psychological strains and stresses in the modern industrialized and complex society.

Check Your Knowledge

(i) Define reference group.

(ii) Define membership group.

(iii) Point out characteristics of reference group.

(iv) What is importance of reference group?

4.7 SUMMARY

In this lesson we have discussed two major classification of social groups given by Charles H. Cooley and Sumner. We started with Cooley's concept of primary groups. We defined primary groups as face-to-face, intimate and small groups and then we explained its various characteristics. Then we discussed the concept of secondary group and defined it as a large group in which members have indirect, impersonal and less intimate relations. We also discussed its characteristics and its differences from the primary group. We, then, discussed Sumner's concept of in-groups and out-groups and also discussed relationship between these two categories of groups. In the last we discussed the meaning of membership group and reference group. We also discussed characteristics and importance of reference group.

4.8 KEY CONCEPTS

In-groups : One's own group to which one belongs as a member.

Goal Oriented Group : A secondary group formed specially for the attainment of some specific goals.

Out-group : All persons who are considered as being excluded from' or outside of an in-group i.e. non-members of an in-group.

Other Group : A group of other people's to which one doesn't belong as a member. It is also called out group.

Our Group : same as in-group.

Primary Group : A small group in which members have face-to-face, intimate, direct and personal relations with each other, alongwith strong we feeling among them.

Formal Rule : Rules specifically prescribed in written or oral form.

Secondary Group: A large group in which members have indirect, impersonal, and less intimate relations. "We feeling" among the members of such a group is weak.

They-feeling : A feeling about someone that he is not of his group and belongs to others.

They Group : Same as out group.

We-feeling : A feeling of identification with a group.

We Group : same as in-group.

4.9 EXERCISE QUESTIONS

Long Questions

- (1) Define Cooley's concept of a Primary Group? Explain its Characteristics and Importance.
- (2) Define the Secondary Groups? Discuss their Characteristics and Importance.
- (3) Discuss Sumner's Classification of Groups.
- (4) What do you mean by Reference Group? Discuss its Characteristics and Importance.

Short Questions

Define

- (1) Primary Group
- (2) Face-to face relations
- (3) We-feeling
- (4) Secondary Group
- (5) Goal Oriented Group
- (6) Formal Group
- (7) In-group

- (8) Out-group
- (9) Reference Group
- (10) Membership Group

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