**CHAPTER-6 SOCIAL GROUPS**

**Introduction**

Man is a social animal, so no man can live in isolation. That’s why all human life is group life. That is mainly for food, shelter and protection. These dependence proves the necessity of group life.

**Social Group**

**Definition**

Two or more number of people who have a common identity, some feeling of unity, and certain common goals and have expectations about each other’s behavior is called Social Group.

**Why do we join a group**

* because no man can live alone
* to fulfill the need for friendship and a sense of belongingness
* To accomplish much desired goals
* To perform acquired social roles and assumed status
* Identity and security

**Characteristics**

* Regular interactions through direct/indirect communications
* Reciprocal relationships
* We- feeling: Members defend their interests collectively
* A feeling of unity (similar norms, values and expectations)
* Some measure of mutual awareness.
* Common understanding.
* Collective behavior

**Functions**

**Defining boundaries**

To identify who are members of a group, some sort of measures must be used to mark the boundaries.

**Choosing Leaders**

Groups by nature must resolve the issue of leadership. A leader is someone who occupies central role or position of dominance and influence in a group.

**Making Decision**

Among foraging societies, making decisions are made by involving everyone else in the community. Among modern societies, groups use voting system to determine the decision of the group to save time and energy.

**Setting Goals**

All groups must have a goals. A goal maybe too general, such as protecting the

Environment or too narrow like focus any specific issue regarding that. Goals change overtime depending on the challenges faced by the group.

**Assigning task**

Goals, decision making, leadership are all important functions of groups. Significant only when tasks are assigned to each member to perform.

**Controlling member’s behavior**

Group member’s behavior must be controlled for the group to continuously. This is the reason why deviant behaviors of members of the group are considered dangerous and threatening.

**Types**

* According to the nature of social ties
* According to social identification
* According to Size
* According to Organization
* Pressure Group

**According to the nature of social ties**

It has two types

* Primary
* Secondary

**Primary**

**Definition:** characterized by personal, intimate and non-specialized relationship between their members.

**Exp:** Family, Couple, etc

**Elements/Features:** small in Size, frequent interactions, face to face communications, general goals, expressive ties, strong cohesion, permanent duration, irreplaceable membership, informal social structure.

**Secondary**

**Definition:** it’s a formal, impersonal group which has little intimacy.

**Exp:** School, Churches, Labour Unions, Business organizations.

**Elements:** large in size, occupational interactions, limited relationship, indirect communication, specific goals, instrumental ties, weak cohesions, temporary durations, replaceable membership, formal social structure.

**According to Social Identification**

* + In-Group
  + Out-Group
  + Reference Group

**In-Group**

**Definition:** Group to which a person belongs and feels a sense of identity.

**Exp:** My Family, My Nation, My Caste, My occupational group.

**Elements:** Mutual Sympathy, Mutual Cooperation, respect for mutual benefits, solidarity & we-feeling, tolerance & generosity, preferable behavior with members.

**Out-Group**

**Definition:** Group to which a person doesn’t belong and feels a sense of hostility towards.

**Exp:** Racist, Rich & Greedy, Barbaric Culture , Religious Extremist

**Elements:** Feeling of indifference, avoidance, competition , use OTHERS term for non-members, stereotyping, labeling .

**Reference Group**

**Definition:**  groups that individuals use as a standard for evaluating themselves.

**Exp:** Teachers in a school, community leaders etc.

**Elements:** It may or may not be a membership goup, its used for a basis of comparison & evaluations.

**Types**

Reference group has two types

* Positive Reference Group
* Negative Reference Group

**Positive Reference Group**

These are the ones we want to be accepted by.

**Negative Reference Group**

These groups we do not be identified with. We try to avoid resembling members of a particular group.

Exp: Street Gangster, Terrorists, etc

**According to Size**

It has two types

* Dyad
* Triad

**Dyad- group**

**Definition:** which is composed of two people. It has one relationship.

**Triad- groups**

**Definition:** which is composed of three people.it has three relationships.

**According to Organization**

It has two types

* Formal
* Informal

**Formal Group**

**Definition:** Which is formed for achievement of specific goals.

**Exp:** School, Workplaces, business Organizations, Govt. Infrastructure in towns & cities**,**

**Biggest Example:** Bureaucracy (Definition & Characteristics)

**Elements:** Groups have constitution or written rules and regulations, procedures for becoming members, clear line of authority with appointed or elected leaders, members are expected to behave a certain way, sanctions for violating rules.

**Types**

Formal group has three types

* + Voluntary Group
  + Involuntary/Coercive Group
  + Utilitarian Group

**Voluntary Group**

**Definition:** collection of individuals who work together to undertake certain activities for the benefit of community.

**Exp:** Edhi campaign, Sar-e-Aam Team

**Involuntary Group**

**Definition:** collection of individuals who work together because they have no choice. They may be forced or threatened with penalty if they refuse to become a part of this group.

**Exp:** enlistment of all citizens in the army, upon reaching a certain age in any country.

**Utilitarian Group**

**Definition:** people form this group to accomplish everyday tasks.

**Exp:** Universities, Farms, Govt. agencies

**In-Formal Group**

**Definition:** Group in whichno written rules for controlling behaviour of members.

**Exp:** neighborhoods, friendships, hobby groups,

**Elements:** Roles and goals arise spontaneously with the changing activities of the group .

**Pressure Group**

**Definition:** organisations that want to influence the Government to act in a certain way.

**Rights:**

* They can criticize the Govt. or other organizations
* They can protest and demonstrate to get issues heard
* They can use the media to publicize their cause

**Responsibilities**

* They must not to tell lies
* They must obey the law and protest peacefully
* They must give accurate Information.

**Methods to work**

* Contact parliamentarians and get them to take action in Parliament
* Make a petition and get many signatures to show support
* Involve the Media –stage stunts that the media will cover, take part in TV debates, get celebrity support for the cause.
* Organise a protest/ demonstration to show the govt how many people believe in the cause.
* Sometimes they use shock tactics to get their message across.

**Exp:**

* GREENPEACE (which broke into Heathrow Airport to stage a stunt for making Govt attentive for climate emergency)
* SUPER DADS (Fathers for Justice campaign has used stunts to fight for rights to see their kids)
* MAKE POVERTY HISTORY Campaign was one of the biggest in recent years (They used the media, demonstrations, letter Campaigns to Tony Blair etc).

**Things that effect group’s togetherness**

* Lack of consensus
* Poor leadership
* Competition among members for positions and recognition
* Lack of unity
* Fear
* Selfishness and ignorance
* discrimination
* Lack of financing