

Nature and Classification of Groups

1. NATURE OF GROUPS

A group is a collection of two or more individuals who interact with one another, share common goals, and have a sense of belonging or interdependence.

Key Features of a Group

1. Interaction

Members communicate and influence each other.

2. Shared Goals

The group has a common purpose or task.

3. Interdependence

The success of one member often affects the others.

4. Structure / Norms

Groups develop rules, roles, and status hierarchies.

5. Sense of Belonging

Members feel part of a collective identity.

6. Continuity

Groups usually exist for a period of time (not temporary gatherings).

7. Perception of "We" Feeling

Members identify themselves as part of the group.

2. CLASSIFICATION OF GROUPS

Groups can be classified in several ways:

- * Created intentionally by an organization/institution
- * Have defined roles, rules, or authority
- * Examples: Classroom groups, work teams, committees

2. Informal Groups

- * Formed naturally based on personal relationships
- * No official structure
- * Examples: Friend groups, peer groups

B. Based on Membership

1. Primary Groups

- * Small, intimate, long-term
- * Strong emotional ties
- * Examples: Family, close friends

2. Secondary Groups

- * Large, impersonal, task-oriented
- * Weak emotional attachment
- * Examples: Workplace groups, professional associations

C. Based on Duration

1. Temporary Groups

- * Short-lived
- * Example: Project teams

2. Permanent Groups

- * Long-term or continuing
- * Example: Family, religious groups

D. Based on Structure

1. In-groups

Groups to which an individual feels they belong (“we”)
Sense of loyalty and identity

2. Out-groups

Groups perceived as different or opposite (“they”)

E. Based on Purpose

1. Task Groups

- * Formed to complete a specific task
- * Example: Study groups, project groups

2. Social Groups

- * Formed for emotional support or companionship
- * Example: Clubs, communities

F. Based on Size

1. Small Groups

- * Fewer members, easier interaction
- * Example: Small teams, counseling groups

2. Large Groups

- * Many members, less personal interaction
- * Example: Organizations, crowds