

SHORT QUESTION AND ANSWERS

1. **Define Social Group. What are its characteristics?**

Ans. According to Williams, a social group "is a given aggregate of people playing inter-related roles and recognized by themselves or others as a unit of interaction."

The main characteristics of a social group are :

- (a) Sense of unity
- (b) We feeling
- (c) Reciprocal achievement or relations
- (d) Common interests, and
- (e) Group norms

2. **What do you mean by Primary Group and Secondary Group?**

Ans. A primary group is a small group in which a small number of individuals comes into direct and close contact with one another. In other words, there is face to face contact between them. A primary group is the nucleus of all social organizations.

A secondary group is large in size, and relations of members are limited in scope. The contacts between them are superficial and undefined. The members exert indirect, influences over each other. The behaviour in secondary group is formal and this behaviour is called "Cold behaviour".

3. **What is the importance of Primary Group ?**

Ans. The importance of primary groups in society are :

- (a) It is a medium through which we learn culture, use culture and change culture.
- (b) It provided a stimulus to each of the member in the pursuit of inter-ests.
- (c) It not only affects the quality of our interests by enlarging and enriching them, but also the method of their pursuit.
- (d) It helps in the process of socialization of the individuals.
- (e) It helps the members to work in the society according to their rules.

4. **What are the characteristics of Secondary Groups?**

Ans. The chief characteristics of secondary group are :

1. In secondary group the members maintain formal relations which are not intimate.
2. It is large in size and consists of large number of members.
3. In secondary group, membership is not compulsory, but is optional.
4. It is regularised by formal rules and no one has the right to break them.
5. The status of an individual depends upon his role.
6. Secondary groups are formed with definite purpose.

5. **What are the main characteristics of Reference Group?**

Ans. The main characteristics of reference group are :

- (a) It considers the behaviour of the other individual or groups as ideal behaviour and imitates it.
- (b) It compares itself with other groups.
- (c) It desires to rise higher in the social scale.

6. **Why does the term 'group' lacks precision?**

Ans. Group is one of those terms which in common usage lack exactness. We use the word 'group' to mean such groups as family group, kin group, age group, sex group, occupational group, abstract group etc. Even in Sociology 'the word group is not always consistently used by the sociologists. The word group is used very loosely. Sometimes, the word 'group' is used to mean a small group which consists of two or more individuals. The term 'group' is not used with any specifications. Hence, it is difficult to give a single satisfactory definition to the concept of group.

7. **Why does Cooley use the concept of 'primary group' in the study of Social Groups?**

Ans. Cooley used the concept of 'primary group' to mean a social group characterised by 'face-to-face' relationship, mutual aid and companionship. By primary group Cooley meant the intimate,

personal face-to-face groups in which we find our companions and comrades the members of our family and our daily associates. These are the people with whom we enjoy the more intimate kinds of social relations. The primary group can be referred to as the 'we' groups. He also said that a primary group involves the sort of sympathy and mutual identification for which 'we' is the natural expression.

8. What are the characteristics of Primary Groups?

Ans. The chief characteristics of primary groups are as follows:

- (i) Dominance of face-to-face relations.
- (ii) Physical proximity or nearness.
- (iii) Stability of the group
- (iv) Similarity of background
- (v) Limited self-interest
- (vi) Intensity of shared interest
- (vii) Stability of the group
- (viii) Communication
- (ix) Unspecialised character of the primary group
- (x) Direct cooperation

9. Mention the reason for the rise of Secondary Group.

Ans. An understanding of the modern industrial society requires an understanding of the secondary groups. The secondary groups are almost the opposite of the primary groups. The social groups other than those of primary groups may be termed as 'secondary groups'. They are a residual category. They are often called 'special groups'. With the expansion in population and territory of a society, however, interests become diversified and other types of relationships which are called 'secondary' or impersonal become necessary.

10. What are the importances of Secondary Groups?

Ans. The Secondary groups are playing a very important role

in the modern civilised and industrialised societies. Due to the growth of cities and population, complexity of social structure and differentiation of interests secondary groups have become a necessity. Particularly, the processes of industrialisation and urbanisation have added to the unprecedented expansion and growth of society. As a result, the simple face to face groups could no longer save the basic needs of the people. Secondary groups have replaced the earlier primary groups in many ways.

11. Why are the Secondary Groups more dominating than the Primary Groups in our life?

Ans. The secondary groups are more dominating than the primary groups in our life because much of activities and achievements are carried on through secondary groups. They provide opportunities for us to develop our faculties and express our talents. They liberate and limit our energy. Much of our attitudes and outlook, ideas and ideologies are shaped and moulded by them. The modern civilized life is such that men have started establishing primary groups within the broader secondary groups. Small cliques, gangs, unions consisting of a few may be found in the form of informal groups within the larger secondary groups.

12. How is reference group occupied an important place in the study of social groups?

Ans. The concept of 'reference group' arises essentially from the fact that any person acting in any situation may be influenced not only by his membership groups but also by his conception of other groups of which he is not a member. These other groups exert their influence as reference groups in a purely passive or silent way.

13. When can certain group become reference group for the members of a particular social group?

Ans. When the members of the particular group struggle to imitate the members of reference group, or try to make their group just like the reference group at least in some respects. e.g. The lower caste people in India who suffer from a sense of inferiority are found to be emulating some of the styles and practices of

Brahmins to feel equal to them at least in some respects. Similarly, members of the minority groups may try to incorporate in their personality dominant-group standards to help better their relationship with the dominant majority group.

14. What do you mean by an Institution ? Give a definition of Institution ?

Ans. Institution is usually defined as certain enduring and accepted forms of procedure, governing the relations between individual and groups. It is an organisation with certain specific purposes.

According to Sumner "an institution consists of a concept (idea, motion, doctrine or interest) and a structure".

15. Give some characteristics of an Institution?

Ans. The main characteristics of an institution are :

1. Institutions have certain definite objectives.
2. Institutions have symbols which can be either material or non-material.
3. It has definite procedures which are formulated on the basis of customs and dogmas.
4. Institutions are means of controlling individuals.
5. Institutions depends on collective activities of men.
6. Institutions have certain rules which are to be obeyed by individuals.
7. Institutions are formed for fulfilling the primary needs of men.

16. What are the merits and demerits of an Institutions?

Ans. Merits ::

1. Institutions guide the way for the individuals.
2. Institutions help in keeping a control over the individuals
3. Institutions determine the place and duties of individuals in a society.
4. Institutions bring cultural harmony in a society.

Demerits :

1. Institutions generally creates obstacles in the spontaneous development of individuals.
2. Institutions create lethargy and fantasies.
3. It creates a feeling of self-superiority in the individuals.
4. It creates difficulties in maintaining universal brotherhood.

17. What are the differences between Institution and Community?

Ans. The main differences between institution and community are.

- (i) Institution is a group consisting of laws and procedure, while, community consists of human beings.
- (ii) Institution is abstract, but community is concrete.
- (iii) Institutions are concerned with particular sphere of life, while community is concerned with social life as a whole.

18. How does institution differs from association ?

Ans. Institution differs from associations under the following points.

- (i) Associations are things while institutions are modes and ways.
- (ii) Associations are concrete and has a definite forms, while institutions are abstract and have no definite form.
- (iii) Association must be formed while institutions grow.
- (iv) Association indicates membership while institutions indicate procedure of work.

19. Define Institution.

Ans. The concept of institution is one of the most important in the entire field of Sociology. Unfortunately, it is a concept that has not been consistently used by sociologists. The importance of understanding the concept of institution in order to understand society is, at the same time, recognised by all the sociologists. In fact Durkheim has gone to the extent of defining Sociology as the Science of social institutions.

Definition :

1. **F.H. Giddings** – Institutions are “the organs that consume what is best in the past of human race”.

2. **Sumner** – “An institution consist of a concept and a structure”

Thus, institutions are basically the sanctioned, systematised and established rules or norms of society. They are the machinery through which human society continues and human needs are satisfied. Through institutions, cultural transfer of ideas, beliefs, customs and values is carried on from one generation to another generation. Institutions guides and controls the conduct of the behaviour of individuals in society and thus, check man's tendency to deviate from the set rules of society.

Institutions are of two types – Primary and Secondary Institutions.

Primary Institutions – are those that cater to the most basic needs of man, They are found even in primitive societies. The institution of family, Marriage, religion and political system are some of the primary institutions found in human societies. They are evolved or developed spontaneously by man as he experience his life in societies. Sumner calls them coercive institutions.

Secondary Institutions – Cater to the secondary needs of man. Secondary needs arises as society grows from complexity into complexity and as life in society becomes more progressive, differentiated and sophisticated. Secondary institutions are consciously and purposefully created to cater to the needs for education, law, examination, legislation, business etc. Sumner calls such institutions- Enacted institutions.

20. Can Reference and Secondary groups be the same?

Ans. The chief characteristics of secondary group are :

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3. In secondary group, membership is not compulsory, but is optional.
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 5. The status of an individual depends upon his role.
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- 21. How does a reference group differ from a secondary group?**

Ans. The main characteristics of reference group are :

- (i) It considers the behaviour of the other individual or groups as ideal behaviour and imitates it.
- (ii) It compares itself with other groups.
- (iii) It desires to rise higher in the social scale.

22. How is institution an 'enduring pattern of behaviour'?

Ans. Institution is an enduring pattern of behaviour as it regulates and organises the systems of social behaviour. Through the institution the unexpected, spontaneous and irregular behaviour of people is replaced by expected, patterned, systematic, regular and predictable behaviour. Thus, the interpersonal relationships of the individuals are regulated by institutions. They make clear for the members what is allowed and what is not, what is desirable and what is undesirable.

23. What is Reference Behaviour?

Ans. Man is an inter-relative animal. The desire to communicate other individual or groups is intrinsic in him. When one finds another person progressing in life, he also desires to progress, likewise. He compares himself with others and begins behaving like them in order to reach their status and positions. Such behaviour is called 'Reference behaviour'.

24. What are the characteristics of a Primary Group ?

Ans. A Primary group is a small group in which a small number of individuals comes into direct and close contact with one another. In other words, there is face-to-face relationship between

them. A primary group is the nucleus of all Social organizations. The chief characteristics of primary groups are as follows :

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26. Write a note on Reference Group.

Ans. The term 'reference group' was introduced into the literature on small groups by Muzafer Sherif in his text book "An outline of social psychology"—1948. According to Ogburn and Nimkoff, "groups which serve as points of comparison are known as reference groups". They have further added that the reference groups are those groups from which "We get our values, or whose approval we seek". Therefore Reference group is a group or social category that an individual uses to help define his beliefs, attitudes, and values and to guide his behaviour. The individual has same sense of identity with his reference group, but he need not be an actual member of it, he may not even wish to join it and his conception of the group and its values may be inaccurate. The term reference group may be used to designate a real, distinct group, such as a political organisation or it may be used to designate a social category that functions as a reference group.