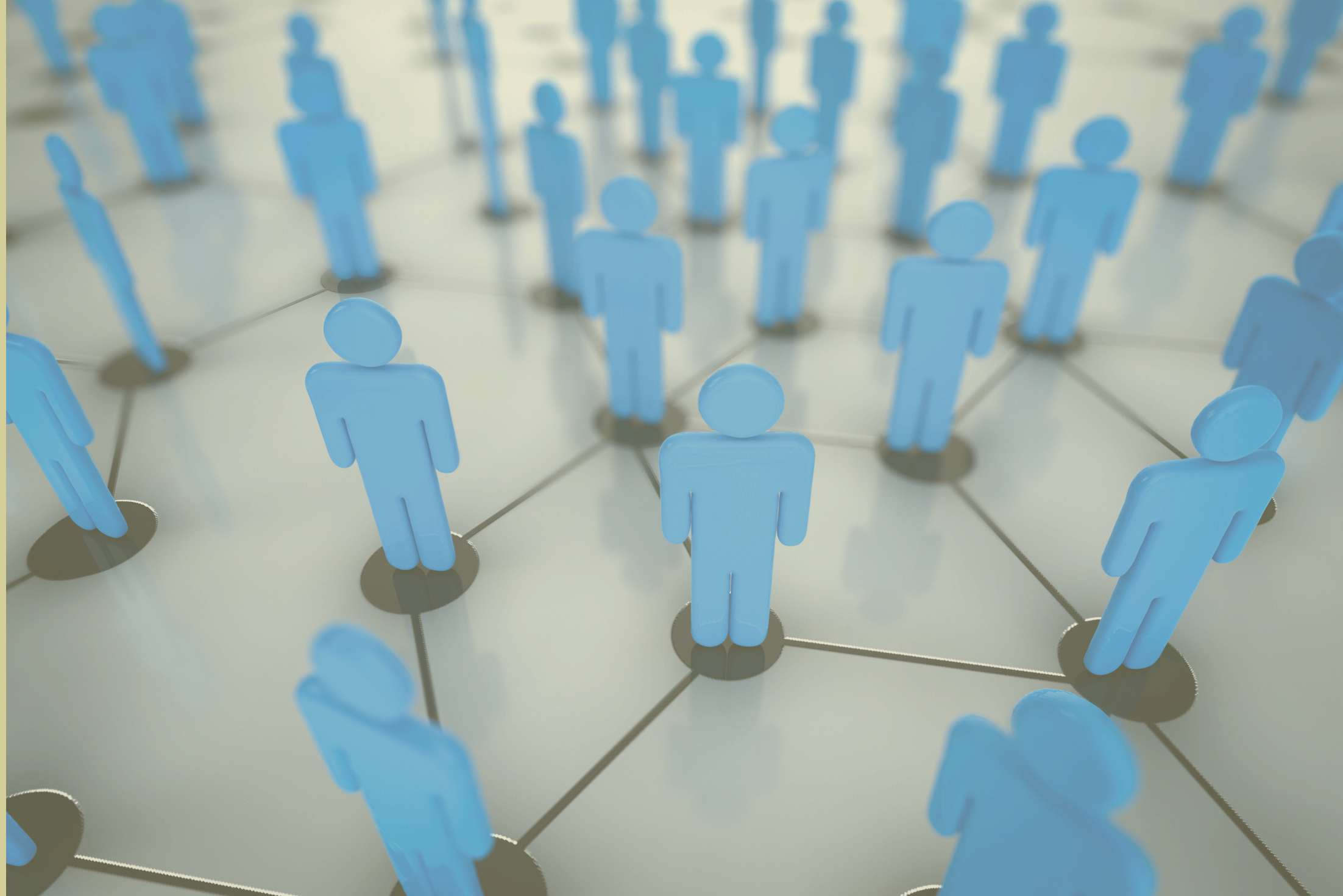


S
O
C
I
A
L



G
R
O
U
P



K. M. Hoque
**Nazir Ajmal Memorial College of
Education, Hojai**



Kaji



What is a Social Group?



Definition: a collection of two or more people who interact with each other, share similar characteristics, and have a sense of unity. Social groups can vary in size and type, from small groups like dyads to large groups like societies.

Emile Durkheim: Emphasized the importance of social groups in maintaining social order and cohesion. He argued that groups provide individuals with a sense of belonging and purpose.



Nature of Social Group

Social groups are fundamental to human societies and play a crucial role in influencing behavior, attitudes, and the cultural dynamics within a community. People join social groups for various reasons, such as shared interests, common goals, or mutual support. These groups can be small, like families, or large, like communities or organizations.

Collection of individuals:

- Social group consists of people. Without individuals there can be no group.
- Such as college, or university-without students and teachers cannot group

Interaction among members:

- The members must have interaction.
- A social group is, in fact, a system of social interaction.
- The limits of social groups are marked by the limits of social interaction.



Mutual awareness:

- Group life involves mutual awareness.
- Group members are aware of one another and their behavior is determined by this mutual recognition.
- This may be due to what Giddings calls, "Consciousness of kind".

We-feeling:

- We-feeling refers to the tendency on the part of the members to identify themselves with the groups.
- It represents group unity.
- We-feeling creates sympathy and fosters co-operation among members.

Group unity and solidarity:

- Group members are tied by a sense of unity.
- The solidarity or integration of a group is largely depends upon the frequency, the variety, and the emotional quality of the interactions of its members.



Common interests:

- The interests and ideals of groups are common.
- In fact men not only join groups but also form groups for the realization of their objectives or interests.
- Form of the groups differ depending upon the common interests of the group.
- Hence, there are political groups, religious groups, economic groups etc.

Group norms:

- Every group has its own rules and norms which the members are supposed to follow.
- These norms may be in the form of customs, folkways, mores, traditions, conventions, laws etc.
- They may be written or unwritten norms or standards.

Similar behavior:

- The members of group behave in more or less similar way for the pursuit of common interests.
- Social groups represent collective behaviour.



Size of the group:

- Every group involves an idea of size.
- A group may be as small as that of 'two-members group e.g. husband and wife or as big as that of a political party having lakhs of members.
- Size will have its own impact on the character of the group.

Groups are dynamic:

- Social groups are not static but dynamic.
- They are subject to changes whether slow .or rapid. Old members die and new members are born.
- Whether due to internal or external pressures or forces, groups undergo changes.



Difference between Social Group and Crowd

In the field of sociology, the concepts of a "social group" and a "crowd" represent distinct forms of human collectives. A social group is a more organized and cohesive assembly of people who share common goals, norms, and a sense of identity. In contrast, a crowd is a larger, less structured gathering of individuals brought together by a specific event or circumstance, rather than long-term shared interests.

Understanding the differences between these two types of human collectives is important for analyzing social dynamics and interactions.

Size:

A social group is typically smaller in size compared to a crowd. Social groups range from small, intimate groups like families or close friends, to larger groups like clubs, organizations, or communities. In contrast, a crowd refers to a larger, less structured collection of people.



Interaction:

Members of a social group typically have direct, ongoing interactions and interdependence. They share common goals, norms, and a sense of identity. In a crowd, people may have little to no direct interaction and are brought together temporarily by circumstance rather than shared goals.

Organization:

Social groups have a defined structure, roles, and leadership. They tend to be more organized and stable over time. Crowds, on the other hand, are more loosely organized, with fleeting and transient membership.

Cohesion:

Social groups exhibit higher levels of cohesion, as members feel a stronger sense of belonging and commitment to the group. Crowds lack this level of cohesion and shared identity.



Behaviour:

The behaviour of people in a social group is more predictable and follows established norms. Crowd behaviour can be more unpredictable and susceptible to emotional contagion, with people potentially engaging in behaviours they wouldn't exhibit individually.

Duration:

Social groups tend to be more long-lasting, with members maintaining their association over an extended period. Crowds, in contrast, are more transient, with people coming together and dispersing quickly.

Purpose:

Social groups form around shared interests, goals, or activities, while crowds are often brought together by a specific event or circumstance, without necessarily having a common purpose beyond the immediate situation.



Communication:

In a social group, communication is more personal, direct, and two-way. In a crowd, communication is often one-way, with individuals receiving information or instructions from a source, but having little opportunity for direct dialogue.

Emotional Connections:

Members of a social group tend to have stronger emotional connections and a sense of belonging, whereas individuals in a crowd may feel more anonymous and detached from the collective.



Types of Social Group

- **Primary group**
- **Secondary group**
- **Reference group**
- **Formal group**
- **Informal group**
- **In group**
- **Out group**
- **Pressure group**



Types of Social Group: **Primary and Secondary Group**

The terms "primary group" and "secondary group" refer to distinct types of social groups, each with its own unique characteristics and functions.

Primary Social Group :

Primary groups are small, intimate groups characterized by:

Close, personal relationships:

Members of primary groups have strong emotional bonds and a high degree of face-to-face interaction. This allows for the development of deep, personal connections between members.

Shared identity and values:

Primary groups foster a shared sense of identity, belonging, and common values among members. These shared characteristics help strengthen the group's cohesion and sense of unity.



Informal structure:

Primary groups have a relatively informal and unstructured organization, with flexible roles and leadership. This flexibility allows the group to adapt to the changing needs of its members.

Long-lasting:

Primary groups tend to be long-lasting, with members maintaining their association over an extended period. The continuity of these groups helps reinforce the bonds between members.

Emotional support:

Primary groups provide a sense of emotional security and support for their members. This support system can help individuals cope with personal challenges and stressors.



Socialization:

Primary groups play a crucial role in the socialization process, as they shape individual values, attitudes, and behaviors. The intimate nature of these groups allows for effective transmission of social norms and expectations.

Interdependence:

Members of primary groups are highly interdependent, relying on each other for various needs and support. This mutual dependence strengthens the group's cohesion and resilience.

Smaller size:

Primary groups are typically smaller in size, often ranging from 2 to 20 members. The small size facilitates direct, personal interactions and the development of strong emotional bonds.

Examples: Family, close friends, and small, tight-knit communities are considered primary groups.

These types of groups are essential for an individual's personal and social development.



The terms "primary group" and "secondary group" refer to distinct types of social groups, each with its own unique characteristics and functions.

Secondary Social Group :

Secondary groups are larger, more formal, and impersonal groups characterized by:

Indirect relationships:

Interactions in secondary groups are often more formal and goal-oriented, with less emphasis on personal relationships. This formal nature can make it more challenging for members to develop close, personal connections.

Shared interests or objectives:

Secondary groups form around specific interests, objectives, or activities, rather than emotional bonds. The group's purpose is often more task-oriented than emotion-driven.



Formal structure:

Secondary groups have a more defined organizational structure, with established roles, rules, and hierarchies. This formal structure helps the group achieve its goals and objectives more efficiently.

Temporary or transient:

Secondary groups tend to be more temporary or transient, with members joining and leaving as needed. This transient nature can make it more difficult for members to develop a strong sense of loyalty or commitment to the group.

Focus on instrumental needs:

Secondary groups are primarily focused on meeting the instrumental (task-oriented) needs of their members, rather than affective (emotional) needs. The group's purpose is often more practical than personal.



Larger size:

Secondary groups are typically larger in size, often ranging from a few dozen to thousands of members. The larger size can make it challenging for members to engage in close, personal interactions.

Examples: Workgroups, professional associations, and political organizations are considered secondary groups. These types of groups serve specific functions and cater to the practical needs of their members.



Importance of Primary and Secondary Social Groups

Primary and secondary social groups play distinct yet complementary roles in shaping individual and societal development. While primary groups are essential for personal growth and intimate relationships, secondary groups provide important functions for achieving collective goals and integrating individuals into the broader social fabric.

Primary Social Group :

Personal Development and Socialization:

Primary groups, such as families and close-knit friendships, are crucial for an individual's personal development and socialization. Within these groups, people learn essential social skills, acquire core values and norms, and develop a strong sense of identity and self-awareness.

Emotional Support and Well-Being:

Primary groups offer a reliable support system, providing emotional validation, comfort, and a sense of belonging. This emotional support can help individuals cope with personal challenges, stress, and significant life transitions, contributing to their overall mental and emotional well-being.



Conflict Resolution and Interpersonal Dynamics:

The familiarity and trust within primary groups can facilitate the resolution of interpersonal conflicts and disputes. These groups serve as a forum for constructive dialogue, mediation, and the development of effective communication skills.

Sense of Community and Belonging:

Primary groups foster a strong sense of community and shared identity among their members, providing individuals with a source of stability, security, and social integration. This sense of belonging is essential for psychological and emotional well-being.

Intergenerational Transmission of Culture:

Primary groups, especially families, play a crucial role in the intergenerational transmission of cultural values, beliefs, and traditions, ensuring the continuity and evolution of a society's cultural heritage.



Resilience and Adaptive Capacity:

During times of crisis or change, primary groups can serve as a vital support network, enhancing an individual's resilience and adaptive capacity by providing emotional and practical assistance.

Opportunities for Self-Expression and Creativity:

The safe, nurturing environment of primary groups can encourage self-expression, creativity, and the exploration of unique talents and interests, leading to personal growth and the development of a vibrant, expressive community.

Facilitation of Social Mobility:

Membership in primary groups can provide access to resources, information, and networks that can open doors to educational, professional, and entrepreneurial opportunities, enabling individuals to overcome socioeconomic barriers and achieve greater upward mobility.



Importance of Secondary Social Group :

Achieving Collective Goals:

Secondary groups, such as professional associations, political organizations, and civic groups, are typically formed to achieve specific goals or objectives. These groups provide a structured framework for members to collaborate, pool resources, and work towards common goals.

Skill Development and Socialization:

Participation in secondary groups can offer opportunities for skill development, training, and socialization within a professional or specialized context. This can help individuals acquire new knowledge, skills, and professional networks.



Collective Action and Social Change:

Secondary groups often serve as platforms for collective action and social change. Organizations like advocacy groups, labour unions, and political parties can mobilize members to influence policies, promote causes, and drive societal transformations.

Specialization and Division of Labor:

Many secondary groups are formed around specific fields, industries, or areas of expertise. This specialization and division of labour allow for the efficient and effective coordination of tasks and the advancement of knowledge within those domains.

Societal Integration:

While primary groups provide a sense of community and belonging on a more intimate level, secondary groups can contribute to the broader integration of individuals into the larger social fabric. Participation in these groups can help individuals connect with and feel part of the wider society.



Access to Resources and Information:

Membership in secondary groups can grant individuals access to resources, information, and opportunities that may not be readily available within their primary social networks. This can lead to personal and professional growth.

Reputation and Status:

Participation in prestigious or influential secondary groups can confer a certain level of reputation and status, which can be valuable in professional and social contexts.

Networking and Collaboration:

Secondary groups facilitate networking and collaboration among members, enabling the exchange of ideas, the development of professional relationships, and the creation of synergies that can benefit individuals and the collective.

Thank You