

Social Group

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
6	Social Group	List out the major sociologists and their works related to Social groups.

Summary

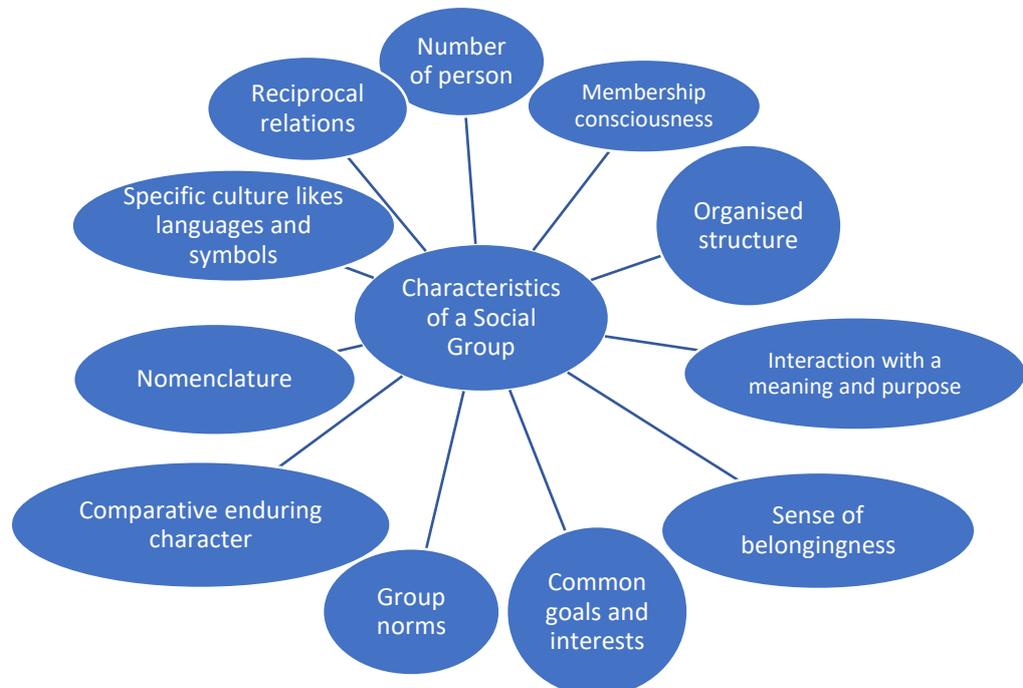
The essence of the social group is not physical closeness but a conscious of interaction with each other among human beings in the society. Every human being is a member of one or more than one group like family and peer group etc. Each group has a sense of 'we feeling'. Sociologists identify different types of groups based on different criterias.

Meaning of Social Group

A social group is simply a number of people who interact with each other on a regular basis. Groups are units of society having all the characteristics of the society, except, unlike a society, group is a concrete entity. We live in groups such as family, lineage, class, etc.

Characteristics of Social Group

Social group has the following characteristics.



Some Related Term to Group

Collectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an aggregate of people, having lack of interactions• Example-people going on the road
Crowd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an aggregate of people at a certain point of time• Example-people watching a street play• Crowd divided into: Passive crowd and active crowd.
Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an aggregate of people possessing some common features• Example-people having same income

Types of Group:

Based on size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dyad: a group with two people• Triad: a group with three people
Based on the presence of or absence of formal rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal group: a group following formal rules• Informal group: a group without any formal rules
Ferdinand Tonnies' classification of groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gemeinschaft: refers to community• Gesellschaft: refers to association
Based on nature of contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary group: face to face contact and intimate relationship• Secondary group: relations are impersonal• Tertiary group: the contact or interaction is only notional in character
Based on structure of group formation	<p>Horizontal group:-organised aggregate of individuals who interact without giving significance to hierarchy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vertical group:organised aggregate of individuals who interact with a conscious sense of hierarchy

Some other kinds of groups are:

Based on feeling: In-group and out-group

Based on the duration of contact: Ephemeral or chance group and Enduring group

Based on membership: Open group and closed group

Difference between Group and Society

Group	Society
A collection of human beings	A system of social relationship
An artificial creation	A spontaneous and natural growth
Organised	Loose collection of groups
May be temporary	Permanent
Concrete aggregation	Abstract concept of people
Marked by 'we feeling'	Sense of belongingness

Difference between group and Institution

Group	Institution
Collection of people	Functioning entity based upon
May be temporary	Always permanent

Difference between Group and Community

Group	Community
Created	Grows naturally and is also created
May be formed for certain purposes	Involves the whole life of its members
Comparatively temporary	Comparatively permanent
A part of community	Consists of many groups

Evaluate Yourself

1. Justify how groups are called social bricks?
2. Every human being is a member of one or more than one group. Explain the statement with suitable examples.
3. Social groups fall both with in private life and public spheres of life. Explain the statement with suitable examples.