

# **Concept of Groups**

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## DEFINITION

- **GROUP:**
- A group may be defined as a number of individuals who join together to achieve a goal. People join groups to achieve goals that cannot be achieved by them alone.

Johnson & Johnson (2006)

- A collection of people who interact with one another, accept rights and obligations as members and who share a common identity.

# GROUP DYNAMICS

- A branch of social psychology which studies problems involving the structure of a group.
- The interactions that influence the attitudes and behavior of people when they are grouped with others through either choice or accidental circumstances.

## TYPE OF GROUPS

- ***Formal groups:*** refers to those which are established under the legal or formal authority with the view to achieve a particular end results. Eg: trade unions.
- ***Informal groups:*** refers to aggregate of personal contact and interaction and network of relationship among individual. Eg: friendship group.

## TYPE OF GROUPS

- ***Primary groups***: are characterized by small size, face to face interaction and intimacy among members of group. Eg: family, neighbourhood group.
- ***Secondary groups***: characterized by large size, individual identification with the values and beliefs prevailing in them rather than cultural interaction. Eg: occupational association and ethnic group.



## TYPE OF GROUPS

- **Task groups:** are composed of people who work together to perform a task but involve cross-command relationship. Eg: for finding out who was responsible for causing wrong medication order would require liaison between ward in charge, senior sister and head nurse.
- **Social groups:** refers to integrated system of interrelated psychological group formed to accomplish defined objectives. Eg: political party with its many local political clubs. Friendship group.

## TYPE OF GROUPS

- ***Functional groups***: the individuals work together daily on similar tasks.
- ***Problem solving groups***: it focuses on specific issues in their areas of responsibility, develops potential solution and often empowered to take action.

# CRITERIA FOR A GROUP

- Formal social structure
- Face-to-face interaction
- 2 or more persons
- Common fate
- Common goals
- Interdependence
- Self-definition as group members
- Recognition by others