


Primary and Secondary Group

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American sociologist **Charles Horton Cooley** classified group on the basis of relationship as primary and secondary in 1909 in his book “**Social Organization: A Study of the Larger Mind**”.

The classification between these two types is made on the basis of the nature of

- Social contact
- The degree of intimacy
- The type of organization
- Size of the group etc.

PRIMARY GROUP

The simplest and the most universal of all forms of human association is the primary group

There is a face to face relationship exists among the members

It is a small group in which each member comes into direct contact

The members of primary group live together

Primary Groups

- Based on intimate, face to face association
- People identify closely to their primary groups
- Relationships last for a long time
- Have emotional depth
- Examples:
 - Family
 - Close Friends
 - Business Partners



Definition

- Charls Cooley – “ By primary group I mean those characteristics by intimate face to face association and co-operation. They are primary in several senses, but chiefly they are fundamental informing social nature and ideals of the individuals”.
- Lundberg- “ primary group means two or more person behaving in relation to each other in a way that is intimate, cohesive and personal”.
- Bierstead- “ By primary group meant the intimate personal face to face groups in which we find our companions and comrades the members of our family and daily associates”.

Characteristics of Primary group

- a) Closeness
- b) Smaller in size
- c) Continuity
- d) Personal Relationship
- e) Durability
- f) Identity of goals
- g) Relationship is not a means but a goal in itself
- h) Relationship is inclusive
- i) Limited self-interest

Secondary Group

Secondary groups are large in size than the primary groups. The members secondary group are not bound by an emotional ties. The interests of the members are diversified and there is no face to face relationship among the members.

Secondary Group



Secondary Groups

- Secondary Group: people who share only part of their lives while focusing on a goal or task
- These impersonal relationships exist only to accomplish a specific purpose
- Members of these groups interact involving only parts of their personality
 - Secondary Relationships: impersonal relationship involving only parts of the personality

Examples: Employers/Workers, Clerks/Customers

Secondary Group

- Examples:
- Classrooms
- Factory
- Political Party
- Your boss does not care about your personality, religion, or hobbies
- Question – What do they care about?
- Answer – How well you do your job!
- Primary groups may form within the secondary group



Definitions of Secondary Group

- “The groups who provide experience lacking in intimacy are called secondary group”. **Ogburn and Nimkoff**
- “When face to face contacts are not present in the relations of member, we have secondary group”.
Mazumdar
- “The secondary group is larger and more formal, is specialized and direct in its contacts and relies more for unity and continuance upon the stability of its social organisation than does the primary group”.
Frank D. Watson

Characteristics of Secondary Group

- Indirect Relation
- Large in size
- Formal Rules
- Optional Membership
- Non – Stability
- Active and Inactive members
- No Physical nearness
- Limited influence on Personality

Importance of Secondary Group

- Improvement of work efficiency
- Channels of opportunity
- Development of personality
- Attitude change
- Development of international understanding



Thank you