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Topic Name - Group Formation

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Lecture Title

Group Formation

Academic Script

Welcome Viewers to the Bachelor course of Physical Education today we will study about group and group formation.

Introduction

Consider that some people are waiting for a bus at bus stop for the wait of buses. Are these people constitute a group? Absolutely NOT ! Do these people create a group. As these people are not interacting with each other and they also lack cohesion. They have different destination to go we do not observe any commonality of interest between them.

The term group can be defined as number of different ways, depending on the perspective that is taken. The group as a class of learner different from other groups, in the sense that classroom group has characteristics which are not found in other groups.

Definition of Group

According to o Sherif and Sherif, "A group is a social unit consisting of a number of individuals who stand in role and status relationship to one another, stabilized in some degree at the time and who possess a set of values or norms of their own regulating behavior, at least in matters of consequences to the group."

M. Smith defined, "A social group is a unit which consists of members of separate organization who have collective perception of their unity and who have the ability to work together and are acting in unit in any manner toward their environment."

McDavid emphasized the role of organization in the formation of group. He defines, "A Psychological group is an organized system of two or more individuals who are inter-related so that the system performs some functions, establish roles among its members and has a set of norms that regulate the function of the group and each of its members."

According to Kretch, and Ballachey psychological group has two or more persons who meet the following conditions

1. The relations among the members are inter-dependent each member's behavior influences the behavior of each other.
2. The members share an ideology— that is a set of beliefs, values, norms which regulate their mutual conduct.

Characteristics of a Group

1. It is a unit of two or more individuals.
2. The members of group share a set of beliefs, values and norms.
3. It has a common purpose, objective or goal.
4. There is a we feeling among the members of the group.
5. The relations among members are interdependent
6. The members form a set of norms of behavior for themselves
7. A group has some form of structure
8. A group is stabilized in some degree at the time to regulate the behaviour of the individuals.

Essential components of Group

A group must have essential components to be called a group in psychological sense. However if we consider a comprehensive definition of group then the members must be, well motivated, inter dependent, organized, contributing, structured and have democratic set up.

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- 1) **Well motivated:** The members of a group must have some common aim or objectives so that all their activities may be goal oriented. Thus each member of the group will be well motivated. The motivational base no doubt differ from group to group depending upon its ultimate goal
- 2) **Interdependence:** Each member of the group should be interdependent.
- 3) **Organized:** each member of the group perceive as a verified unit of interacting people. The role of the member should be clearly defined.
- 4) **Contribution of member:** Each member should contribute in various amounts to the group processes whatever positive quality he possesses.
- 5) **Structure:** This is an important component of group to attain its aims and objectives. It indicates the group in terms of power. It should be hierarchical in nature. Power should be well defined and vested in the highest authority of the group
- 6) **Democratic set up:** The highest authority of the group should follow the democratic set up. Before reaching on any final decision, there must be various forms of interactions.

Stages of Group Development

Group development is a dynamic process. Most groups are in a continual stage of change. There is a strong evidence that groups pass through a standard sequences of five stages which are named as (1) forming, (2) storming, (3) norming, and (4) performing (5) and Adjourning.

1. **Forming:** It is characterized by great deal of uncertainty about the group's purpose, structure and leadership. Members determine what types of behavior are acceptable. This is the stage when team building begins and trust starts to develop. Group members will start establishing limits on acceptable behavior through experimentation. Other members' reactions will determine if a behavior will be repeated. This is also the time when the tasks of the group and the members will be decided. This stage is complete when members begin to think of themselves as a part of a group.
2. **Storming:** At this stage, members accept the existence of the group. In this stage of group development, interpersonal conflicts arise and differences of opinion about the group. If the group is unable to clearly state its purposes and goals or if it cannot agree on shared goals, the group may fail at this point. It is important to work through the conflict at this time and to establish clear goals. It is necessary to do discussions so that everyone feel heard and can come to an agreement on the direction the group is to move in. When it is complete there will be clear hierarchy of leadership with in the group.
3. **Norming:** It is the third stage of group development during which the group member come closer with each other start functioning as a cohesive unit the group members now identify themselves with the group and share responsibility for achieving the desired level of performance of the group. Norming stage is complete when the group members can set a common target and agree on the way of achieving this. This stage is complete when the group has assimilated a common set of expectations.
4. **Performing:** During this stage of development, issues related to roles, expectations, and norms are no longer of major importance. The group is now focused on its task, working intentionally and effectively to accomplish its goals. The structure at this stage is fully "functional" and "accepted" Group energy has moved from getting to know and understand each other to the job or work of task performance.
5. **Adjourning** is the final stage involves the termination of task behaviors and disengagement from relations. A planned conclusion usually includes recognition for participation and achievement and an opportunity for members to say personal goodbyes. Concluding a group can create some apprehension in effect, a minor crisis. The termination of the group is a regressive movement from giving up control to giving up addition in the group. The most effective interventions in this stage are those that facilitate task termination and the disengagement process.

Characteristics of a class as a group

Stages of development of group like forming, storming, norming, performing and adjourning are not applicable for class as such. But every member of a class is also a member of the group which is formed in the class and school. To fulfill other classroom and school activities such as drama, games, cultural activities and house system and

achievement in grades. Even the class has the characteristics of well motivation, interdependence, organized, contributed, and structured but the main difference is that the goal of the each student to achieve in the field of pedagogy and develop his personality harmoniously. In view of it, the characteristics of a class in psychological sense are.

1. **Common purpose:** The class has a common goal. Each member of the class endeavor to achieve that very goal decided by the educationists or curriculum framers in the interest of the individual and society. The goal must be well defined and achievable to the students.

2. **Well organized structure:** The class has a well organized structure having homogeneity in the group as records their age, syllabus and subject background.

3. **Motivation:** Every student of the class is well motivated to achieve the common goal on the basis of his ability and capacity. Moreover teacher is too expected to motivate his students to achieve the defined goal, keeping in view his talents and potentialities.

4 **Leadership:** The class has a group leader. In the school, the function of the leader are discharged by the teacher. But it is also desirable to select a student leader from the class who has leadership qualities.

Classification of Groups: W.G. Summer classified the groups into two categories:

(a) In group or we group with which we identify ourselves.

(b) Outgroup or other's group in which the members are considered as outsiders by us.

C.H. Cooley classified the groups into 3 categories: Primary, secondary or tertiary group

(a) **Primary group:** In this type of group, there is intimate face to face relationship among members and they have “we feeling” to the maximum such as family, play group and village community.

(b) **Secondary group:** In which relationship among the members, are more or less casual and marked by common interest for example the trade unions, clubs etc.

(c) **Tertiary group:** In which relationship is quite transitory, for example, audience in a cinema hall.

Some of the sociologists and social psychologists divided the group into

(i) **Organised Group:** The family and the school are the examples of organised groups which have been formed for specific purpose and goal.

(ii) **Spontaneous Group:** These are formed without any careful planning such as listening to a speech.

(iii) Formal or Informal Groups:

- (a) Formal groups are formed in view of specific norms rules and values Family and schools come under this category.
- (b) Play groups, peer groups and social clubs are the examples of informal groups. Rules are flexible.

An individual may belong to many groups. James Dever classified the groups as the following are the important features of groups:

1. The Crowd Type

The members assemble for a very short period and have no permanent difficulties.

- (ii) Its modes of thinking, feeling and acting are quite temporary.
- (iii) It is impulsive in its nature.
- (iv) Its leaders change frequently and followers follow blindly.
- (v) The behavior of members of the crowd is at instinctive level
- (vi) it has no past or future.

2 The Club type:

- i. It has some common interest of durable nature which binds its member together.
- ii. Its actions are not guided by the impulse of the moments instead it has thinking as well feeling.
- iii. It has past and future goal too.
- iv. Members of the club are thoughtful and take decision in the interest of the club-organization after deliberations.

3 The Community Type

- (i) It has a comprehensive common purpose.
- (ii) It has continuity and permanence.
- (iii) It has wider purpose and has in its purview the whole life of the individual.
- (iv) It helps the individual in self-realization.
- (v) It has a past traditions and conventions make the group all the more or less stronger.

School as a Social Group

Without being prejudiced, it may clearly and strongly be stated that school is one of the most significant and important formal social group. Its major role is considered to, modify the ideas, values, modification of instinctive behavior, habits and attitudes of the children in view of the development of personality harmoniously.

School is a social institution which set to serve its end. According to T.P. Nunn, "A nation's schools are an organ of its life, whose special function is to consolidate its spiritual strength, to maintain its historic continuity"

John Dewey is of the view, "The school is primarily a social Institution."

J.S. Ross, "Schools ought to stress the duties and responsibilities of the individual citizen. They ought to train their pupils in the spirit of cheerful, willing and effective service."

K.G. Saiyidin pointed out, "A people's school must obviously be based on the people's needs and problems.

Dr. K.L. Shrimali, "The school should set up situations which constant practice in social and co-operative living. It must encourage activities through which the child can make a personal contribution in group enterprise, cooperative institute of competitive individualism."

Functions of the School as a Social group

1. Encouragement to group work
2. Consolidation of spiritual strength
3. To make students realize their duties and responsibilities as individual citizen.
4. Democratic methods of teaching
5. To provide opportunities to the students for the development of their self-expression.
6. To provide opportunities for constant practice in social and , co-operative living.
7. To make students capable to solve their daily problems
8. To provide opportunities to the students to develop their level of interaction.

Class as a Social Group

1. Pupils interact among themselves and exchange their ideas and values with each other.
2. Classroom group has its own structure which is partially structural and partially free.
3. Teacher is a formal leader of the classroom group
4. The classroom is a formal group where pupils come to their own choice.
5. Teacher organizes the group further to have the class monitor by selecting or electing having qualities of a leader.

6. The classroom group may also be structure into multi sub groups for specific purposes on regular or temporary purposes.

7. It is the responsibility of the teacher to understand and discover the social climate of the classroom as it will provide him to know the individual personalities of pupils and develop inter-personal relationship within the classroom group.

Importance of the Classroom as a Social Group

Kuppuswami observed that classroom as an instructional group which helps its members to satisfy their needs and achieve goals. This group has a special importance in the school program on account of the varied functions:

1. It modifies the behavior of the students.
2. Intellectual activities are organized to develop the mental process of the students
3. Development of feeling for the services for others
4. Proper and effective social development takes place which helps to prepare the children
5. Developing qualities of leadership.
6. Acquiring knowledge and information about the world as such
7. Development of feeling of co-operation and sympathy
8. Development of spiritual and moral values.
9. It helps to maintain mental health.
10. Social learning or observations learning takes place among the children.

Lets sum up:

We are all social human beings. We interact with one another in a group. The essence of interaction is that all participants modify their behavior according to what others are doing and saying, the social influences on behavior play an important and significant role in the formation of individual's personality. All of such human behavior comes under the purview of social psychology which is the study of human interaction and the way it affects behavior. Social Psychology may be defined as the scientific study of how individuals affect each other and how these effects may be minimized and maximized.

With this we come to the end the topic and hope you have understood the today's topic group and group formation. Hope to see you in the next lecture. Till then goodbye and thank you.