

FUNCTIONS OF GROUPS

Groups play essential roles in social and psychological development.

A. Social Functions

1. Socialization

Groups teach norms, values, and roles.

2. Sense of Belonging

Provides identity and emotional support.

3. Social Control

Groups regulate behavior through norms and sanctions.

B. Psychological Functions

1. Emotional Support

Reduces stress and provides comfort (e.g., support groups).

2. Self-esteem and Identity

Group membership shapes how we see ourselves.

3. Motivation

Being part of a group increases effort (social facilitation).

C. Cognitive Functions

1. Learning

Groups expose individuals to new ideas.

2. Problem Solving

Different perspectives improve decisions.

3. Information Sharing

Exchange of knowledge and experience.

D. Economic / Task Functions

1. Achieving Goals Efficiently

Groups divide labor and coordinate tasks.

2. Better Performance

Teams often accomplish tasks better than individuals.

E. Developmental Functions

1. Skill Building

Communication, leadership, teamwork skills develop in groups.

2. Role Learning

Individuals learn how to perform different social roles.

F. Cultural and Societal Functions

1. Transmission of Culture

Values and traditions are preserved through group rituals and norms.

2. Social Change

Groups (e.g., social movements) can influence society.

4. SHORT NOTES FOR QUICK REVISION

Nature of Groups (Summary)

- * Interaction
- * Common goals
- * Interdependence
- * Shared identity
- * Structure and norms

Classification (Keywords)

- *Formality → formal vs informal
- *Membership → primary vs secondary
- *Duration → temporary vs permanent
- *Attitude → in-group vs out-group
- *Purpose → task vs social

Functions (Keywords)

- * Socialization
- * Support
- * Identity
- * Learning
- * Decision-making
- * Role performance
- * Cultural transmission