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Formation of Group

Basic to group formation is some contact and some form of interaction between people. This interaction is facilitated by the following conditions:

Proximity: Just think about our group of friends. Would we have seen friends if we were not living in the same colony, or going to the same school, or may be playing in the same playground?

Probably our answer would be 'No'. Repeated interactions with the same set of individuals give us a chance to know them, and their interests, attitudes. Common interests, attitudes, and background are important determinants of our liking for our group members.

Similarity: Being exposed to someone over a period of time makes us assess our similarities and paves the way for formation of groups. When two

people are similar, there is consistency and they start liking each other. For example, you like playing football and another person in your class also loves playing football. There is a matching of your interests. There are higher chances that you become friends. According to psychologists is that when we meet similar people, they reinforce and validate our opinions and values, we feel we are right and thus we start liking them. Suppose you are of the opinion that too much watching of television is not good, because it shows too much violence. You meet someone who also has similar views. This validates your opinion, and you start liking the person who was instrumental in validating your opinion.

③ Common motives and goals: When people have common motives or goals, they get together and form a group which may facilitate their goal attainment. Suppose you want to teach children in a slum area who are unable to go to school. You cannot do this alone because you have your studies and homework. You, therefore, form a group of like-minded friends and start teaching these children. So you have been able to achieve what you could not have done alone.