SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT OR GROUPS

Man is a social being. He does not live alone on earth, but lives among others in groups and enjoys their company. His activities are somehow influenced by the group or society to which he belongs.

Social environment refers to people in our society and our relationship with them. Man's social environment includes his home, which is made up of his parents, brothers and sisters; the teachers and students in school he attends; the workers at his place of work; his religious colleagues; mates in the same associations, clubs or unions.

All associations that man belong to are called *social groups*. A social group consists of individuals who come together and are united for a particular purpose. Every member is expected to take part in its activities and obey its rules and regulations.

Types of Social Groups

Social groups are divided into two categories: primary group, and secondary group.

Primary group: is made up of people who know themselves very closely. Usually, they have face-to-face permanent relationship and possibly know one another by their names. Such groups are small and have very deep sense of belonging. Examples are family, kinship, peer group, age grades, etc.

Secondary group: consists of a large number of people who are not as close and intimate as in the primary group. There is no face-to-face permanent relationship. Relationship is official and impersonal. Examples of secondary groups are voluntary organizations, associations, trade unions, political parties, companies, institutions of learning, clubs, etc. The secondary social group can be classified thus: benefit-oriented organisations, voluntary organisations, professional organisations, etc.