SOCIETY, SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

ASSIGNMENT

Course Code: BSW-122

Total marks 100

Note:

(i) Answer any **five** of the following questions in about **500 words** each.

(ii) All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss the relationship between Primary and Secondary groups with examples. 20
2. Explain the Organismic theory on the relationship between the individual and society. 20
3. Briefly discuss the chief agencies of Socialization. 20
4. What do you understand by the term 'conflict'? Discuss why it is ever-present in human society? 20
5. Discuss the role of family in a person's growth and development. 20
6. What are the factors that influence the caste system in the modern period? 20
7. Describe the functions and activities of the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD). 20
8. Briefly discuss the different kinds of social problems and the remedial measures by the government. 20

1. Discuss the relationship between Primary and Secondary groups 20 with examples.

Answer

In everyday life, a person belongs to several groups. Some give affection, identity and a sense of belonging, while others help people achieve specific goals. Sociology calls these primary and secondary groups. Charles Horton Cooley introduced the idea of the primary group to explain the importance of close personal relationships in forming human personality. Secondary groups are generally larger and more formally organised. Both types are connected and are necessary for a balanced social life.

Primary groups and their characteristics

A primary group consists of people who interact closely and regularly, usually through direct personal contact. The family, a small circle of friends and a neighbourhood playgroup are common examples. Members know one another as individuals rather than only by an official position. They share joys, worries and responsibilities, and relationships are often long-lasting. Emotional attachment and mutual care are central to these groups.

Primary groups influence an individual's values from childhood. A child learns language, cooperation, trust and acceptable behaviour mainly through the family. Friends provide companionship and help the child develop confidence. Informal rules operate through appreciation, affection, criticism and personal expectations, rather than written regulations. Although closeness is important, a primary group is not automatically free from disagreements or unfair treatment.

Secondary groups and their characteristics

Secondary groups are formed mainly around particular interests, duties or objectives. Examples include a university, a trade union, a government office, a political party and a large voluntary organisation. Membership may be extensive, and many members may never meet each other. Work is divided among positions, and rules, qualifications and procedures help the group function.

Relationships in these groups are often more specific and less personal. A student approaches an examination office to complete an administrative task, not necessarily to form a close friendship. Similarly, employees follow workplace rules so that many people can work together. Secondary groups make large-scale education, health services, administration and economic activities possible. They may also provide identity and solidarity, even when the original purpose is practical.