Htet Tee

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Soci111

Midterm Essay

It is important to understand social interactions because we relate to other people every day of our lives. Much of the interacting that we do is through groups and organizations. For this reason, I am going to focus on our textbook chapters four and five.

I remember in class we talked about society and the three groups: social institutions, statuses and roles, and social groups. Social institutions are broken down into traditional and emergent. To me, traditional structures are those that are less likely to change. Emergent would be groups that change and update. Statuses and roles are broken down into ascribed and achieved. While searching on this topic I found a quote that explains the meaning of status and roles, “Status is our relative social position within a group, while a role is the part our society expects us to play in a given status” (<http://anthro.palomar.edu/status/stat_2.htm>). Ascribed is what you get from your birth and things that you can’t change. Achieved is something you have to work hard to get and earn it. Our book says that role expectation is “a group’s or society’s definition of the way that a specific role ought to be played” (Kendall, 2014, p. 99). I think that roles are different in every culture. For example, Burmese people often live with their parents until their parents pass away.

Social groups have primary and secondary groups. To me, primary means important and something that always comes first in my life. My primary groups are my family and close friends. Secondary is a large group that means something to me. I spend my time with them because I want to. My secondary groups are my church, school, and soccer team.

This is chapter 5, Groups and organization. It is important to be in a group or organization. It’s make you fit in, share great idea, and work as a team to finish work faster. There are some characteristic of groups and organizations. Such as types of social groups, group size, types of formal organizations. Types of social groups has primary group, secondary group, in/out group, reference group. Group size has dyad, triad, formal organization, and formal organization. Types of formal organizations has normative, coercive, utilitarian. To me

I have already talk about primary and secondary group so I will past on that. To me I think in group would be one person who stay in a group that he or she belong. Out group would be a person feel that he or she belong to the group but does not really belong to the group. Reference group would be a person is belong to the group or not but strongly influences by a person that in a group.

Now come to group size. Dyad is a group that made out with two members. Triad is a group that made out with three members. From a book formal organization “A highly structured secondary group formed for the purpose of achieving specific goals” ” (Kendall, 2014, P.134).

Three types of formal organizations are normative, coercive, and utilitarian. Normative would be the organizations that he or she join when they have common interest or want to gain personal satisfaction. Coercive would be where people have to join an organization by force. While searching for an information on the side I found utilitarian, “A utilitarian is someone who accepts the principle of utility - and is therefore concerned with maximising the value (utility) of the universe - which makes utilitarianism aconsequentialist (goal-based) theory of ethics, as opposed to a deontological (rule-based) theory.” (http://www.utilitarian.org/utility.html).