



PATNA UNIVERSITY
M.A (PSYCHOLOGY) SEMESTER-1
ADVANCED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (CC2)
TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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- Psychology is an academic and applied discipline that involves the scientific study of mental functions and behaviors. Psychology has the immediate goal of understanding individuals and groups through both establishing general principles and researching specific cases, and through several accounts it ultimately aims to benefit society. Psychologists explore concepts such as perception, cognition, attention, emotion, phenomenology, motivation, brain functioning, personality, behavior, and interpersonal relationships.
- The study of individual in the social context is the subject matter of the field of psychology described social Psychology. Human beings are essentially social beings. We stay with other and our actions, thoughts, and feelings are affected by the presence of others.



- Social psychology is a branch of psychology which is concerned with the social aspect of life – how people interaction with and think in relation to the others. This branch of Psychology studies human behaviour in all its perspective which further helps in establishing equal relationships and solving social problems. It attempts to understand how thoughts, feelings, and behaviours of individual are influenced through actual, imagined, and implied attendance of others.
- This includes many things—the activities of individuals in the presence of others, the processes of social interaction between two or more persons, and the relationships among individuals and the groups to which they belong. Second, social psychology addresses not only the nature of social behavior but also the causes of such behavior.



- Psychology studies behaviour which is a result of individual's thoughts and feelings, but individuals thoughts and feelings are inferred from his expressed or overt behaviour. Behaviours which contain learning, problem solving, perceiving are the overt behaviour, on the other hand, behaviours like dreaming, imaging, memorizing represents covert behaviour.
- Behaviour which is result or caused through or occurs because of others attendance or influence is described social behaviour. Whenever our psychological processes of perceiving, learning, motivating, decision making etc. are influenced through or a result of or occur in a social context, these processes are described as social perception, social learning, social motivations, group conventionality respectively. These behaviours which have a social context and occur in social environment and involve social stimuli are the main subject matter of social Psychology.



- The social thoughts and actions are taken by individuals. They might be influenced by the society. But the thought and actions are of the individuals, and not groups. The social Psychology has a very strong focus on individuals, and tries to understand the behaviour of individuals. It also tries to understand various environmental influences on social thought and actions, viz., Culture, social norms, etc. Still the focus of the social Psychology enquiry is individual.
- Human social behaviour and thoughts are caused by many things. Social psychology would try to understand them. Some of these factors are Cognitive process, environment, Culture, Biological factors, Genetics, Neurological factors etc.

