This is because an individual is a self-concept in a social context in which one’s behaviour occurs (Abrams and Hogg 2001). Particularly, understanding how well one's psychological needs are fulfilled within a social context is helpful in explaining the underlying motivational process from an individual's psychological perspective (Malhotra, Galletta, and Kirsch 2008). Understanding user motivation for evaluating online content: A self-determination theory perspective. Article. Full-text available.

Positive social identity is, in this regard, attained through the establishment of a positive distinctiveness of the in-group from the relevant out-groups through a process of social comparison. How the Poor Deal with Their Own Poverty: A Social Psychological Analysis from the Social Identity Perspective. The collective self is achieved by inclusion in large social groups and contrasting the group to which one belongs (i.e., the in-group) with relevant out-groups. That is, the collective self contains those aspects of the self-concept that differentiate in-group members from members of relevant out-groups. The collective self relies on intergroup comparison processes and is associated with the motive of protecting or enhancing the in-group (Brewer & Gardner, 1996). We assume that these three self-representations coexist within the same individual. Levels of collective identity and self representations. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 71, 83-93. 4 individual self, relational self, collective self.