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ASSIGNMENT

IN ABOUT 2-PAGES REVIEW CHAPTER 15,”AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP”,IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS PAGES 194 -200

A pressure group promotes it interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred to as THE FUNCTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE. This ideas of a pressure group represented different function but most especially the professional body, which is usually done through their occupations or proffesions . For example, Nigeria bar association[nba] which represented the lawyers and solicitors, while the Nigeria associations represented the doctors interests etc.

According to Anifowose 1999, pressure groups could be defined as the interest groups, lobby groups,or even protest groups, pressure groups came into existence to complement ,enhance,or even to protect the interest of their members or groups. In nature, this groups could be religious, business like, educational, ethnic oriented, gender sentitive, economic or social

Pressure groups and political parties may look similar but they are not the same. The first thing is the political powers seeks and determines powers but the pressure groups is just at the interest of seeking interest and achieving goals together. Secondly, the political parties have a wide range of politicies while the pressure groups only narrows their goals. Also, political parties donot account for any of their actions but political parties do account for it. Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of the people in the society and to treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among themselves , to encourage participation and to enhance good accountability in out daily society. However, while pressure group are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society, problems can arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups, but sometimes, due to the selifish interest of some of our leaders, in the pressure group they go for cheats and fail the trust the other members of the group has for them.

Most pressure groups that we are all familiar with includes;

* Trade unions
* business and farming
* Labour unions
* Churches and mosques.

The following types of pressure group buttress on the different types of pressure group we have as we have seen the examples;

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUP

- INTEREST GROUP:This group is also seen as sectional group, representing the people in the society.

- CAUSE GROUP: This are promotional groups which promotes a particular cause. Eg, charities and environmental groups.

- INSIDERS AND OUTSIDES GROUP: The insiders group are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators while the OUTSIDERS GROUP on the other parts are the groups which as no link or access to the governments and its machineries

- ANOMIC GROUPS: This type of group are the ones who have predicatable actions and behaviours as they work based on the moments and situations in the society. They are not guided or have a particular style they were suppose to follow or way of life they should concentrate upon.

- ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS AND NON- ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS: The associational group are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country .All this types of groups have their own offices, constitution, etc while the non associational groups on the other hands are pressure groups without no formal organizations. Their organizations are by virtue of kinship or even family members.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

The pressure groups are usually involved with so many functions of which some of them includes:

* They serves as a link between the governments and the people
* They also promotes participations with the governments
* They serve as a source of information to governments
* They stop the government from being dictatorial and not listening to the voices of the people.
* They promote the interests of the minorities.
* They are the voices of the people.

INFLUENCING LEGISLATION

The pressure groups are very important and they perform different specific functions not the predominant ones are that they are very instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefits of the people. They also put pressure on the governments to influence its policy, change a policy direction, withdraws entirely a particular policy that does not favour their members or the citizenry.

PRESSURE GROUPS LOBBYING

Pressure groups mat adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political actions [organized protest].The pressure groups lobby are in diverse ways. They lobby with the government officials directly.

The pressure groups also makes use of the stiking as their ways of making their voices known to the people at large.