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Summary of Chapter 15

A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue it seeks to influence government policies. The pressure groups is referred to as The Functional Representative. The idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. This is usually done through their occupations or professions. Example Nigeria Bar Association, Academic Staff Union of Universities.

According to Anifowose pressure group is described as interest group,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. Political Parties and Pressure Groups activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. The first distinction is that political parties is to seek political powers while pressure groups do not seek political power but they aim to influence government decisions.

Political parties came to existence is to checkmate and make democracy better to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. Pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society, problems can rise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups. In this situation the voice of the small group of people

Types of Pressure Groups

Interest Groups: This group Is also seen as sectional groups, represented people in the society. Like the CBI (confederation of British Industry)

Cause Groups: these are groups for promotion which seek to promote particular causes

Insider Groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigerian Bar Association is an example of such groups. However an insider group may be high or low in profile nevertheless they intend to have influence on governments missions and visions.

Anomic Groups: Groups here have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule, and they may sometimes act violently.

Associational Groups: these are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state of country. Also these groups have their own registered offices constitutions and so on.

Features of Pressure Groups

1 the pressure groups serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it’s governs. Pressure groups stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitize the people on such matter and at the same time relate to the government

2 it promotes public participation in the activities of the government of the day

3 it also serves as the source of information to government. They lobby government on various fronts, the interaction agreed the government valuable

4 it helps to curtail dictatorial tendencies

5 it helps in the promotion of the interest of the minority

6 they help in influencing the legislation. They are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on the government so that it can implement policies that are benefiting to the citizens

Pressure Groups Lobbying

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. Some pressure groups exert more influence than the others. Eg civil rights groups, trade unions, and professional associations.

Pressure Groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with governmental officials directly. For example, the lobby with governmental officials directly. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives. They may sponsor the bills in legislative houses and contracts legislators to ensure passage of the bills.