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AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

UNDERSTANDING PRESSURE GROUP:

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into dang something. This makes a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding on issue. It seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred to as the functional representative . According to Anifowose [1998] pressure group is described as interest groups ,lobby groups, or even protest groups . Pressure groups came into existence to complement ,enhance or even to protect the intrest of their members or groups [ oyeleye 1998] .pressure group existence is to checkmate and make democracy better to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society while pressure group have their importance place in the scheme of things in a nation , there is some downside . sometimes, due of their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government’s limited resources.

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

INTEREST GROUP: This group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, the trade units, for instance , CBI[Confederation of British Industry]

CAUSE GROUPS: These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups. For instance , we can see the Amnesty International, which campaign for the need to end human right abuses.

INSIDER GROUPS AND OUTSIDER GROUP: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigeria Bar Association [NBA] is an example of such groups.

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 behavioural style or rule, and they may sometimes act violently.

ASSOCIATED GROUPS AND NON ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. On the other hand, non associational groups are pressure group without a formal organization.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

LINKS GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE: One of the functions of pressure groups is that it serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs. Pressure groups stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitise the person on such matter .

PROMOTES PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT : Another function of pressure groups is that it promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day. Some pressure groups engage in demonstrations and other measures to put their views across to the government.

SERVING AS SOURCES OF INFORMATION TO GOVERNMENT: Another function of pressure groups lobby government on various fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues they may not even be aware of.

CURTAILING OF DICTATORIAL TENDENCIES: Also,the activities of pressure groups ensures that governments do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.

PROMOTION OF THE INTEREST OF THE MINORITY: Again, pressure groups champion the right of the under privileged ,especially promotional pressure groups. As they go about their activities, they ensure that the interests of minority groups are not trampled upon by the government.

INFLUENCING LEGISLATION: Another function of pressure groups is that they are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens.

PRESSURE GROUPS: Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy ,and direct political action.[e,g ,organized protests] .pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with governmental officials directly. Also, pressure groups may sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.