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NURSING

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

Understanding Pressure Group

A pressure group promote its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred to as ‘The Functional Representative’. We have different pressure groups which represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. For example, Academic Staff Union of Universities [ASUU]which champions the interests of academics and condition of learning in Nigeria’s universities. In nature, these groups could be religious, business-like,educational,ethnic-oriented,gender-sensitive,economic,or social,among others. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are:ASUU,Afenifere,Oodua people’s congress[OPC], Christian Association of Nigeria[CAN].

Pressure groups and political parties activities may appear similar but are different from each other. Political parties seek to gain government powers,while pressure groups do not. Another is, political parties have a wide range of policies,where as pressure groups narrow their goals.

Types of Pressure Groups

We have five [5] types, namely:

1. Interest groups
2. Cause groups
3. Insider groups and Outsider group
4. Anomic groups
5. Associational groups and Non-associational groups.

* Interest groups: This group can also be referred to as sectional groups representing the people in the society. For example, the Trade units.
* Cause groups: These groups are mainly promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, Charities and environmental groups.
* Insider groups and Outsider groups: The insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigerian Bar Association [NBA] is an example of such groups while Outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. Examples are the Animal Liberation Front.
* Anomic groups: These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule, and they may sometimes act violently. Protest, rioting, strikes and sometimes revolution are some of the means through which they mount pressure.
* Associational groups and Non-associational groups: Associational groups have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on, while Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization.

Functions of Pressure Groups

1. Links government to the people
2. Promotes participation in government
3. Serving as sources of information to government
4. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies
5. Promotion of the interest of the minority
6. Influencing legislation
7. Pressure groups lobbying.