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CHAPTER 15 REVIEW

UNDERSTANDING PRESSURE GROUP

To mount pressure is to persuade someone into doing something therefore a pressure group is an organized body whose fundamental goal is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the aim of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage.

The pressure group is often referred to as ‘THE FUNCTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE’ because they represent sectors of the society based on the functions and is often done through their occupation, and with the right pressure through the right channels and means, pressure groups are able to make the government listen to their biddings

They even go a long way to determine political structure of the society, those groups can be Religious, Educational, Economical, Social and so on examples are: ASUU [For academics], CAN [For Christian religion]. Pressure group and political party activities may sometime appear similar, but they are different because political parties seek to gain government power while pressure groups do not seek power, rather they influence political decisions. Pressure group existence is to checkmate and make democracy better to compensate the tyranny of majority of people in the society.

While pressure groups have their important place in the scheme of things in a nation, there is some downside. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the decision of the government while not considering the governments limited resources: when professional bodies like ASUU and NMA go on strike citizens suffer and government might be incapacitated due to shortage of funds to meet the requirements of those associations

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

* Interest groups: they represent the people in the society i.e. the trade union
* Cause groups: they seek to promote particular causes e.g. charity and environmental groups i.e. “THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL”
* Insider and Outsider groups: insider groups are regularly convolved by the government they have access to legislators and ministers. Examples NBA, while outsider groups have no access to the government, they use other means to impact, e.g. ‘The animal form’. They chaperone rights for animals.
* Anomic groups: these have unpredictable actions as they work due to the situation in the society, they are not guided by any rule and they may sometimes act violently, protest, nothing and strikes are some of the means through which through main pressure
* Association groups and non-associational groups: these are registered and they have offices, while non-associational are not registered, their gatherings are by virtue of kinship or family, rare, social traditions

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUP

1. They link the government to the people
2. They promote participation in government
3. They serve as source of information to the government
4. They curtail dictatorial tendencies
5. They promote the interest of the minority
6. They influence the legislation
7. Pressure groups lobbying

They may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, by lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action [e.g. organized protest]

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