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CHAPTER FIFTEEN

“ Understanding Pressure group”

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerece a person into doing something, this make a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put processing on any government policies and law is to it’s own advantage.

The pressure group is referred to as the functional representative. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their function. This is usually alone through the occupations.

**DEFINITION OF PRESSURE GROUP**

Pressure group is described as interest group, lobby group or even protest of even protect of even protect group. Pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhances or even to protest the interest of their members or group. In nature, these groups could be religious, business, like educational, ethnic concerned, gender sensitive, Economic or social among others e.g ASUU, NLC, NBA.

Pressure group do not account library of their actions while political parties do not account for their actions. Political parties are more organized then group. Pressure group and political policies live together to achieve social changes.

Pressure group existence is to check mate end make democracy better to compensate for the tyrancy of major of people in the society. Pressure groups problems can crises when democracy process becomes dominant by few specific group. Also due to the own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the dication of government decision.

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUP**

INTEREST GROUP: This grouping is also known as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, the trade units for instance, CBI ( Confederation of British Industry ) Known as the voice of business in the country, and in Nigeria, convention on Business Integration ( CBI )

CAUSE GROUP: These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, Charities and environmental groups. Any group that champions social movement is also seen as “cause group “.

ASSOCIATION GROUPS AND NON- ASSOCIATION GROUPS: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in the state/country. these groups also have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on. Then the non- associational groups are formed by pressure group without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions etc.

INSIDER GROUPS AND OUTSIDE GROUP: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to minsters. The Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) is an example of such groups. More so an insider group may be high or low in profile, nevertheless they intend to have influence on government’s mission. Otherwise, outside groups have no access or links to government and it’s machineries.

ANOMIC GROUPS: Have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the movement and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioural style and they may sometimes act violently.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

Promotes Participation in Government: this promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day. The activities of pressure groups therefore, promote political participation and carries the citizenry along

Links Government to the people: this serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs. They stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitise the people on such matter and at the same time relate to the government what the opinion of the people is .

Serving as sources of Information to Government: As 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: Criticism of government policies curtail any dictatorial tendency government may have. Also, the activities of pressure groups ensures that government do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.

Promoting of the internet of the Minority: pressure groups champion the rights of the under- privileged, especially promotional pressure groups. As they go about their activities, they ensure that the interest of the minority groups are not trampled upon by the government.

Influencing Legislation: They are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on a government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens.

Pressure Group’s Lobbying: pressure groups exert more influence than others. The degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals may depend on their ability to be recognized as legitimate by population, media, and by those in power. For example, civil groups, trade unions, and professional associations are more widely recognized and accepted than newly formed pressure groups.

Pressure Group Lobby in so many ways. They lobby with government officials directly, For example the lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries. s