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Review of chapter fifteen

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP.**

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 functions. According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups. What pressure group seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings.

Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar but they are different from each other. The first distinction is that political parties seek to gain government powers, while on the other hand, pressure groups do not seek to gain power, and rather, their aim is to influence political decisions. Pressure group existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. Also pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their actions, while political parties do account for their actions. For example, when you vote for a political party during election period that is to make them accountable. Political parties are more formally organised than the pressure groups.

While pressure groups have their importance 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 direction of government decisions, while not considering government’s limited resources.

**Types of pressure groups**

* *Interest groups*: this group is seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, the trade units.
* *Cause group*: these groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups. For instance, we can see the almighty international, which campaign for the need to end human right abuses.
* *Insider groups and outsider groups*: insider groups are regular consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) is an example of such groups. On the other hand outsider groups have no access to links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact.
* *Anomic group*: groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviour 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.
* *Associational groups and Non- Associational groups*: associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country, also, these groups have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on. On other hand, non- associational groups are pressure group without a formal organisation.

**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 its governs. Pressure groups 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.
* *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 measure to put their views across to the government.
* *Serving as sources of information to government*: another function of pressure groups is that they as sources of information to the government.
* Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies: 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:* pressure groups champion the rights 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.

**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 for example organised protests. Some 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 recognised as legitimate by the population, media, and by those in power.Pressure Groups lobbying in so many ways. They lobby with governmental official directly. For example, they lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries. Also, pressure groups may sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.