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MATRIC NO: 19/MHS11/072

WRITE A REVIEW ON CHAPTER 15: AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP.

The pressure group is referred to as “ The Functional Representative”. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. This means a pressure group is 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.

Pressure groups and political parties may appear similar, but they are different from each other. The first distinction is that political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups do not seek to gain power rather their aim is to influence political decisions. Secondly, political parties have wide range of policies while pressure groups narrow their goals. Pressure groups existence is to check mate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society.

Sometimes, due to their own self interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions while not considering governments limited resources.

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

- a. Interest groups
They are also seen as sectional groups representing the people in the society
- b. Cause groups
They are promotion groups which seek to promote a particular cause
- c. Insider and outsider groups
Insider groups are regularly consulted by government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators e.g Nigerian bar association. Outsider groups have no access to government and its machineries.
- d. Anomic groups
Groups here have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. They may sometimes behave violently.
- e. Associational and Non-Associational Groups
Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country while non-associational groups have no formal organization.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

- a. Links Government to the People
It serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs.
- b. Promotes Participation In Government
It promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day.
- c. Serving as Sources of Information to Government
They serve as sources of information to the government.
- d. Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies
Government policies curtail any dictatorial tendency government may have.
- e. Promotion of the Interest of the Minority
They ensure that the interests of minority groups are not trampled upon by the government.

POLITICAL SOCIALISATION

Political socialization is a learning process by which the norms associated with the performance of political roles as well as fundamental political values and guiding standards of political behavior are learned.

TYPES OF POLITICAL SOCIALISATION

- a. Direct and manifest socialization : a process in which the content of the transmitted information, values or feeling is clearly political.
- b. Indirect or latent socialization : an individual as a result of his relationship with parents and teachers may develop an attitude to authority in general.

AGENCIES OF POLITICAL SOCIALISATION

- a. Agent of primary socialization : family, peer group, school, college, work place, political parties, religious institutions and mass media are some of the agents of socialization.
- b. Agents of secondary socialization : political parties, trade unions, membership of clubs.

IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL SOCIALISATION

- a. It brings enlightenment among the people.
- b. It brings efficiency in the working of the political system.
- c. It provides legitimacy to political system.
- d. It helps in the formation of the political culture.
- e. It helps in maintaining political culture.
- f. It prepares the people for political roles.
- g. It provides link between political system and social system.
- h. It provides knowledge about political matters.
- i. It provides stability to political system.

TIME-SPAN AND CHANGE IN SOCIALISATION

Time-span refers to the specific period or phase at which socialization takes place in an individual's life history.

Change refers to the consequences of political socialization on the patterns of authority within the polity.

FAMILY SOCIALISATION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- a. Authority patterns in the family : the individual's predisposition to participate in, or withdraw from politics may be influenced by his early relationship with his parents.
- b. Influencing legislation : pressure groups can act as instruments in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefits of the citizens.
- c. Pressure groups' lobbying : they lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries.

