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CHAPTER 15

Understanding pressure Group

To mount pressure is to persuade someone into doing ^{something} ~~some~~ thing. Therefore a pressure group is an organised 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

different sectors of the society based on their 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, Economic, Social and so on examples are: ASUU (for Academics) (ANI (for Christians), pressure groups and political parties activities may

sometimes appear similar, but they are different because political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups do not seek power, rather they influence ^{political} decisions. Pressure groups' existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to ^{compensate for} the tyranny of majority of people in the society.

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} decisions of the government while not considering the government's limited resources. i.e: 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

4. Interest Groups - They represent the people in the society i.e. a union. The Trade
- ii. Cause Groups - They seek to promote particular causes e.g. Charity and Environmental groups i.e. "THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FROM"
- iii. Insider and Outsider Groups - Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government, they have access to legislators & ministers. Example: NBA, while Outsider groups have no access to the government, they use other means to impact, e.g. "The Animal Liberation Front" they champion rights for animals.
- iv. 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 act violently, protest, rioting and strikes are some of the means through which they exert their pressure.
4. Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups - Associational groups are registered, and they have offices, while non-associational are not registered, their gatherings are by virtue of kinship or family, race, social traditions.

Functions of pressure groups

- i. They link the government to the people
- ii. They promote participation in government
- iii. They serve as source of information to the government
- iv. They curtail dictatorial tendencies
- v. They promote the interest of the minority
- vi. They influence the legislation
- vii. 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. 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 a people, population, media and those in power.