

GST 203

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Assignment

Do a review on chapter 15 " an overview of the Idea of pressure group"

Answer

Understanding pressure group

A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue. It seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred to as the "Functional Representative". Pressure group can be presented in professions and association like Nigeria Bar Association, Academic Staff Union of Universities. According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group can be described as interest group, lobbying group or even protest group. While Oyelele (1998) said pressure group came to existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of their members. This group influence both public policy, administration and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government.

Pressure groups and political parties are different from each other. The first difference is that political parties seek to gain interest while on the other hand pressure group aim to influence political decisions, political parties have a wide range of politics while pressure groups narrow their goals, the political parties are more organised than pressure group. Although they have their differences, but they both relate together to achieve a common goal. The existence of pressure group is to checkmate and make democracy better.

Types of Pressure Groups

1. Interest groups: this group is also seen as a sectional group, representing the people of the society. For example the trade units.
2. Cause groups: these groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes like environmental groups. They aim at achieving a single objective like protesting about the expansion of airports etc.
3. Insider groups and outsider groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers an example is Nigeria Bar Association. They tend to influence government mission and vision. While the outsider group have no access to the government. An example is sited in Animal Liberation Front. Groups under this category are radical because they are mostly defined by the government.
4. Anomic groups: These groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by appropriate rule or style.

5. Associational groups and non-associational groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation. Their arrangement are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment.

Functions of pressure groups

1. Links government to the people
2. Promotes participation in government
3. Serving as sources of information to government
4. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies
5. Promotion of interest of the minority
6. Influencing legislation

Pressure groups' lobbying

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and political action. Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with government officials directly. Pressure groups may sponsor bills in legislative house and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills