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ASSIGNMENT: IN ABOUT 2-PAGE REVIEW CHAPTER 15”AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP”.

Pressure group is defined as ‘’ a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any government institution with the goal of influencing government policies and decisions”. It is also known as “The Functional Group”. The purpose of pressure groups is to promote its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. It also helps to protect of their members or groups. These groups could be religious, educational, business-like, ethnic-oriented, economic or social in nature.

Pressure groups may appear similar to political parties but they are different from each other. First distinction is that political parties seek to gain power but pressure groups do not. Secondly, political parties have wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their goal. Lastly, pressure groups are not accountable for any of their actions but political parties account for their actions. The existence of pressure groups is to checkmate and make democracy better and to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society and to also encourage participation and treat the gaps in the democratic process. Even though pressure groups are important, there are still a few among them with selfish interest. Due to their selfish interest pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions.

There are types of pressure groups and they include; interest groups, cause groups, insider groups and outsider groups, anomic groups and associational and non-associational groups. Interest groups are groups that represent the people and they are also known as sectional groups, cause groups are groups that help to promote a particular cause and always aim at achieving a single objective, insider groups are groups that are usually consulted by the government while outsider groups have no access to government links or machineries, anomic groups are groups whose actions are unpredictable as the work based on the moment and situation in society, association groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country and they have their own registered offices while non-association are pressure groups without formal organization and are usually formed by virtue of kinship or family.

Functions of pressure groups include; links the government to the people (pressure groups serves as a link between the government and the people it governs. They stay up to date on matters of the government and help to sensitize the people on such matter and also relate to the government the opinion of the people), promotes participation in government (it helps to promotes participation in the activities of government of the day), serving as sources of information to government (it serve as sources of information and offer valuable information on issues they may not be aware of), curtailing of dictatorial tendencies (helps to ensure that the government does not perpetuates themselves in power thereby drifting into dictatorship), promotion of interest of minority (they ensure the interest on the minority are not trampled upon by the government and influencing legislation ( they help to put pressure on government to influence its policies, change policies direction and withdraw policies that do not favor the members of the society).

Pressure groups adopt various strategies in order to achieve their goal. In order to do so they lobby elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. They sometimes lobby through friends, children and other relatives. They also sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the bills are passsed.