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AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

To copulate with pressure is to plead with someone in doing something. It makes a particular group organized with the same interest whose basic aim is to put pressure on governmental organization with the purpose on any government law to its advantage. A pressure group contribute its interest regarding the issue. The pressure is referred to the functional representation, this is the plan that many pressure group represent different sections of the society based on the uses. It is done by the jobs and work that people do for example the Nigerian bar association (NBA) represents the lawyer and solicitors while the Nigerian medical association (NMA) represents the doctors purpose and the academic staff union of universities (ASUU) which brings out the purpose of academics and condition of learning in Nigerias universities

According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as interest, lobby and even protest. Pressure group came to enhance or protect the sympathy of their member. Oyeleye in 1998. Pressure group seek to achieve is to ensure government fulfil their request. Pressure group through the right means are able make government listen to them. These groups inspire both public administration and political structure of the society and in the forms of religious, business, educational, ethnic oriented, gender, economic or social for example ASUU, NBA, Arewa peoples congress (APC) representing the hausa tribe, Nigeria labour congress (NLC). Pressure groups and political parties may appear similar but they are different from each other. The first aim is that the political parties want to gain government power while on the other hand pressure group does not want to gain power but their aim is to persuade the political decision. The second is that political parties have a wide range of policies besides that pressure group narrow their goals. Pressure groups are not accountable for their actions while political parties get responsible for their actions for example, when you vote for a political parties during election period that makes them accountable. There are similarities between them which are that come together to achieve certain social changes

Types of pressure groups

1) Interest group: this group is also known as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. E.g trade union for instance the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) known as the voice of business, the country and in Nigeria.

2) Cause group: these group can be known as promotion group which seeks to promote specific purposes for example, charities and environmental groups. For instances, we can see the amnesty international which campaign for the need to end humans rights abuse. Any group that brings out social movement even

though it lacks formal structure . It always aim at achieving an objective like protesting

3) Insider groups and outside group: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government . They have regular access to ministers or legislators.NBA is an example of such groups, they intend to have influence on government mission and visions. On the other hand, outsiders groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries e.g Animal liberation front which serves right for animal

4) Anomic groups: Groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the situation in the society. These group are not guided by appropriate behavioural style or rule and some act aggressive. Protest,rioting strike are means which they mount pressure

Association 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 the other hand, non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation. Their arrangement and gathering are virtue of kinship or even race affliction

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 the interest of the minority
- 6) Influencing legislation

Pressure groups lobbying

Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with governmental officials directly e.g they lobby legislators,ministers and other government machineries. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends,spouses, children and other relatives