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An Overview of the Idea of Pressure Group

Pressure group is an organize body with common interest coming together to influence the government policies and decisions to its own advantage. The concept of Pressure group cannot be explained without group theory, that is according to Arthur Bentley under the group theory, groups are the basic political life and with reflections of statist. In addition to Bentley's opinion is that group activities are determined by legislature and adjudication.

The concept of Pressure group was originated from US, that is their motive is to represent the people and association through the youth of pressure to influence governmental decisions and policies.

Types of pressure groups

1. Anomic group: they are groups usually originated from certain event, this kind of pressure group naturally expresses their dissatisfaction with their smokly accusation towards the government. This group create pressure on the country's political system through protest, riot, assassinations etc. For example End Sara

2. Associational 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. Also, these groups have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on. On the other hand, non - associational groups are pressure group without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions, just to mention few.

3. Interest groups

This group is also seen in sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, the trade units CBI ( Confederation of British Industry) known as the voice of business in the country, and in Nigeria, convention on Business Integration ( CBI).

4. Cause groups

These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups. For instance, we can see the Amnesty International, which campaign for the need to end humanright abuses. Any group that champions social movement is also seen as cause group, even though the group lacks formal structure.

4. Insider groups and outsider groups

Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigeria Bar Association ( NBA) is an example of such groups. They intend to have influence on government' s mission and visions. On the other hand, outside groups have no access or links to the government and it's machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact. Examples of this set of grouos are the Animal Liberation Front, Earth Liberation Front. However, insider and outsider group changes from time based on the party or government in power.

Functions of Pressure Groups

1. Links government to the people

One of the functions of Pressure Groups is that it serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs.

2. Promotes participation in government:

It promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day. Some pressure groups engage in demonstration and other measures to put their I iews across to the government.

3. Serving as source of information to government

As the pressure groups lobby government on various fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues to to they may not even be aware of .

4. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies

Criticism of government policies curtail any dictatorial tendency government may have. Also, the activities of pressure groups ensures that governments do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.

5. Promotion of interest to of the minority:

Pressure groups champion the rights of the under - privileged, especially promotional pressure groups. As they go about their activities, they ensure that the interests of minority groups are not trampled upon by the government. This, pressure groups act as watchdogs on the government.

6. Influencing legislation:

Pressure groups are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens. Pressure groups put pressure on government to influence its policy, change a policy direction, withdraw entirely a particular policy that does not favour their members or the citizenry.

Techniques used by the pressure group to achieve their goal

- lobbying elected officials: pressure groups mostly influence their actions through inner actors of the governmental bodies to execute their plans. Pressure group knows best time to strike decisions to get audience or attention of the people or governments.

- Media advocacy

- direct political action ( e.g organized protests)