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REVIEW OF CHAPTER 15

AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

Understanding Pressure group:

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This makes a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim 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 referred to as the "Functional Representative" due to the fact that they represent different sectors of the society.

According to Anifowose (1999), pressure group are "interest groups, lobby or protest groups". What pressure groups seeks to achieve is that government does their biddings. With some pressure through the right channel and means, they can get the attention of the government.

Pressure groups and political parties may seem similar but are different. The first distinction is that political parties seek to gain government powers but pressure groups aim to influence political decisions. Second, political parties have a wide range of policies but pressure groups narrow their goals. Also pressure groups are not responsible for any of their actions but political parties are responsible for their actions.

Pressure groups and political parties come together to achieve social changes.

Pressure groups existence is to checkmate and make democracy better but pressure groups have disadvantages such as altering government decisions due to selfish interest.

Types of pressure groups

- Interest groups which are also seen as sectional groups representing people of the society.

- Cause groups which are known as promotion groups to promote particular causes.

- Insider groups and Outsider groups which are consulted by the government and have access to ministers and legislators. Outsider groups have no access to government but use other ways to make impact.

- Anomic groups have unpredicted actions and work based on the situation and moment in society. They mount pressure through protests, strikes and others.

Associational groups and non associational groups: Associational groups are registered with the government while non associational groups are not. They functional through social traditions, family associations, and others.

Functions of Pressure groups:

Links government to the people, promotes participation in government, serving as sources of information to government, curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, promotion of the interest of the minority, influencing legislation.

Pressure Groups Lobbying:

Pressure groups may apply some strategies to achieve their goals for example, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and the likes. Some pressure groups apply more pressure than others depending on their ability to be recognized and so on.

Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with government officials directly through friends, spouses, or relatives. Also pressure groups may sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of bills.