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ASSIGNMENT

Pressure group is a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. It is referred to as "the functional representative" which gives the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions.

What pressure groups aim to achieve is to ensure that the government do their biddings and with some pressure through the right means and channels make the government listen to them. These groups could be religious, business-like, economic, social, and educational among others. Pressure groups and political parties may sometimes appear similar but they are different from each other. Pressure groups may align their interest with that of certain political parties that are believed to possess the capability to further their interest. The difference includes;

Political parties seek to gain to gain governmental powers while pressure groups do not.

Political parties have a wide range of policies whereas pressure groups have narrow goals.

Pressure groups are not accountable for their actions while political parties account for their actions.

Political parties are more formally organized than pressure groups.

Pressure groups existence is to checkmate and make democracy better. However, while pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to the democratic process, problems can arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups or when there is refusal to compromise in order to reach a consensus regarding the common good of the society.

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

Interest groups: these groups are also seen as sectional groups representing the people of the society.

Cause groups: they are promotional groups which seek to promote particular causes.

Insider and outsider groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and have

regular access to ministers or legislators. Outsider groups have no access to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact.

Anomic groups: they are groups that have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society.

Associated and non-associated groups: associational groups are groups that are registered with the appropriate authorities in a state or country. Non- associational groups are groups without a formal organization.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

- It links the government to the people
- Promotes participation in government
- It serves as a source of information to the government
- It curtails dictatorial tendencies
- It promotes the interest of the minority
- It influences legislation

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goal, including lobbying elected Individuals, media advocacy and direct political action. Pressure groups lobby in so many ways either by sponsoring bills in legislative houses and contacting legislators to ensure the passage of bills or lobbying with government officials directly.