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Assignment: Write a 2 page review of chapter 15

AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

There are many definitions of pressure groups. According to Anifosewe (1999) they are Interest,

lobby or even protest groups. It is basically a formal or organized body with common interest

whose main aim is to influence government decisions by putting pressure on them.

They are referred to as the functional representative. They represent various Interest

and sectors n the society based on their functions. In Nigeria there are many examples, like Nigeria

Bar Association for lawyers and Nigeria medical association for doctors. Their functions

influence both public policy and administration. This may not be the case everytime but it

helps. Political parties are not pressure groups are there are many differences between them

and pressure groups;

• Pressure groups influence government decisions but they do not seek government

powers.

• Pressure groups help achieve social change with political parties.

• Pressure groups narrow their goals but political parties do not.

• Pressure groups are informally organised unlike properties that are formally organized.

Pressure groups are very useful in the democratic process they work closely with political

parties to achieve social changes, they serve as watchdogs and checkmate to prevent the

tyranny of the majority ,they also create awareness and promote good accountability in the

society daily. We should also be careful when it comes to pressure groups, when the

democratic process become dominated by specific pressure groups people that have narrow

interest become highly influential. In democracy there is need for compromise and if they

refuse to compromise and remain rigid and uncompromising they can monopolise the democratic process.

Types of Pressure Groups

1. INTEREST GROUPS

They are sectional groups and represent people in the society. An example is the trade

units Convention of Business Integration.(CBI).

2. CAUSE GROUPS

They are promotion groups and seek to promote particular causes are Charities and

environmental groups. Like Amnesty International.

3. INSIDER AND OUTSIDER GROUPS

Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and they have regular access

to legislators and ministers eg is NBA that is Nigerian Bar Association. They tend to have

influence on government vision and missions.

4. ANOMIC GROUPS

They have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on moment and

situation in the society. They are not guided by adequate behavioural styles and rule.

They may sometimes act violently.

5. ASSICIATIONAL AND NON ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS

Associational groups are usually registered with adequate authorities in the state or

country. Non associational groups do not have a formal organisation.

The functions of pressure groups are as follows:

• Promotes Participation in Government

• Links government to the people

• Influence legislation

• Promote minority interest

• Provide the government with information

Pressure groups’ Lobbying :Their are many way that pressure groups achieve their

goals some are lobbying and direct political participation and media advocacy. They

lobby in many ways example lobbying legislators and government officials and they may

also sponsor legislative Bill’s and ensure passage of bills.