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CHAPTER 15

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONCEPT OF PRESSURE GROUP

According to this article by Maito S. Ajibowu-Yekini, “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 goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage.” This gives the reader a general idea as to what pressure and pressure groups are. Pressure groups seek to ensure that government does their biddings. They influence both public policy, administration, and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. Their existence is for the better interest of the people and to make democracy better to compensate for the inadequacies of the government.

The concept of pressure groups cannot be explained without the theory I.e according to Arthur Bentley, pressure groups are the basis of political lifeand the rejection statistic abstraction. Bentley's opinions is that group activities are determined by legislation ,administration and adjudication.

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

(I) interest groups

(II) cause groups

(III)insider and outsider groups

(IV)anomic groups

(V)associational and non-associational groups.

INTEREST GROUPS represent the people in the society like trade units, while CAUSE GROUPS are promotion groups which seek to promote particular causes like charities and environmental groups. INSIDE GROUPS are regularly consulted by the government and can be high or low in profile. On the other hand, OUTSIDE GROUPS have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact. ANOMIS GROUPS however, have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS are usually registered and have their own offices and constitutions. However, NON ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS are pressure groups without a formal organization.

Furthermore, the functions of pressure groups have to be faced. These include how they link the government to the people, how they promote participation in government; serve as sources of information to the government; curtail dictatorial tendencies; promote the interest of the minority; how they influence legislation, and how they lobby. All these functions they perform are all in the favor of the citizens; to promote the interest of the general public. Examples of these pressure groups are civil rights groups, trade unions, and professional associations.