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GST 203 ASSIGNMENT

CHAPTER 15: THE OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

Pressure group are a formal or organised 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. Pressure groups represent various sectors of the society based on their functions, for example, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) represents lawyers and solicitors, while Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) represents doctors' interests. In nature, pressure groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic-oriented, gender sensitive, economic or social among others. The difference between pressure groups and political parties is that political parties seek to gain governmental power while pressure groups do not. The similarity between them is that they both aim to achieve social changes. While pressure groups have important place in the scheme of things in the nation, there is a downside. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interests, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government's limited resources.

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

*Interest groups:* Sectional groups representing people in the society.

*Cause groups*: These are promotion groups that seek to promote a particular cause for example, charities and environmental groups.

*Insider groups and Outsider groups*: Insider groups are groups that are regularly consulted by the government having regular access to ministers and legislators, for example, the Nigerian Bar Association. On the other hand, Outsider groups have no access to the government or its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact.

*Anomic groups*: Groups that have unpredictable actions as they act based on the situation of the society at that moment.

*Associational Groups and Non-Associational groups:* Associational Groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. On the other hand Non-Associational groups are arranged by virtue of kinship or family attachment, social traditions, tribal or race affliction therefore, have no formal organisation.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

1. Links government to the people

2. Promotes participation in government

3. Serving as sources of information to the government

4. Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies. Criticism of government curtails any dictatorial tendency

5. Promotion of the interests of the minority, especially promotional groups.

6. Influencing legislation

PRESSURE GROUP LOBBYING.

Pressure groups lobby elected officials, media to exert more influence than others