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19/mhs01/385

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"An Overview of the Idea of Pressure Group." It takes us into understanding the concept of pressure groups, highlights and explains the types of pressure groups, as well as the functions they perform.

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.

Types of Pressure Groups

1. Interest groups: this group is also seen as a sectional group, representing the people of

the society. For example the trade units.

2. Cause groups: these groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes like environmental groups. They aim at achieving a single objective like protesting about the expansion of airports etc.

3. Insider groups and outsider groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers an example is Nigeria Bar Association. They tend to influence government mission and vision. While the outsider group have no access to the government. An example is cited in Animal Liberation Front. Groups under this category are radical because they are mostly defined by the

government.

4. Anomic groups: These groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by appropriate rule or style.

5. Associational groups and non-associational groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation. Their arrangement are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment.

Functions of pressure groups

1. Links government to the people
2. Promotes participation in government
3. Serving as sources of

information to government

4. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies

5. Promotion of interest of the minority

6. Influencing legislation

Pressure groups' lobbying

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and political action.

Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with government officials directly. Pressure groups may sponsor bills in legislative house and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.