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SUMMARY OF CHAPTER FIFTEEN

AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as " interest groups , lobby goups or even protest groups". Pressure groups came to existence to complement ,enhance or even ptotect the ineterest of their memebers or groups (olayele, 1998). A pressure group promotes its interest regarding issues. it seeks to influence the decisions and policies of the government. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria include the following:

* ASUU
* Oodua People's Congress.
* Christain Association of Nigeria.
* Nigerian Labour Congress.
* Nigeria Bar Association.... etc.

Pressure groups existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of prople in the society. it also treats the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among oursleves, to encourage participants and to enhance good accountability in our daily soiciety.

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

1) Interest Groups: They represent people in the society. examples are trade units usch as Conventon on business integraton , etc.

2) Cause Groups: These groups seek to promote particular causes.An Example is the Amnesty International, which campaigns for the nedd to end human rights abuse.

3)Insider Groups and Outsider Groups: Insider groups re groups usually regulated by the government while outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. example of insider groups is the Nigerian Bar Association. Examples of the outsider groups are the Animal Liberation Front, the Earth Liberation Front, etc.

4) Anomic Groups: These groups have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on the current situation or moments in the society. They are not guidede by an appropriate style or rule and they sometimes can act violently . An example is the protest groups.

5) Associational Groups and Non Associatonal Groups:Associatonal groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in astate or country. While Non-Associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS.

1)Pressure groups serve as a link between the government of the day and the people what it governs. They stay up to date on relevant informations and are able to communicate with the people on such matters and at the same time relate with the government on the opinion of the people.

2)Pressure groups promote public participation in the activities of the government of the day. They also engage in demonstrations and other activities to put their views across to the government.

3) Pressure groups serve as sources of information to the government.

4) Pressure groups criticise government policies an ensures that the government doesnt perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.

5) Pressure groups champion the rights of the under-priveledged, especially the promotional pressure groups. They ensure that the interests of the minority groups are not trampled upon by the governement.

6) Pressure groups are instrumental in the mounting of presuure on the government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens.

Pressure groups adopt various strategies in the achieving of their goals including lobbying.Pressure groups lobby in so many ways through elected officials, media advocacy,and direct political actions. They lobby with governmental officials directly. For example they lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries.