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Pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. Pressure group is 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. It is referred to as “the functional representative” which gives the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. Pressure group was formulated by the US.

What pressure groups aim to achieve is to ensure that the government do their biddings and with some pressure through the right means and channels make the government listen to them. These groups could be religious, business-like, economic, social, and educational among others. Pressure groups and political parties may sometimes appear similar but they are different from each other. Pressure groups may align their interest with that of certain political parties that are believed to possess the capability to further their interest. The difference includes;

Political parties seek to gain to gain governmental powers while pressure groups do not.

Political parties have a wide range of policies whereas pressure groups have narrow goals.

Pressure groups are not accountable for their actions while political parties account for their actions.

Political parties are more formally organized than pressure groups.

Pressure groups existence is to checkmate and make democracy better. However, while pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to the democratic process, problems can arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups or when there is refusal to compromise in order to reach a consensus regarding the common good of the society.

Types of pressure groups

Interest groups: these groups are also seen as sectional groups representing the people of the society.

Cause groups: they are promotional groups which seek to promote particular causes.

Insider and outsider groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and have regular access to ministers or legislators. Outsider groups have no access to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact. The insiders and outsiders are switched according to the government that is in power.

Anomic groups: they are groups that have unpredictable actions and behavior. They can just wake up anytime and form a group as it calls for it. They work based on the moment and situation in the society. They are not guided by an appropriate style and this can lead to violence. An example is this just concluded END SARS PROTEST.

Associated and non-associated groups: associational groups are groups that are registered with the appropriate authorities in a state or country. Non- associational groups are groups without a formal organization.

There are different functions that the pressure groups perform

It links the government to the people. The pressure group links the government and the peoples together they carry their complaints and their ideas to the government in other for them to solve it.

Promotes participation in government. The pressure group help the citizens to participate in government in one way or the other. It promotes political participation

It serves as a source of information to the government. As the pressure group lobby’s the government it creates room for the exchange of information and even on aspects that they may not even be aware of.

It curtails dictatorial tendencies. The pressure group helps to cub act or tendency of dictatorship and ensure that the government do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into dictatorship.

It promotes the interest of the minority. The pressure group helps to make sure that the majority of under privileged is not taken for granted. They are the watch dogs of the government.

They also influence legislature that is they are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on the government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefits of the citizens.

Pressure group can perform lobby in so many ways. they lobby with governmental association more and directly. The degree to which pressure group can make impact depends on how well known they are in a society.

Therefore, a pressure group is very important in a state. It has so many advantages more than disadvantages