NAME: OWOLABI LYDIA IYANUOLUWA

DEPARTMENT: MEDICINE AND SURGERY

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COURSE: GST 203

REVIEW OF CHAPTER 15 ( An Overview Of The Idea Of Pressure Group)

Pressure is a situation whereby pressure is mounted or coerced unto a person in order to make them carry out an activity. Hence, a 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. A pressure group promotes its interests regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred as the “ Functional representative”. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. This is achieved through their occupation or profession.

Pressure groups and political parties activities may sometimes be similar but they are different. Political parties seek to gain government powers, and pressure groups don’t try to gain power. Also, political parties have a wide range of goals while pressure groups have limited goals. Pressure groups are not accountable for their actions while political parties can account for their actions. Despite their differences, pressure groups and political parties associate together to achieve certain social changes. Pressure groups could also align their interests with political parties that are believed to possess the capability to further their interests. The existence of pressure group is to checkmate and make democracy better, and also to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. They also treat gaps in the democratic process to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations and to enhance good accountability in our daily society.

Types Of Pressure Groups

* Interest groups
* Cause groups
* Insider and outsider groups
* Anomic groups
* Associational groups and non-associational groups

Functions of Pressure Groups

* Links government to the people
* Promotes participation in government
* Servicing as sources of information to government
* Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies