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Pressure Groups

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/pressure-groups-mind-map

Introduction

- ❑ A pressure group:
 - group of people organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest
 - attempts to bring a change in public policy by exerting pressure on the govt
 - acts as a liaison between the govt and its members
 - also called interest groups or vested groups
 - different from the political parties in that they neither contest elections nor try to capture political power

Techniques Used by Pressure Groups

- ❑ **Electioneering:** placing in public office persons who are favourably disposed towards the interests the concerned pressure group seeks to promote
- ❑ **Lobbying:** persuading public officers, initially favourably disposed or not, to adopt and enforce the policies
- ❑ **Propagandizing:** influencing public opinion and gaining an indirect influence over govt

Characteristics of Pressure Groups

- ❑ Organises itself based on Certain Interests
- ❑ Use of Modern (like financing of political parties) as well as Traditional Means (exploitation of caste, creed and religious feelings to promote their interests)
- ❑ Resulting Out of Increasing Pressure and

- Resulting out of increasing pressure and Demands on Resources
- Pressure groups are primarily a consequence of inadequacies of the political parties
- Represent Changing consciousness of the people

Pressure Groups in India

The pressure groups in India can be broadly classified into the following categories:

- **Business Groups:**
 - Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
 - Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)
 - Federation of All India Foodgrain Dealers Association (FAIFDA), etc
- **Trade Unions:**
 - All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)
 - Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)
 - Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)
 - Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS)
- **Professional Groups:**
 - Indian Medical Association (IMA)
 - Bar Council of India (BCI)
 - All India Federation of University and College Teachers (AIFUCT)
- **Agrarian Groups:** All India Kisan Sabha, Bharatiya Kisan Union, etc
- **Student's Organisations:**
 - Akhila Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)
 - All India Students Federation (AISF)
 - National Students Union of India (NSUI)
- **Religious Groups:** Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS), Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Jamaat-e-Islami, etc
- **Caste Groups:** Harijan Sevak Sangh, Nadar Caste Association, etc
- **Linguistic Groups:** Tamil Sangh, Andhra Maha Sabha, etc
- **Tribal Groups:**
 - National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN)
 - Tribal National Volunteers (TNU) in Tripura
 - United Mizo Federal Organisation
 - Tribal League of Assam, etc
- **Ideology based Groups:**
 - Narmada Bachao Andolan
 - Chipko Movement

Pressure Groups

- Women's Rights Organisation
- India Against Corruption etc
- **Anomic Groups:**
 - Naxalite Groups
 - Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)
 - United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)
 - Dal Khalsa, etc

Functions, Role & Importance of Pressure Groups

- **Interest Articulation:** bring the demands and needs of the people to the notice of the decision-makers
- Act as agents of Political Socialisation
- Play a vital role in the legislative process by influencing legislators through advice or lobbying
- By lobbying with the bureaucracy, they are usually in a position to influence the process of policy implementation
- Play a leading role in the formulation of public opinion
- Help in improving the quality of govt
- Freely operating pressure groups are essential to the effective functioning of liberal democracy
- Facilitate social progress and preventing social stagnation
- Improve the accountability of decision makers to electorates

Shortcomings

- In India, Pressure Groups are organised around religious, regional and ethnic issues
- Become tools and implements to subserve political interests
- Most PGs do not have autonomous existence; unstable and lack commitment
- Allow too much influence over the govt. from unelected extremist minority groups

Conclusion

- PGs considered as an indispensable and helpful element of the democratic process
- Democratic politics has to be politics through consultation, through negotiation and some



- amount of bargaining is also involved
- ❑ Consulting these organised groups at the time of policy formulation and implementation is essential

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