

# PRESSURE GROUPS IN INDIA

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# Introduction:

- ❑ Today , there is no country in the world which is free from pressure groups.
- ❑ They try to influence and pressurize every political institutions to serve their own interests.
- ❑ Prof. Finer called these groups as “Anonymous Empires”.
- ❑ Richard D. Lambert regarded these groups as “unofficial governments”.
- ❑ These groups have no public but private interests and well organized groups of people engaged in solving their own problems.
- ❑ Pressure groups tries to influence the behaviour of government officials to get certain political decisions in their favour.

# Difference B/w PPs & PGs:

- 1.PPs tries to capture power but the latter do not.
- 2.Membership of the PPs is quite large but of the latter is confined to the members of the group.
- 3.PGs act behind the scene whereas the PPs come to the forefront & try to gain maximum popularity.
- 4.One can become the member of as many PGs as one pleases whereas one can be a member of only one PP.
- 5.For a PG interest of the nation can be subordinated to that of the group whereas a good PP will always keep the national interest above everything else.
- 6.PGs do not contest elections nor nominate one for elections whereas PPs are formed for the purpose of contesting the elections.
- 7The PPs take the responsibility of running the government whereas the PGs do not.

# Features of Pressure Groups in India:

PGs in India are comparatively of recent origin.

- 1.They do not openly support or oppose any political party- they always try to remain **neutral in politics**.
- 2.At the time of elections PPs approach religious and trade union leaders for their active support.
- 3.PGs interested in creating a situation of disorders & lawlessness for having **group advantage** out of political instability.
- 4.Quite often in India PGs are **overweighed by religious, caste & language** rather than ideological considerations.
- 5.In India PGs have **made slow progress** because of the Congress party & bureaucracy which distrusted & discouraged from them in to come into existence.
- 6.PGs help in articulation of interests, increase political consciousness and are the **reservoirs of political leadership**.

# Types of Pressure Groups in India:

## 1. Business Groups:

- These influences the governments, legislators & administrators.
- They liberally give donations to parties.
- They also make friendship with people in power.
- They try to win the favour of politicians & administrators in one or the other way.
- They use various means to influence the policies and laws of the government.
- Examples of business groups are-
- Federation of Indian Chamber of commerce & Industry,
- Indian Manufacturers Organization,
- Associated Chambers of Commerce,
- Business groups like the Tatas, Birlas, Ambanis, Dalmias, etc. these substantially influences upon governments.

# 2 Trade Unions/Labour

## Organisations:

- ❖ These influences the government to protect the interests of the labour class- improvement of the service conditions of the workers.
- ❖ We have a number of Trade unions in India, but they are not united like-
  - ❖ AITUC- All India trade union congress. (CPI)
  - ❖ INTUC-Indian National Trade union congress (Cong-I).
  - ❖ CITU- Central Indian Trade union (CPM).
  - ❖ HMS- Hindu Majdur Sabha- specialists.
  - ❖ BMS- Bhartiya Majdur Sangha (BJP).

# 3 Agrarian or Peasant Organisations:

- ❖ Sardar Patel organized the peasants under the INC in the form of All India Kissan Congress.
- ❖ These groups fight for protecting their interests like implementation of land reforms, decentralization of power, loans at lower rates of interest, crop loans, fertilizers at lower prices, stabilization of prices for agricultural products & so on.
- ❖ Examples of peasant organizations are like-
  - ❖ Raitha Sangha in Karnataka,
  - ❖ Hind Kissan Panchayats of the socialists, United Kissan Sabha of The Marxists,
  - ❖ Jharkhand Party of Bihar,
  - ❖ Peasants Party of Maharashtra, etc.

# 4 Religious or Cultural Organizations:

- ❖ These groups seek to protect the interests of their respective communities.
- ❖ Some examples of such groups are like-
- ❖ RSS- Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Dal,
- ❖ Arya Samaj,
- ❖ Akalidal,
- ❖ Jamate Islami,
- ❖ Anglo- Indian Christian Association,
- ❖ Catholic Bishops Conference In India, etc.



# 5 Caste Organizations:

These try to protect the interests of their caste people through various means.

Example for these caste organizations are-

1. Schedule Caste Federation,
  2. Gujarath Kshatriya Sabha,
  3. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam,
- Vokkaliga Association,  
Lingayath Associations, etc.

# 6 Tribal Organisations:

These try to protect the interests of the tribal like for example-

1. The Jharkhand Party in Bihar & Orissa,
2. Naga National Conference,
3. Tribal Sangha of Assam,
4. Mizo National Front, etc

# 7 Linguistic groups:

Each group seeks to promote its own interests, like-

1. Andhra Mahasabha,
2. Tamil Sangh,
3. Kannada Chalavaligararu,
4. Hindi Sahithya Sammelan, etc.

# 8 Student & Youth Organizations:

These seeks to promote the interests of the students.

Mostly these belongs to one or the other political parties.

Only students union in Assam was able to captured power.

Examples for these are-

- 1.NSUI-National Students Union,
2. SFI- Students Federation of India,
3. ABVP- Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishath,
- 4.All Assam Students Union,
5. All India Sikh Students Federation, etc.

# Functions /role of PGs:

They discharge the following functions-

1. **Publicity & Propaganda:** by pressurizing governments to pass or not to pass certain Bills.
2. **Electioneering:** in favour of candidates or parties who will uphold their cause.
3. **Contacts:** with the government authorities, administrators & ministers to achieve their objectives.
4. **Molding Public Opinion:** to influence the government in an informal way.
5. **Movement:** organize strikes and movements to focuss the attention on burning issues.
6. **Work for a number of Causes:**

# Techniques of PGs:

- ❑ Different PGs adopt different techniques to realise their interests.
- ❑ For example organised groups like business groups employ certain techniques for the purpose of promoting their specific interests – like
  - ❑ 1. direct correspondence with the government.
  - ❑ 2. contact with the legislators & administrators.
  - ❑ 3. participation in the consultative committees of the various departments.
  - ❑ 4. supplying expertise to the ministers and their subordinate officials.
  - ❑ 5. lobbying that may cover payment of gratifications in cash or kind or both.
  - ❑ 6. Elections & meetings of the parties are financed by these groups.
  - ❑ They keep effective contacts with the bureaucrats through blood relationships or through personal friendships.
  - ❑ 7. They also give massive donations to the political parties to influence the legislators & ministers.

# Meaning of PGs:

PGs are also called as Interest Groups.

These are private associations formed to influence public policy in order to uphold their interests.

“PGs are private associations formed to influence public policy” -A.O.Key.

PGs emerge when people having similar interests in specific areas come together to form an association'

PGs adopt different techniques to protect their own interests.

These techniques differs from one group to another depending on its objectives.

# Nature of PGs:

1. **Represents diverse interests:** there are different groups with different interests.
2. **Unofficial Instruments:** as these are not mentioned in the constitution, these are called unofficial instruments of government.
3. **Temporary:** many of these groups in India loses their identity after achieving their objectives.
4. **PGs functions like PPs:** some of these groups functions like PPs during the times of elections.
5. **PGs are flexible groups:** these change on keeping their political identity.
6. **Not Ideologically oriented:** not ideologically oriented but they are anomic groups.
7. **Groupisms & selfishness:** there is groupism selfishness among the leaders of a group hence these cannot hold politically independent position.