



POS 114

**The Citizen and
The State**

Course Manual

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The Citizen and The State

POS114



University of Ibadan Distance Learning Centre
Ibadan Open and Distance Learning Course Series Development
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Vice-Chancellor's Message

The Distance Learning Centre is building on a solid tradition of over two decades of service in the provision of External Studies Programme and now Distance Learning Education in Nigeria and beyond. The Distance Learning mode to which we are committed is providing access to many deserving Nigerians in having access to higher education especially those who by the nature of their engagement do not have the luxury of full time education. Recently, it is contributing in no small measure to providing places for teeming Nigerian youths who for one reason or the other could not get admission into the conventional universities.

These course materials have been written by writers specially trained in ODL course delivery. The writers have made great efforts to provide up to date information, knowledge and skills in the different disciplines and ensure that the materials are user-friendly.

In addition to provision of course materials in print and e-format, a lot of Information Technology input has also gone into the deployment of course materials. Most of them can be downloaded from the DLC website and are available in audio format which you can also download into your mobile phones, IPod, MP3 among other devices to allow you listen to the audio study sessions. Some of the study session materials have been scripted and are being broadcast on the university's Diamond Radio FM 101.1, while others have been delivered and captured in audio-visual format in a classroom environment for use by our students. Detailed information on availability and access is available on the website. We will continue in our efforts to provide and review course materials for our courses.

However, for you to take advantage of these formats, you will need to improve on your I.T. skills and develop requisite distance learning Culture. It is well known that, for efficient and effective provision of Distance learning education, availability of appropriate and relevant course materials is a *sine qua non*. So also, is the availability of multiple plat form for the convenience of our students. It is in fulfillment of this, that series of course materials are being written to enable our students study at their own pace and convenience.

It is our hope that you will put these course materials to the best use.



Prof. Isaac Adewole

Vice-Chancellor

Foreword

As part of its vision of providing education for “Liberty and Development” for Nigerians and the International Community, the University of Ibadan, Distance Learning Centre has recently embarked on a vigorous repositioning agenda which aimed at embracing a holistic and all encompassing approach to the delivery of its Open Distance Learning (ODL) programmes. Thus we are committed to global best practices in distance learning provision. Apart from providing an efficient administrative and academic support for our students, we are committed to providing educational resource materials for the use of our students. We are convinced that, without an up-to-date, learner-friendly and distance learning compliant course materials, there cannot be any basis to lay claim to being a provider of distance learning education. Indeed, availability of appropriate course materials in multiple formats is the hub of any distance learning provision worldwide.

In view of the above, we are vigorously pursuing as a matter of priority, the provision of credible, learner-friendly and interactive course materials for all our courses. We commissioned the authoring of, and review of course materials to teams of experts and their outputs were subjected to rigorous peer review to ensure standard. The approach not only emphasizes cognitive knowledge, but also skills and humane values which are at the core of education, even in an ICT age.

The development of the materials which is on-going also had input from experienced editors and illustrators who have ensured that they are accurate, current and learner-friendly. They are specially written with distance learners in mind. This is very important because, distance learning involves non-residential students who can often feel isolated from the community of learners.

It is important to note that, for a distance learner to excel there is the need to source and read relevant materials apart from this course material. Therefore, adequate supplementary reading materials as well as other information sources are suggested in the course materials.

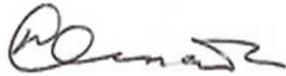
Apart from the responsibility for you to read this course material with others, you are also advised to seek assistance from your course facilitators especially academic advisors during your study even before the interactive session which is by design for revision. Your academic advisors will assist you using convenient technology including Google Hang Out, You Tube, Talk Fusion, etc. but you have to take advantage of these. It is also going to be of immense advantage if you complete assignments as at when due so as to have necessary feedbacks as a guide.

The implication of the above is that, a distance learner has a responsibility to develop requisite distance learning culture which includes diligent and disciplined self-study, seeking available administrative and academic support and acquisition of basic information technology skills. This is why you are encouraged to develop your computer skills by availing yourself the opportunity of training that the Centre’s provide and put these into use.

In conclusion, it is envisaged that the course materials would also be useful for the regular students of tertiary institutions in Nigeria who are faced with a dearth of high quality textbooks. We are therefore, delighted to present these titles to both our distance learning students and the university's regular students. We are confident that the materials will be an invaluable resource to all.

We would like to thank all our authors, reviewers and production staff for the high quality of work.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Okunade', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Bayo Okunade

Director

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About this course manual

The Citizen and The State POS114 has been produced by University of Ibadan Distance Learning Centre. All Political Science course manuals produced by University of Ibadan Distance Learning Centre are structured in the same way, as outlined below.

How this course manual is structured

The course overview

The course overview gives you a general introduction to the course. Information contained in the course overview will help you determine:

- If the course is suitable for you.
- What you will already need to know.
- What you can expect from the course.
- How much time you will need to invest to complete the course.

The overview also provides guidance on:

- Study skills.
- Where to get help.
- Course assessments and assignments.
- Activity icons.
- Study sessions.

We strongly recommend that you read the overview *carefully* before starting your study.

The course content

The course is broken down into study sessions. Each study session comprises:

- An introduction to the study session content.
- Learning outcomes.
- Content of study sessions.
- Activities and/or assignment, as applicable
- A study session summary.
- Assessments.
- Bibliography

Your comments

After completing this course, The Citizen and The State, we would appreciate it if you would take a few moments to give us your feedback on any aspect of this course. Your feedback might include comments on:

- Course content and structure.
- Course reading materials and resources.
- Course assessments.
- Course assignments.
- Course duration.
- Course support (assigned tutors, technical help, etc).
- Your general experience with the course provision as a distance learning student.

Your constructive feedback will help us to improve and enhance this course.

Course overview

Welcome to The Citizen and The StatePOS114

POS 114 focuses on how to provide an overview of topical and scholarly perspectives on citizenship with a special focus on Nigeria. In addition to the overview on citizenship, the course will expose learners to the theoretical framework of citizenships.

This course manual supplements and complements POS114 UI Mobile Class Activities as an online course. The UI Mobile Class is a virtual platform that facilitates classroom interaction at a distance where you can discuss / interact with your tutor and peers while you are at home or office from your internet-enabled computer. You will also use this platform to submit your assignments, receive tutor feedback and course news with updates.

The Citizen and The StatePOS114—is this course for you?

Course outcomes

Upon a successful completion of The Citizen and The StatePOS114 you will be able to:



- *define* all the key terms which are in bold form in this manual.
- *appreciate* the concept and institution of citizenship rights, duties and obligation.
- *explain* the responsibilities of government to the citizen and the duties and obligations of citizen to the government and the state.
- *present* the principle of political obligation both moral and rational.
- *point out* the need and basis of freedom, loyalty and patriotism.

Timeframe



How long?

This is a one semester course.
45 hours of formal study time is required.

Study skills



As an adult learner your approach to learning will be different to that from your school days: you will choose what you want to study, you will have professional and/or personal motivation for doing so and you will most likely be fitting your study activities around other professional or domestic responsibilities.

Essentially you will be taking control of your learning environment. As a consequence, you will need to consider performance issues related to time management, goal setting, stress management, etc. Perhaps you will also need to reacquaint yourself in areas such as essay planning, coping with exams and using the web as a learning resource.

Your most significant considerations will be *time* and *space* i.e. the time you dedicate to your learning and the environment in which you engage in that learning.

We recommend that you take time now—before starting your self-study—to familiarize yourself with these issues. There are a number of excellent web links & resources on the Course website. Go to “Self-Study Skills” menu in course website.

Need help?



Help

As earlier noted, this course manual complements and supplements POS114at UI Mobile Class as an online course.

You may contact any of the following units for information, learning resources and library services.

Distance Learning Centre (DLC)
University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Tel: (+234) 08077593551 – 55
(Student Support Officers)
Email: ssu@dlc.ui.edu.ng

Head Office
Morohundiya Complex, Ibadan-
Ilorin Expressway, Idi-Ose,
Ibadan.

Information Centre
20 Awolowo Road, Bodija,
Ibadan.

Lagos Office
Speedwriting House, No. 16
Ajanaku Street, Off Salvation
Bus Stop, Awuse Estate, Opebi,
Ikeja, Lagos.

For technical issues (computer problems, web access, and etcetera),
please send mail to webmaster@dlc.ui.edu.ng

Academic Support



A course facilitator is commissioned for this course. You have also been assigned an academic advisor to provide learning support. The contacts of your course facilitator and academic advisor for this course are available at onlineacademicsupport@dlc.ui.edu.ng

Activities



Activities

This manual features “Activities”, which may present material that is NOT extensively covered in the Study Sessions. You will be provided with answers to every activity question. Therefore, your emphasis when working the activities should be on understanding your answers. It is more important that you understand why every answer is correct.

There are different forms of activities in this manual, ranging from reading activities, case studies, discussion activities. The use of activities is particularly based on learning outcomes and nature of content. Some Study Sessions comes with discussion topics. You may discuss the Study Sessions at respective discussion boards on course website.

You may see dates for active discussion with tutor on course schedule. This course schedule is available on the course website.

Assignment



Assignment

This manual also comes with tutor marked assignments (TMA). Assignments are expected to be turned-in on course website. You may also receive TMAs as part of online class activities. Feedbacks to TMAs will be provided by your tutor in not more than 2-week expected duration.

Schedule dates for submitting assignments and engaging in course / class activities is available on the course website. Kindly visit your course website often for updates.

Assessments



Assessments

There are two basic forms of self assessment in this course: in-text questions (ITQs) and self assessment questions (SAQs). Feedbacks to the ITQs are placed immediately after the questions, while the feedbacks to SAQs are at the back of manual. You will receive your TMAs as part of online class activities at the UI Mobile Class. Feedbacks to TMAs will be provided by your tutor in not more than 2-week expected duration.

Schedule dates for submitting assignments and engaging in course / class activities is available on the course website. Kindly visit your course website often for updates.

Bibliography



Reading

For those interested in learning more on this subject, we provide you with a list of additional resources at the end of this course manual; these may be books, articles or websites.

Getting around this course manual

Margin icons

While working through this course manual you will notice the frequent use of margin icons. These icons serve to “signpost” a particular piece of text, a new task or change in activity; they have been included to help you to find your way around this course manual.

A complete icon set is shown below. We suggest that you familiarize yourself with the icons and their meaning before starting your study.

			
Activity	Assessment	Assignment	Case study
			
Discussion	Group Activity	Help	Outcomes
			
Note	Reflection	Reading	Study skills
			
Summary	Terminology	Time	Tip

Study Session 1

Citizenship

Introduction

In this Study Session, you will be introduced to the meaning of citizenship and that of an alien. You will examine what makes one a citizen of a particular country and why another person will be regarded as an alien in that same country.

Learning Outcomes



Learning Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 1.1 *point out* ways of acquiring citizenship.
- 1.2 *highlight* the benefits of citizenship.
- 1.3 *distinguish* between an alien and a citizen.
- 1.4 *discuss* conditions under which an alien can become a citizen of another country.
- 1.5 *highlight* some of the duties that are expected of an individual in a country.
- 1.6 *highlight* the rights of a citizen and the factors that promote these rights.

1.1 Forms of Citizenship

Citizenship The status of a citizen with its attendant duties, rights, and privileges.

A **citizen** is a legally recognized subject or national of a state, either native or naturalized.

Every individual in a country claims the **citizenship** of a particular state or another. For example a person whose parents came from Nigeria but live in Ghana, which is another country from where he/she was born, is a Nigerian, no matter how many years he/she has lived in Ghana. Citizenship could be through (a) Birth (b) Naturalization (c) Marriage (d) Honorary.

Citizenship through birth indicates that a person is born by parents who are legal citizens of a particular country and has a birth certificate from that country too.

Citizenship through Naturalization is expressed when a person who has lived in a country other than his own for a certain period of time applies to the government of that country for citizenship. When the government grants him/her the citizenship that means the person has naturalized him/herself with that particular country. And under this condition he/she may or may not claim the country that he came from again depending on the rules guiding the process in each country. It is important to note that some countries do not encourage dual citizenship, meaning that a person claiming citizenship of two countries at a time.

Incitizenship by marriage, a Nigerian woman that got married to an American man has automatically become an American citizen with the evidence of a Marriage Certificate.

In **honorary citizenship**, a person could be honoured with the citizenship status of another country. It could also be the reward of an excellent performance.

Hint

There is no one that does not belong to a particular country, and that is why we have Nigerian, Ghanaian and Americans among others.



Reading Activity

Allow 15 minutes

Study the articles in the provided links below.

Immigration and Citizenship in Nigeria - May 2013 at <http://www.proshareng.com/articles/2559/Immigration-and-Citizenship-in-Nigeria--May-2013>

Nigerian Citizenship Law: A Current Perspective at <http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/745598?uid=3738720&uid=2&uid=4&sid=21102411268081>

1.2 Benefits of a Citizen

1. It helps one to enjoy full political and civil rights .A citizen can become the president.
2. A citizen can be part of every sector of the Nigerian economy. He/She can buy into government shares.
3. A citizen enjoys government protection both within and outside the country.
4. As a citizen one can boost of a permanent place of abode.

1.3 Differences between a Citizen and an Alien



Who is an Alien: An alien is one who does not possess nor acquire the citizenship of a particular country where he/she resides either through birth, naturalization or marriage.

1. A citizen enjoys full civil and political rights, which an alien does not enjoy. For example, a citizen can vote and be voted for, but an alien cannot enjoy such a privilege.
2. A citizen has the right to perform all the known legal jobs in the country while an alien is exempted from basic jobs for security reasons. A citizen of a country can be recruited into the Nigerian Police and can work with the Nigeria Minting Company, but an alien cannot be considered for such security jobs.
3. A citizen takes his/her country as his/her permanent home of abode and can refer to it in case of an emergency but an alien cannot claim the country where he is not a citizen. A citizen of Nigeria residing in Ghana can seek full compliment from the Nigerian embassy in Ghana, but an alien cannot enjoy such a privilege.
4. A citizen owes allegiance to his/her country while an alien cannot do that.

5. More importantly, a citizen of a country is a legal member of his/her country and he/she enjoys full privileges that go with such a legal right in and outside his/her country. Unfortunately an alien is exempted from such rights granted to citizens as a legal member.

1.4 Conditions for Citizenship

Conditions under which an alien can become a citizen of another country include the following:

1. The person must have stayed or resided in that country for a period of fifteen years upward.
2. He/She must have married a citizen for a period of five years.
3. He must have contributed to the growth and development of the country.
4. He must have good character that must have been tested and proven over-time and at least two persons must attest to his/her conduct.
5. He must renounce his former nationality.
6. The applicant of citizenship must take an oath of allegiance.
7. He must be of a mature age.

1.5 Duties and Obligations of a Citizen

In every country, a citizen has some duties or roles to perform. All the roles, duties and obligations of the citizens are written in a country's constitution. These roles, obligation and duties shall be our focus in this section.

Duties are roles that are expected to be performed by an individual in a country. The roles can either be moral or rational. It is through the duties that an individual that resides in a country can show his/her sense of belonging or loyalty.

Note

Duties are different from rights in the sense that Rights are privileges that are enjoyed by an individual in a country. And it is backed by law. See section six of this Study Session for discussions on Rights.

Some of the duties that are expected of an individual in a country include the following:

1. Payment of taxes. A citizen is expected to pay taxes regularly as at when due. It is through these taxes that the government realizes money that it will use for developmental purposes, and this actually gives each citizen the right to question government spending, especially when he/she realizes that the government is spending more than necessary or when the government embezzle public fund.
2. A citizen has to vote during elections. Every citizen is duty bound to vote and be voted for in an election. When a citizen is not considered a lunatic or a criminal and he/she is 18 years of age and above, he/she can vote and be voted for in an election. That is why men and women are being encouraged to participate in the political matters of the state. Through voting a citizen can equally perform his/her civic duty.

3. A citizen must be a law abiding citizen, and respect the law of the land. That means that whether you are rich or poor, every citizen is duty bound to obey the law. This attitude encourages orderliness in the society.
4. Must be loyal and patriotic to the cause of his/her country. When a citizen is considered as being loyal and patriotic in the state that means that the citizen has totally committed himself to the cause, growth and development of his fatherland and the state can vouch for such an individual as a dependable citizen of the state.
5. Citizens should show respect for national symbols. There are some national symbols that each state of the world cherishes and values. Citizens are expected to value such National symbols both within and outside the country. For example the National Anthem is one of such values of the state. Citizens are expected to learn and recite the national anthem and stand erect at attention whenever the national anthem is being sung. Also, the national flag is equally to be respected both within and outside the country, for the flag stands as a symbol of authority.
6. He/She must report any security risk matters to the government. Reporting security matters to the government is a way of showing sense of belonging and patriotisms to the cause of our fatherland. Only the security agents such as the police cannot uphold the integrity or maintain law and order. It is therefore our responsibility as a good citizen of the state to support the security agents in maintaining peace. One can do this by giving useful information to the security agents, which might help them to perform their duties efficiently.
7. He/She must respect other people's right. There is an adage which states that where one's right stops is where another man's right begins. What this connotes is that one should not infringe upon the rights of others in the state. That is why the constitution promotes rule of law and equality of all citizens before the law. No citizen should be above the law of the land. All must be treated equally.
8. He/She must protect national integrity. Every citizen is considered as an ambassador of his country both within and outside his country and he should be able to defend his country wherever the need arises. For example, every citizen is expected to offer useful information or display good character and attitude that would promote the good image of his fatherland. That is why the government discourages criminal acts such as drug pushing among its citizens for these acts bring shame and dishonour to the country.



Activity

Allow 15 minutes

See 1999 Nigerian Constitution. Take note of the stated duties and rights of the citizen therein. What is the relationship between these duties and rights?

Post your response on Study Session One Forum on course website

1.6 Rights of Citizens

As noted in the last section, **rights** are privileges that are enjoyed by an individual in a country and it is backed by law. In this section, we will explore some of the rights you enjoy as an individual in the country; discuss some of the factors that promote individual rights; and explain the conditions under which Rights of an individual can be withdrawn.

1.6.1 Fundamental Human Rights

These are rights that individuals in the country can not do without. They are often stated in every country's constitution, and they include the following:

1. Right to life.
2. Right to private and family life.
3. Right of Association.
4. Right to freedom of movement.
5. Right of fair hearing in the law court.
6. Right to personal liberty.
7. Right to dignity of human person.
8. Right to freedom of expression and the press.
9. Right to quality education.
10. Right to hold public office no matter how sensitive.
11. Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
12. Right to freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sex, race or creed or political opinion and association.

1.6.2 Factors that Protect Individual Rights

1. **Supremacy of the Constitution:** The constitution of an individual country gives strength and legal backing to the rights of an individual. If the rights of an individual are to be protected, the constitution must be supreme. That is, it must be the all in all of the land without any one being able to influence it.
2. **Equality before the Law:** Rights of an individual can only be protected when there is an equality of all individuals before the law. Everybody rich or poor must be treated equally in legal matters.
3. **Independent Judiciary:** When the Judiciary, which is the custodian of the law is independent of all forms of influences then individual rights can be protected.
4. **Separation of Power:** Another factor that protects individual rights in a country is that, there should be a separation of power among the organs of government. The organs are the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. The separation of power would enable all these organs to serve as watchdogs for one another and prevent reckless arbitrariness on individual rights.
5. **Freedom of the Press:** If the freedom of the press is guaranteed, the press will fearlessly protect and safeguard the rights of citizens.
6. **Enhanced Democratic Rule:** Rights of citizens will be more protected and safeguarded better under the influence of democratic rule where votes and voices of an individual counts for good governance in the country.

1.6.3 Conditions under which Rights can be withdrawn

Even though the constitution allows certain privileges or rights for individuals, there are still certain conditions under which such rights can be withdrawn and they include:

1. When the person is insane (lunatic).
2. A person that has been adjudged a criminal by the law court.
3. An Alien is equally exempted from certain rights e.g. security jobs such as Police and Civil Defense Corps.
4. Citizens could be denied of their rights during emergency periods.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you learnt that a person is regarded as a citizen of a particular country after he/she has acquired the citizenship either through birth, naturalization, marriage or on honorary grounds. An individual that resides in a particular country is expected to perform certain roles or duties. It could be moral or rational. It is an expectation that may not be enforced on an individual, even though there are consequences. But it is believed that an individual should show sense of belonging and patriotism through these duties.

You also examined rights. These are privileges, which the constitution allows an individual in a country to enjoy. But it is not all individuals that can enjoy this right. It depends on the conditions and status of each person. But generally, rights are fundamental to the existence of any individual in the country.

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Textbooks

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Web Resources

Immigration and Citizenship in Nigeria at

<http://www.proshareng.com/articles/2559/Immigration-and-Citizenship-in-Nigeria--May-2013>

Nigerian Citizenship Law: A Current Perspective at

<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/745598?uid=3738720&uid=2&uid=4&sid=21102411268081>

Study Session 2

The State and Sovereignty

Introduction

There has been a general misconception about the word 'State'. While some know it as a state, e.g. Lagos or OyoState, others believe states are regarded as a nation or country. This Study Session is out to address the misconception. So you should take note of each word as they appear in this Study Session.

Learning Outcomes



Learning Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 2.1 *outline* the attributes of the State.
- 2.2 *differentiate* between a State and nation.
- 2.3 *discuss* the meaning of sovereignty.

2.1 The State

A **state** is described as people occupying a geographical location with its own laws, government and that is sovereign from external influences. Because Nigeria occupies a particular geographical territory, and boasts of its own government, and population with its own law, which makes it sovereign, that is why it can be regarded as a state.

That means, when qualifying a place of location as a state, certain features must be present and they include the following:

1. A defined territory
2. Government
3. Population
4. Sovereignty

Nigeria is not a nation, because in a nation the people there must have the same language, culture and be located in a defined space territory. In Nigeria, there are more than 250 languages and their culture equally differs. We have Yoruba Nation, Hausa Nation and many more Nations, within the NigerianState.

2.1.1 The Attributes of the State

There are certain features, which are peculiar to the state. This is to say that no other association shares these attributes and they include the following:

1. **Ubiquity of the State:** The state is found everywhere and there is hardly any part of the world that is not within the confines or jurisdiction of any state.

2. **Universality of State Jurisdiction:** Within the recognized boundary of a state and this includes the air space, land frontiers, territorial waters and vessels carrying its flag, the state has universal authority. This means that a state has the right to exercise control over all activities within these boundaries.
3. **Compulsory Nature of the Jurisdiction:** Within state frontiers, there is no choice available to all or anybody in respect of the abeyance of the law. No one can choose which laws to obey or when to obey. All laws must be obeyed by all.

2.1.2 Functions of the State

The state is responsible for the maintenance of order as well as the security of life and order within its area of jurisdiction. The functions are further grouped into two:

- **Negative functions** of the state include the maintenance of law and order.
- **The positive functions** include the moulding of the moral, integrity of the citizens, the provision of social goods such as food, housing, clothing, education etc.

2.2 Differences between State and Nation

1. In the state, the people share homogeneous and heterogeneous attributes, that is a state can either boast of people that have diverse culture and languages; however the people that make up the nation share homogeneous features, that is they are people with the same custom and language. These attributes of a nation promote a sense of unity.
2. Another salient feature that distinguishes the state from a nation is that of sovereignty. This is the supreme power of the state to exercise authority within its territorial boundary. The nation does not have such an attribute. And that is why some nations within the state clamour for independence from the larger state. The civil war that was recorded in the early 1970s in Nigeria came up when the Igbo nation tried to fight for their independence from larger Nigerian state.
3. Again, even though a nation can be found within a territory, it does not however possess a definite territory. That is why Yoruba nation can be found both in Nigeria and Benin Republic. The present Palestinians too are struggling for a definite homeland.

2.3 Sovereignty

Hint

In this section, you will explore the meaning of the concept, sovereignty. The concept is relevant both in domestic as well as in international politics.

Sovereignty can be described essentially as supremacy and separations of a state, over the citizens. It is the greatest power of command of the state. A state is sovereign when it has absolute and final authority in its area of jurisdiction. Its power is not subject to any higher authority. The idea of

sovereignty originated from Jean Bodin, a French politician philosopher. Sovereignty has two major elements and they are:

- Supremacy
- Separateness

By supremacy, it means that the state enjoys absolute jurisdiction; while its separateness element indicates that the state is separate within certain territorial entities and it enjoys supreme authority.

2.3.1 Types of Sovereignty

There is what is called Legal and Political Sovereignty. Legal sovereignty refers to either the power of the legislature to make laws or it can be used to describe the constitution which must be supreme.

Political sovereignty refers to the ultimate power of the electorates who are the people that vote a particular government into power.

2.3.2 Location of Sovereignty in a State

In a domestic setting, the sovereignty of the state resides with the persons or institutions that exercise power. In a monarchical system, sovereignty is located in the king or queen.

In a democracy, sovereignty is exercised by the following institutions:

1. The legislature – that makes laws.
2. The Judiciary – that adjudicate.
3. The Executive – that implement the laws.

2.3.3 Limitations to the Sovereignty of a State

The sovereignty of the state can be restricted or limited in the following areas:

1. **The type of government in power:** The exercise of sovereignty is best achieved in a unitary state than the federal systems of government, because power is constrained among states under the federal system of government.
2. **The Constitution:** It defines the power exercised by the various levels of government. It therefore limits the powers of the government.
3. **The Military in Power:** The removal of democratic government is a limitation to the sovereignty of the state. The military often suspend the constitution of the state after taken over power.
4. **Customs and Traditions:** Customs and traditions of the people are mostly considered by the state before or when making laws.
5. **Military Agreement or Pacts:** Two or more countries can agree to cooperate militarily e.g. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

2.3.4 Paradoxical Relevance of Sovereignty

About the relevance of the concept ‘sovereignty’ in modern day politics, certain factors have made the state to trade part of its sovereignty with other states. And this is because of the interdependent nature of the states of the world today.

Many states have come together under one or more umbrella organizations i.e. United Nations, and they have submitted parts of their sovereign powers to the union especially when taking a common international decision that would be binding on all member states.

But by and large, each state still appreciated their sovereign power for mutual cooperation and co-existence. There is an adage, which says that no country is an island on itself. What this means is that no country can stand on its own. More especially, in the contemporary world, the issue of globalization has made many countries realize that they cannot stand aloof.

In the area of economy, each country would have to trade with other countries, in order to boost their economic gains. And that is why each region of the world today encourages unions that would boost their image, both economically and politically. Unions such as the European Union and African Union have become an International Organizations in which their members use to promote their economic and political ties.

In the area of defence, each state equally belongs to different unions, in order to boost their military might and protect their territorial landscape against external aggression. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is one of such unions where powerful countries of the world belong to in order to boost their military strength.

It should be realized at this junction that even though each state belongs to different unions for economic, political and defense ties, their sovereignty matters and it is respected for the common good of all and for mutual co-existence around the world.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you learnt that when describing a state, you should be able to indicate whether certain features such as geographical location, population, government and sovereignty are present so that you do not run into error of misinterpreting a Nation for a State. The state is supreme within a definable and separate territorial entity and is separate because within that entity, it enjoys absolute authority.

You also examined the concept of sovereignty, which means supremacy and separateness of a legal or political entity. Under each condition, it resides with the entity that holds or exercises power in trust of the larger entity that is, the state. Though, the existence of unions among states have made it imperative to submit parts of the sovereign powers to the union but still each state appreciates its sovereignty for mutual coexistence.

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Study Session 3

Authority

Introduction

In this Study Session, you will explore the concept of authority. In doing this, you will compare the concept to some related concepts so as to properly establish what authority is all about.



Learning Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 3.1 *explain* what makes authority different from power and influence.
- 3.2 *discuss* the different sources of authority.

3.1 The Meaning of Authority

There have been considerable similarities between authority, power and influence. But each has different meanings. Power is the ability to get other people to do one's will with or without their consent. This ability may be obtained either through the possession of special ability, trust or coercive superiority. Influence on the other hand is the ability to intrude into other people's decision making process. Authority however can be described as the legitimate power that is based on rules; accepted and exercised with the consent of the people.

3.2 Sources of Authority

Max Weber identifies three major sources of authority. They are the traditional, legal – rational and charismatic.

1. **Traditional Authority:** This is derived from the traditions and common acceptance of the people over a period of time. Traditional rulers in most of the Yoruba nations are good examples of traditional authority holders.
2. **Legal–Rational Authority:** This authority is derived from institutionalized rules, which confer the right to give commands and have them obeyed. The Local Government Chairman or Governor is a good example of a legal-rational authority holder.
3. **Charismatic Authority:** This is derived from exceptional personal qualities or attributes of a person, which make him/her accepted as a leader, such qualities include power of oratory, heroism and level of intelligence among others. The late Chief Obafemi Awolowo is regarded by many as a charismatic leader.

There are two other ways through which authority can be acquired; aside the first three that were earlier mentioned. This distinction that can be made in the concept of authority is between “**de-jure**” and “**de-facto**” authority.

1. **De-Jure Authority:** This presupposes the existence of rules by reference to which a person acts or ought to act. In the words of Thomas Hobbes, a person acts with “de-jure” authority if he does so on behalf of others who have commissioned him. Such action has the same validity as if it has been performed by the consenting person.
2. **De-facto Authority:** This implies the situation where one acknowledges another person or groups right to issue commands and to have them obeyed. This authority derives from recognition of superior power, knowledge, expertise or bravery.

Hint

Implications for Democratic Institutions

Authority in democratic government depends on a majority vote to allocate the resources needed to govern.

Study Session Summary

**Summary**

In this Study Session, you learnt that authority has been described as the right to issue commands and have them obeyed. It is different from power and influence even though they are been used interchangeably. There are three sources of authority – traditional, legal-rational and charismatic authority. Other two ways through which authority can be acquired are de-jure and de-facto.

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Study Session 4

Public Interest and Public Opinion

Introduction

Public interest is another political concept, which is commonly used by all. In this Study Session, therefore, we would examine what makes an interest to be public and why is it that the public have interest in an issue.

We will also discuss the concept of public opinion because of its relevance to the first section of this session. This Study Session would further discuss those factors that influence public opinion formation and how to determine public opinion in a political setting and its relevance in the political environment.

Learning Outcomes



LearningOutcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 4.1 point out why an interest is a public interest.
- 4.2 outline the uses of public interest.
- 4.3 explain the meaning of public opinion.
- 4.4 discuss the factors that influence public opinion.
- 4.5 point out the major determinants of public opinion.
- 4.6 discuss the importance of public opinion.
- 4.7 present how public opinion can be encouraged in the country.

4.1 Public Interest

4.1.1 Meaning of Public Interest

According to Brian Barry in his book “Problems of Political Philosophy”, **publicinterest** are those interest, which people have in common as members of the public. As the definition of this concept is straightforward, there are however some fundamental problems with the term “public”. Interest can be defined simply as those things, which people desire believing them to be beneficial to their person or whatever ends. The term ‘public’ is a shifting concept whose reference cannot be determined once and for all but is determined by issues and circumstances.

This is to say that there are no interests, which are common to all in the society or state. Some of the interests, which are considered public includes: the security of life and property, economic prosperity, preservation of the family and other basic values. These are interests, which everyone in the society, that is, the public at large are likely to share in common.

Public interest is often articulated by those who control the policy making machinery. The public may suggest policy options but the decision to

determine what makes up public interests rests with a few decision makers.

Some of the groups that contribute to the decision making process aside these few decision makers are the Pressure Groups and the Mass Media.

4.1.2 Uses of Public Interest

The term Public Interest can be used in two terms

- a) Negative purposes
- b) Positive purposes

The negative use is when it is invoked to prevent someone or a group of decision makers from adopting a policy or a decision that is considered prejudicial to the interest of an indefinite number of people. That means it is used to condemn the policy actions or policy makers. The positive use, is invoked to support policies or decision, which are beneficial to the interests of an indefinite number of people. That means it is used to commend the policy action or policymakers.

4.2 Public Opinion

4.2.1 Public Opinion in the Polity

Public opinion, unlike public interests is referred to what members of the public think or feel about governments proposed policy or action already taken by government, while public interests are interests that are germane to the common good of all in the society.

Public opinion may be defined as the collective beliefs, judgements or political views held by majority of citizens of a country about public polity or action of the government. It is referred to as what people think or feel about government actions and inactions. Opinions about the people differs considerably at every point in time, but majorly when the basic social amenities and essential commodities are available, the opinion of people tends to be in favour of the government's actions, and because of this, there is no need to oppose any action of policy of the government no matter how. But in a situation where government actions or inactions differ from the opinion of people that is when the government's actions is different from what the people propose or belief, the people tend to criticize government actions and they use different means and ways to alter government decisions.

However, the level of literacy rate in the country determines how many people will be interested in public issues. That means public opinion may not always be the opinion of majority of the citizens in the country.

4.2.2 Factors that Influence Public Opinion Formation

Some of the factors or the agencies that actually influence public opinion in a country include the following:

1. **The Mass Media:** Mass Media like radio, magazines, newspapers, television, journals and hand bills among others act as agencies through which public opinion is formed. The opinion of people can

be raised and doused through effective communication from these agencies of the mass media. The mass media can even help to sample people's opinion about government actions and inactions.

2. **Pressure Groups:** These are the organized social interest groups that tend to influence government decisions in favour of their group interest. They employ different methods in trying to influence public opinion and government policies. For example, pressure groups serve as an organized body through which government sample people's opinion with their demands and decisions. The group can even organize Study Sessions for the people to be more enlightened about the government actions and inactions.
3. **Political Parties:** Political parties with the help of their manifestoes, rallies and campaign act as the basis of public opinion formation in the country.
4. **Rumours and Gossips:** When there is a communication gap between the people and the government, people tend to listen to rumours and gossips, and they make use of the information gotten from these avenues as basis for their opinions.
5. **Influential Citizen:** There are some people in the country that tend to serve as moulders of public opinion. Traditional rulers, intellectuals, tycoons and artistes form parts of the influential citizens that help form public opinion through their speeches and political statements.
6. **Government Role:** The type of explanation and education the government gives to members of the public about its policies and actions go a long way in influencing public opinion.

4.2.3 Major Determinants of Public Opinion

Every government needs to be sensitive to the opinion held by the public from time to time. It is through this medium that the government can assess its policies and actions, especially in a democratic setting. Public opinion can therefore be measured or determined through the following ways:

1. **Election:** Election serves as a means through which public opinion is measured. In a free and fair election, the government's popularity is tested.
2. **Opinion Poll:** Opinion poll is conducted when certain government actions or inactions are thrown to the selected number of people to judge its efficiency or otherwise. Methods such as questionnaires and interviews can be used to sample people's opinion. In an organized society like the U.S.A., opinion polls are being conducted even to decide who might likely win an election.
3. **Referendum:** This is a method of referring a political question or government policy to the electorate for approval or disapproval by saying yes or no.
4. **Mass Media:** The mass media have become a very useful instrument through which public opinion is determined through newspapers and magazines, people make their views known.
5. **Public Response:** Public opinion can also be measured or determined through the way members of the public respond to government policies through mass protests and demonstrations for or against such policies or programmes.

4.2.4 Importance of Public Opinion

The major advantages or the importance of public opinion are going to be stated below:

1. It helps direct government in knowing what the public thinks about its policies and actions. That means it serves as feedback to government policies.
2. It helps the government to know the needs and aspirations of its citizens.
3. It brings about the need for government to formulate policies and carry out actions that are in the best interest of majority of the citizens.
4. It serves as an avenue through which public views are channelled to the government.
5. It helps government to moderate her actions or inactions that might want to pull down the government.
6. Public opinion wakes up government and its agencies from their inactions.
7. During election periods, public opinion help voters to cast their votes for popular candidates.

4.2.5 How Public Opinion can be Encouraged

Public opinion can be encouraged through the following means:

1. **Press Freedom:** When the constitution and the government in power allows press freedom in the country, it will encourage constructive public opinion, by means of making the policies and actions of the government known to members of the public in their true form.
2. **Raising Level of Literacy:** Educating members of the public in order to raise the level of literacy in a country is another way in which public opinion can be encouraged. A larger percentage of literate people in a country helps the government to measure majority opinion.
3. **Freedom of Speech and Association:** If members of the public are allowed to air their views on government policies and actions and are also allowed to associate freely with their chosen legal groups in the society, public opinion will be more encouraged.
4. **Encourage Pressure Groups:** Pressure groups through their activities if encouraged, will guarantee healthy climate of public opinion.
5. **Establishment of Information Bureau:** Information bureau where information about government policies is being assessed and stored should be established and made more efficient in order to bridge the communication gap between the government and the people. With this formation on ground, public opinion can be encouraged.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session you learned public interest is interests that are considered as the common good of all. They have however been influenced by different people and actions at various point in time. You also explored the concept of public opinion, which has been described as the political views held by people in a country about public policy or action or inaction of the government. It serves as feedback to government output in terms of the decisions taken and those that were not taken at all; and that is why government should encourage public opinion.

Study Session 5

Political Obligation, Liberty and Justice

Introduction

Earlier on this course, I have discussed with you the factor that enables those that control the state to command; that is Authority. On this Study Session, therefore, I want to discuss why the people obey. This is the concept of political obligation.

When we are talking about the issues of individual and state security, there should be in existence some measure of freedom. The state has as one of its cardinal principles, the protection of the liberty of her citizens. This Study Session discusses the issue of liberty in a socio-political set up.



Learning Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 5.1 *explain* what political obligation is using at least four theories of obligation.
- 5.2 *discuss* the assumptions that underline the concept of liberty.
- 5.3 *describe* what justice is.

5.1 Political Obligation

Political obligation is the direct opposite of authority. When I was discussing the concept of authority with you in Study Session six, I said it is based on rules with the general consent of the people. It discussed why those in power have the right to command. Political obligation in another sense is about those conditions, factors, or forces, which make people to obey the law. It explains why the people obey the government of the country.

To appreciate this concept, we have to turn to some theories of political obligation, which will make the concept to be better understood. And some of the theories of political obligation that we are going to discuss include the following:

1. **Prudent Theory of Obligation:** This theory, which is otherwise known as the theory of enlightened self-interest was introduced by Thomas Hobbes. His explanation was that, people obey the law of the land out of prudence or enlightened self-interest. This is because in all societies government exhibit the instrument of coercion with which they can visit law offenders. It is the fear of discomfort, pain or harm which makes people to obey. In other words, people obey for fear of punishment.

Weakness of the Theory: That people obey because of fear cannot be regarded as the valid theory of obligation. Following this theory means that people obey out of coercion, but in obligation, there must

be an element of voluntariness. People should obey the law voluntarily and not out of coercion.

2. **The Theory of Consent:** The idea behind this theory is that people live in societies, which have evolved or emerged out of social contract. Social contract is another theory, which states that people that occupy certain societies surrender part of their right to the common good of the society. Thus all who live in the society are either directly or indirectly parties to the social contract. That means, they are duty bound to obey the law of that same society.

Weakness of the Theory: It is a big illusion to imagine that all within a society are party to a social contract; or that there is a social contract at all. The fact is that many states emerged artificially out of the imposition of war or superior power.

3. **Theory of the General Will:** This theory is propounded by Jeremy Bentham. This is the idea that all in the society have a common will or interest, which is the responsibility of those who govern to promote and protect in order to achieve the collective good of the society. And because of this responsibility vested in the government, it is important that all should obey the rules in order to facilitate the attainment of that end. This theory is similar to the theory of the common good.

Weakness of the Theory: It is not in all societies that the rulers articulate the interest of the society or does what is good for all. Many rulers are for the most part, self-serving and often pursue their own interest even if this means defying the common good or rights of an individual.

4. **The Theory of Habit:** Jeremy Bentham argues that men obey because of the habit of obedience. Political obligation derives from the gentle and persistent induction of individuals in the society into the moral values of that society. As individuals grow within the society, they internalize and manifest the basic moral and religious values, which form the basis for a willingness to obey.

Weakness of the Theory: This theory unfortunately is about the mechanism of obedience rather than the reason for obedience. It describes how people acquire the will to obey government and not why they obey.

5.2 Liberty

The concept of liberty is discussed on the basis of human's nature of free-will. It is believed that, a normal human being has the capacity and the right to choose and determine his or her own actions. In essence, liberty is often used interchangeably with freedom.

5.2.2 Assumptions on the Concept of Liberty

1. The first assumption of the term liberty is that man is free to choose his/her actions because he is capable of making choices that are beneficial to social existence. That means that man is rational to choose an action that is in the interest of all.
2. The second assumption is that freedom in a social context necessarily involves a certain level of limitation. This goes with the

general saying, which says that where one's freedom ends another person's freedom begins.

Social freedom can be limited in two ways and they are: (a) Freedom from (b) Freedom to.

Freedom from entails the absence of restraint to do what one wants to do. While freedom to pertain to actions, which are restrained but which many political philosophers argue ought not to be restrained. Some activities that could be restrained include drug taking, homosexuality, incest and prostitution.

In every society, one cannot rule out the possibility of conflict of individual interests within that society. In such a context, absolute freedom is neither possible nor desirable. This is why laws exist to regulate individual relationships with the state and vice versa. An unlimited liberty of individuals therefore poses serious danger to social existence as this can promote chaos in the society.

5.3 Justice

If there is going to be need for relative freedom for an individual in the state, there must be justice. What **justice** entails is what this section wants to address.

The definition of Justice seems to be frequently given by philosophers of all ages with different meanings. Thrasymachus defined justice as the interest of the stronger. That is, an ability to do what one wants to do, irrespective of the objection or resistance of others.

For anything to be just, the minimum requirement is that it does not involve any act, which brings injustice to others. Justice entails the existence of a relationship and it is not an attribute of the actions of a person alone. For an action to be just, it must be perceived to be so by all those who are linked in that relationship.

It was for this reason that the existentialist's definition of justice is unacceptable.

Existentialists defined a just action as that which is most enabling of the species as measured with the most advanced man. The problem here is that justice is regarded as an individual attribute whereas it is a social web.

The **Naturalist** equally defines justice as an action or arrangement, which is in harmony with nature. The problem with this definition is that the natural order involves cruelty and deprivation. Animals and plants need to consume other things in nature in order to survive.

Utilitarianism principle equally calls for each individual to perform those actions, which will do more good for more people than any other. That means, only that which maximizes the amount of good and the numbers of people who benefit from it can be regarded as good, just or desirable.

The problem with the principle of utilitarianism is that justice was defined intuitively. But justice should rather be defined in relation to actions or policies and their consequences.

John Rawls, in his book “A Theory of Justice”, said justice is the foundation of social structure, that is of all institutions and relationships. To him, justice operates essentially in the area of distribution of goods i.e. wealth, positions, opportunities, liberty and self-respect.

For a principle of justice to be beyond reproach, it must take note of certain human character or nature. He stated them as following:

1. That every man has a good nature.
2. That whatever those goods may be, their attainment requires primary goals such as wealth, position etc.
3. That the satisfaction or the attainment of human goals depends on the possibility of engaging in social interactions.

The problem with this explanation, however is that, this hypothetical route to getting an ideal principle of justice can only apply in a new society. But it is not possible for established societies to revert to the state of innocence, which is required for the attainment of this ideal.

Study Session Summary



We have discussed that political obligation is concerned with the reason why people obey the law of the state. On the other hand, freedom is defined in terms of the positive attributes of self-realization rather than in terms of the absence of constraints. This is the argument of Plato. Liberty must therefore be identified with what is good or right, that is, with the performance of moral duties. The state, therefore, constitutes the most important barrier to the exercise of freedom. There are two variants to freedom - Freedom to and freedom from. We also noted that justice means different things to many people.

Study Session 6

Democracy

Introduction

All over the world, every tribe and race yearn for justice, liberty, equality and fundamental human rights. Democracy has been the major ground on which those conditions or virtues can be easily attained.

Even though it is not every state of the world that practices democracy, some government that practice parts of democratic features equally claim to be democratic. Democracy, as it is being practiced in the United States of America, which symbolizes a perfect democracy, equally lacks some basic tenets of democracy. We will therefore explore the concept of democracy in this Study Session, in a bid to clear the misconceptions surrounding it.



Learning Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 6.1 *discuss* what the practices of democracy entails in a state.
- 6.2 *explain* the components of democracy.
- 6.3 *point out* how democracy is practiced in contemporary time.
- 6.4 *discuss* the importance of democracy.
- 6.5 *explain* the factors that promote democratic principles in any state.

6.1 The Meaning of Democracy



Discussion Activity

The most widely known definition of democracy is the one articulated by the former American President, Abraham Lincoln. He described democracy as government by the people of the people and for the people. Do you agree with this position? Identify five authors / literatures / academic resource that buttress your position.

[Post your response on Study Session Six Forum Page on course website.](#)

6.2 Elements of Democracy

The two elements of democracy are: (a) Liberty and (b) Equality

Liberty connotes the opportunity to choose or participate in choosing, while **equality** connotes that the choice of a citizen or his opportunity to choose is as good as that of any other person.

These two elements are the assumptions of democracy. That is, it is assumed that, democracy that is practiced must encourage liberty and equality. However, these assumptions have been subjected to various criticisms.

Schumpeter for example argued that liberty and equality are not necessarily part of democracy and that in all democratic systems; there are necessary limitations with respect of the qualification and circumstance of voters.

And as for equality, Schumpeter argued that the relationship between the voter and the candidate is that slightly more affluent people in the society are more able to make claims either directly or indirectly.

6.3 Types of Democracy

The two major types of democracy are (a) Direct (b) Indirect Democracy.

6.3.1 Direct Democracy

This is the government formed through the general consent of everybody living in that society. The historical location where this form of government took place was in Greek City – State – Athens. Here everybody young and old, female and male gather together to take decisions. This was made possible because of their population, which was not too large at the time, but despite this some people such as slaves were exempted.

6.3.2 Indirect Democracy

This is the government formed through the people's representatives. In fact this form of democracy is the most common today. The representatives that are elected by the electorate (people that vote) take decisions on behalf of the larger populace. In Nigeria, we practice indirect democracy because we often elect one representative either to the National or State Houses of Assembly to make laws on our behalf.

Practice of Democracy in Modern Times

Democracy, which has been described as government through the consent of the people has some limitations. For instance, due to the large number of people in the system, everybody cannot participate in taking decisions. This section would therefore explore an alternative form of democracy, that is, representative democracy.

Democracy today either in a one party or in a multiparty system involves the delegation of powers to consenting individuals by the majority, essentially through the process of election. The representatives elected by the voters are supposed to serve the interests of the voters. This makes the government to be described as a **trust** with the elected and the representatives as **trustees** and the voters as **trustors**. That was the explanation of liberal theorists represented by John Locke and J.S. Mill.

The major challenge of representative democracy is that the representatives sometimes develop ideas and interests, which are not necessarily compatible with that of those who vote for them. In fact, the tendency is that the longer a representative serves the more the likelihood of his deviation from the direction preferred by his electors. That means, the representative may use his superior knowledge of government to define for the people what their interests should be rather than the people determining for the representatives what interests he should pursue or promote.

It is worthy of note to state here that a representative is different from a delegate. A delegate is empowered by the higher power to carry out certain specified duties. The representative in another sense is elected for a specific period of time to serve his own people.

Another major problem with the representative democracy is the interference of political parties and associations i.e. Pressure Groups. Either in the one party or multi party systems, political parties and pressure groups have become instruments for aggregating opinion. They equally mobilize the people for participation in the affairs of the state. The influence of these groups has limited the ability of people to express their interest, as well as their ability to participate directly in the governance of their state.

6.4 Justification for Democracy

Let us examine some of the reasons why many citizens and government of the world prefer democracy to other forms of government. The reasons include the following:

1. It helps to safeguard the Fundamental Human Rights.
2. It leads to the emergence of political parties which create the avenue for majority rule.
3. The election that is periodically conducted to elect representatives' gives the people power of choice.
4. The existence of political parties in a democratic setting makes the changing of government less cumbersome.
5. Because of the power of choice in democracy, it promotes equality of all citizens.

6.5 Factors that Promote Democracy

1. **The supremacy of the constitution:** For democracy to be promoted in the country, the constitution, which embodied all the laws, rules and principles that guide the general conduct of the citizens and the government, must be supreme. That means everybody in the state must be subjected to the laws in the constitution. There should be nobody that would be above the law of the land. The law must be the all in all of the land and must be seen to take effect on all and sundry.
2. **Rule of Law:** In every organized society where democracy is practiced, rule of law is being followed. This is a principle where the law is made to take its course, both on the poor and the rich. Nobody is made to be exempted from the actions of the state laws, for there is what is called equality before the law.
3. **Separation of Power:** Separation of power takes effect when the three arms of government that is the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary functions separately, though for the common good of all citizens. When this is obtainable in government administration, one arm therefore tends to serve as check or watchdog to another arm of government. This way, people are not denied of their rights and privileges. Democracy is therefore encouraged in this circumstance.
4. **Existence of many Political Parties:** Democracy is about the choice of the common good for the majority of people. That is why the existence of many political parties will further enhance the choice of people in a political setting. The existence of many political parties will promote democracy in the country.
5. **Periodic Election:** Democracy will further be promoted in the country when elections are conducted periodically to change

government in a smooth manner. This way tyranny and despotism is discouraged in government.

6. **Independent Electoral Commission:** An umpire that will monitor and conduct a free and fair election must not be under the control or influence of any governmental administration. When this is done, the people or the electorates are encouraged to trust and depend on the activities of the electoral commission. This will further promote democracy.
7. **Independence of Judiciary:** The body that interprets the laws should be a given free hand to operate without any interference from both the executive and legislature. The judiciary is vested with the responsibility of interpreting the laws in the country. When this body is given a free hand to operate without any interference from both the executive and the legislature, democracy is more protected and promoted.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session you learned that in spite of the limitations that surround democracy, it is still the most rational form of government. It is the form of government that gives the same opportunity to everybody in the state. That is why it is regarded as the government through the general consent of people. The two major types of Democracy are direct and indirect democracy.

The most feasible way of attaining democracy in modern times is through representative government. However, there are some limitations, which may reduce the ability of the electorate to control their representatives. Political Parties, Pressure Groups and Mass Media are some of the instruments that limit the interests and ability to participate directly in the governance by the people. Every practiced democracy is expected to exhibit equality and liberty.

Study Session 7

Pressure Groups

Introduction

In every organized society, there are categories of people who are bound together by common interests to hear their views at any particular period in time in order to achieve a common goal. Majorly, these people come under a common umbrella, generally called Pressure Groups. Pressure groups will form the basis of our discussion in this Study Session.



Learning Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 7.1 *explain* the meaning of Pressure group.
- 7.2 *discuss* at least four types of pressure groups.
- 7.3 *highlight* the importance of pressure groups to the society.
- 7.4 *outline* the mode of pressure groups' operation.

7.1 The Concept of Pressure Groups

A Pressure group is defined as an organized group, which influences government decisions socially or economically without necessarily entering into election activities for the control of government. Pressure Groups attempt to reinforce or change the direction of government policy, but they do not try as it were, to be in government. They are sometimes referred to as Interest Groups.

7.2 Types of Pressure Groups

Some of the specified Pressure Groups that can be noticeable in any organized state include the following:

1. **Economic Pressure Groups:** These are mostly manufacturer associations like Chambers of Commerce and Cocoa Farmer's Union. They mount pressure on government and at the same time influence the government on issues affecting their members.
2. **Professional Pressure Groups:** They are organized professional associations like Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Nigeria Bar Associations (NBA) and Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) among others.
3. **Educational Pressure Groups:** This group deals with matters affecting the education of the country.
4. **Promotional Pressure Groups:** This group is out to champion the course for an improved condition of living or the people's welfare. This action may not necessarily benefit its members, but is usually of benefit to the less privileged in the society. For example, the Nigerian Bar Association gives free legal services to the less privileged in the society.

5. **Religious Pressure Groups:** This body includes the Christians, Moslems and Traditionalists that influence government decisions on religious matters.
6. **Social Pressure Groups:** They are generally out to promote the general welfare of their members. Some of these groups are Boys Scout and Rotary Club.

7.3 Importance of Pressure Groups

Some of the functions or the importance of Pressure Groups includes the following:

1. They offer useful suggestions and advice to the government.
2. They promote the general welfare of their members.
3. They act as an important link between the government and the people.
4. Pressure Groups act as watchdogs over public policies and administration.
5. They help to educate their members on their political rights especially when these rights are infringed upon by government's decision.
6. Even though pressure groups do not contend in elections, they help to ensure smooth elections by showing concern at every stage of the elections such as endorsing candidates, issuing campaign propaganda, raising money etc.
7. Pressure groups like Chambers of Commerce, Mining, Agriculture and Industry and Trade Associations contribute immensely to the economic growth and development of a country.
8. Pressure groups influence and help to change some obnoxious policies of the government.
9. Some expert members of pressure groups serve government in different categories like tribunals, panels and committees.
10. Pressure groups serve as a platform through which people can express their public opinion.
11. They help in disseminating information on government policies to both their members and members of the public through their activities thereby, bridging the communication gap between the government and the people.

7.4 Pressure Groups' Modes of Operation

What I mean by their mode of operation here is the instrument the Pressure Groups employ to influence government decisions. They include the following:

1. **Strike:** A strike takes place when workers stop work and keep away from any activities of government.
2. Demonstration, which could be peaceful or violent.
3. **Lobbying:** Pressure groups lobby members of the legislature in order to pass laws that are favourable to their members.
4. **Boycott:** This is when the workers are ordered not to participate in government activities. This action makes government unpopular.
5. **Consultation:** Pressure groups consult and are consulted by government officials before some policies are made and executed.

6. **Campaigns and Propaganda:** It is not only the political parties that campaign. Pressure groups too mount effective campaigns and propaganda by giving useful information in order to win and influence public opinion and achieve their goal.
7. **Alliance with Political Parties:** Pressure groups associate, join or unite with political parties in order to influence election results and for certain programmes to be incorporated into the political parties manifestoes.

Study Session Summary



Summary

You have learnt that pressure Groups are groups with common interests whose major goal is to influence government decisions. Various Pressure Groups employed various means to influence government decision on behalf of their members for improved welfare services. They serve as a voice to the majority of the unheard members of the public.
