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**PRESSURE GROUPS**

 It is mounting pressure to persuade someone or coercer a person into doing something. A pressure group is an organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to pip pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to tis own advantage. Some examples are the NBA Nigerian bar association represents the lawyers and solicitors while Nigeria medial association (NMA) represents doctors’ interest.

 According to Anifowise (1999) “pressure group is described interest groups, lobby group or even protest groups. They act to ensure that the government does their biddings like, educational, ethnic-oriented. E.g. ASUU etc. also pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their actions, while apolitical parties od account their actions. In truth pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social changes. The reason for their existence is to checkmate and make democracy, to encourage participations and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. If there remain rigid and refuse to compromise on specific issues, they can potentially monopolize the democratic process by focusing on public debate for specific issues.

**Types**

**Interest groups**

Also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. e.g. the trade units, CBI

**Cause groups**

These are promotion groups e.g. charities and environmental groups. Any group that champions social movement is also seen as “cause group” though it lacks formal structure.

**Insider groups and outside groups**

Regularly consulted by the government and they have access to ministers or legislators e.g. the NBA etc. they may be high or low in profile. Outside groups having access to the government e.g. the annual liberation front, earth liberation front etc.

**Anomic groups**

They have unpredictable actions as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. They sometimes act violently.

**Associational groups and non- associational groups**

Association groups usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or county. Non- associational groups are e without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue or kinship or even family.

**Functions of pressure groups**

**Links government to the people**

 It serves as a link between the government of the that and the people it governs. They stay up to date on relevant information sand relate to the people.

**Promotes participation in government**

It encourages people to participate in activities of government and they carry citizens along.

**Serving as sources of information to government**

 They are sources of information to the government. Interaction offers the government valuable information.

Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies.

Critic of government curtail, and dictatorial tendency government may have.

**Pressure group lobbying**

They may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals including lobbying, media advocacy and direct political action. Some pressure groups exert more pressure that others. They lobby government official, family spouses, children etc.