**AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP**

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something .This makes a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its advantage.According of Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as “interest group, lobby groups or even protest groups.”pressure groups came into existence to complement , enhance or to even to protect the interest of their members or groups. Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society.Also, to treat the gaps in the democratic process , to inform debates among ourselves , to treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debtaes among ourselves , to encourage participations and to enhance good accountability in our society .However , while pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society , problems can arise when the democratic process become dominated by a few specific groups .In this situation , the voice of a small group of people with narrow interest can become overly influential .Moreover , in the democratic process , there is a need for compromise In order to to reach consensus regarding the common good.

There are various types of pressure groups which include interest groups, cause groups ,insider groups and outsider groups , atomic groups , associational groups and non-associational groups.

* Interest groups: This is also seen as sectional groups , representing the people in the society, for example, the trade units , for instance, CBI (confederation of British Industry) known as the voice of business in the country , and in Nigeria , convention on Business integration (CBI).
* Cause groups :These groups are promotion groups , which seek to promote particular causes.For example , Charities and environmental groups .
* Insider groups and outsider groups:Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government .They have regular access to ministers or legislators .The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) is an eamols of such group.
* Anomic Group:Groups here are unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society .These groups are not guided by an appropriate beghavioural style or rule ,and they may sometimes act violently.
* Associational Groups and Non-associational Groups :asociational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country .Also, these groups have their own registered offices,constitutions and so on.

**FUCTIONS**

* Links Government to the people

Pressure groups stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitize the people on such matter and at same time relate to the government what the opinion of the people is.

* Promise participation in Government

Some pressure groups engage in demostrations and other measures to put their views across to the government .The activities of pressure groups therefore, promote political participation and caries citizenry along.

* Serving as sources of information to Government

As the pressure groups lobby government on various fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues they may not even be aware of .

* Curtaining of Dictatorial tendencies

The activities of pressure groups ensures that government do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drafting into a dictatorship.