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UNDERSTANDING PRESSURE GROUP

To amount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are ASUU, Afenifere, NBA, CAN, NLC, etc.

Pressure groups and political parties are different from each other. Political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups aim to influence political decisions. Political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. Pressure groups are not actually accountable for their actions while political parties do account for their actions.

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

- Interest groups: It is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society.
- Cause groups: These are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes.
- Insider groups and Outsider groups: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers of legislators. Outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries.
- Anomic groups: Groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviors as they work based on the moment and situation in the society.
- Associational groups and Non-associational groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

1. Links government to the people.
2. Promotes participation in government.
3. Serving as sources of information to government.
4. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies.
5. Promotion of the interest of the minority.
6. Influencing legislation.

Pressure groups lobbying

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political actions. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives.