**NAME: YUSUF DEBORAH DAMILOLA**

**DEPARTMENT: PHARMACY**

**MATRICULATION NUMBER: 19/MHS11/150**

**COURSE CODE: GST 203 (GOVERNMENT)**

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEAOF PRESSURE GROUP**

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. A pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest or goal whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. It is referred to as “The Functional Representative”. Pressure group can also be described as “interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups” (Anifowose 1999). What the pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings with some pressure through the right channels and means to make government listen to them. The pressure groups influence public policy, administration and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are: ASUU, Afenifere, Oodua People’s Congress, Arewa Consultative Forum, Arewa’s People’s Congress, NBA, CAN, NLC e.t.c. Pressure Groups and political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. They are indifferent in so many ways for example the political parties seek to gain government powers while on the other hand, pressure groups do not seek to gain power rather their aim is to influence political decisions.

There are various types of pressure groups for example we have the interest groups, the cause groups, insider and outsider groups, anomic groups, and the associational groups and non-associational groups.

Interest Groups: This is the group that represents the people. 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 Group: They are the promotion groups which seek to promote a particular cause. For example, charities and environmental groups

Insider Groups and Outsider Groups: The insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. For example The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). On the other hand, outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. For example the Animal Liberation Front.

Anomic Groups: These groups have unpredictable actions and behaviors as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. They are not guided by an appropriate behavioural style or rule and they may sometimes act violently.

Associational Groups and Non- Associational Groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. On the other hand, non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization.

Pressure groups play very important roles in the society by influencing government policies for the betterment of the members the society. The following are the functions of pressure groups: they link the government to the people, they promote participation in government, they serveas source of information to the government, they curtail dictatorial tendencies, they promote the interest of the minority, they influence the legislation and they lobby.