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**sAN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP**

UNDERSTANDING PRESSURE GROUP

Pressure is to persuade someone 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 own advantage. The pressure group is referred to as “the functional representative”. E.g. NBA (Nigeria Bar Association) represents the lawyers and solicitors, NMA(Nigeria Medical Association) which represents the doctor’s interest, ASUU(Academic Staff Union of Universities) which represent academic and condition of learning in Nigerian’s universities.

Anifowose (1999) described pressure group as ‘’interest groups or protest group’’. The pressure could be social, business-like, education and ethnic-oriented. Pressure group may look similar to politics but not because political parties seek power and wide range of policies while aim to treat the gap in the democratic process.

**Types of pressure groups.**

1. Interest group: also known as sectional groups which representing the people in the society e.g. the trade unit for instance CBI (Confederation of British Industry) known as the voice of business.
2. Cause group: known as promotion groups which seek to promote particular causes and social movement. E.g. charities and environmental groups.
3. Insider groups and outsider groups: insider have regular access to the ministers or legislators while the outside group have no access or links to government e.g. Animal liberation Front.
4. Anomic Groups: this groups have unpredictable action and behaviors without rule and violence can occur which is based on the moment and situation in the society e.g. rioting and protest e.tc.
5. Association groups and non-associational group: associational groups are one that is registered under the appropriate authorities in a state or country with their own registered offices while non-associational without formal organization.

Function of Pressure Groups

1. Links government to the people: makes the opinion of people know to government and also relate relevant information from the government to the people.
2. Promote participation in government: it allow masses to participate in political activities of the government.
3. Serving as source of information to government: it make valuable information on aspect of government which they are not aware of.
4. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies: it ensure that government do not perpetuate themselves in power by drifting into a dictatorship.
5. Promotion of the interest minority: they give right to the under-privileged and ensure minority right are promote.
6. Influencing legislation: they mount pressure on government to implement policies that are benefit of citizens.
7. Pressure groups and lobbying: they adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goal including media advocacy and direct political action e.g. organized protests.