

**NAME: ALAYANDE BISI ESTHER**

**MATRIC NO: 19/SMS02/009**

**DEPARTMENT: ACCOUNTING**

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

A pressure group seeks to influence government decisions and policies. To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. The pressure groups is referred to as "The Functional Representative". This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their function. For example, the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), represents the Lawyers and Solicitors and there is also the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) which champions the interests of academics and condition of learning in Nigeria's universities. Pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or groups (Oyeleye, 1998). What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their hidings. In addition pressure groups are able to make government listen to them. These groups influence both public policy, administration, and even go a long way to determine political structures of a society.

Pressure Groups and political parties' activities may sometimes appear similar but they are different from each other which are as follows:

1. The political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups do not seek to gain powers
2. The political parties have a wide range of policies while pressure groups narrow their goals
3. Political parties do account for their actions while pressure groups do not account for their actions.

However, this differences do not point to the fact that pressure groups and political parties have nothing in common. Pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social changes. While pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in a nation, there is some downside which is sometimes due to their selfish interest pressure groups alter the direction of government decisions.

There are different types of pressure groups which are:

- Interest Groups: This group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society e.g. the trade units.
- Cause Groups: These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes e.g. charities and environmental groups.

- Insider Groups and Outsider Groups: Insider groups are usually consulted by the government while outside groups have no access or links to government's mission and visions.
- Anomic Groups: these group work based on the movement and situation in the society. They are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule
- Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country while non-associational groups are pressure group without formal organization.

#### **Functions of Pressure Groups**

- Links Government to the people
- Promotes participation in Government
- Serving as Sources of Information to Government
- Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies
- Promotion of Interest of the Minority
- Influencing Legislation
- Pressure Groups Lobbying