

NAME: UZOH SYLVIA CHINENYE

DEPARTMENT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
DIPLOMACY

COURSE: GST203 (GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL
INSTITUTIONS)

MATRIC NO: 19/SMS09/079

COLLEGE: SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

A brief synopsis of chapter 15

7 OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

Pressure is to coerce or persuade someone into doing something. With this definition, pressure group can be as a formal or organized body with common interest, whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred to as “the functional representatives”. For example, the Nigeria Bar Association [NBA], represents the lawyers and solicitors, while Nigeria Medical Association [NMA] represents doctor’s interests. There is also the Academic Staff Union of Universities [ASUU] which champions the interests of academics and conditions of learning in Nigeria’s universities.

Pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhance or even protect the interest of their members or group. What pressure group seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings. And with some pressure through the right channels and means, pressure groups are able to make government listen to them. In nature, these groups could be religious, business-like, education, ethnic-oriented, gender-sensitive, economic or social, among others.

Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. The first distinction is that 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.

Political parties have a wide range of politics, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. Also pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their action, while political parties do account for their actions.

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 encourage participations, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. While pressure groups have their importance place in scheme of things in a nation, there is some downside. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government's limited resources.

There are various type of pressure groups. The various type of pressure groups include; interest groups, cause groups, insider groups and outsider groups, anomic groups, associated groups and non-associated groups. Functions of pressure groups include; links government to the people, promotes participation in government, serving as sources of information to government, curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, promotion of the interest of the minority, influencing legislation, pressure groups' lobbying.

The interest groups is a group that represents the people in society, e.g. the trade units, they seek to promote a particular cause e.g. Charities and environmental groups. Atomic group this group has unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society.

