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MATRIC NO.: 19/MHS02/114.

COURSE CODE: GST 203 (GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS)

DEPARTMENT: NURSING SCIENCE.

An Overview of the Idea of Pressure Groups.

A pressure group is 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. They are referred to as "The Functional Representatives".

Often times, pressure groups and political parties may appear similar but, they differ from one another. Political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups aim at influencing political decisions. While political parties have a wide range of policies, pressure groups narrow their goals.

Types of Pressure Groups.

Interest Groups.

This group is seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, Convention on Business Integration.

Cause Groups.

They are promotion groups which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charity and environmental groups. They are always aimed at achieving a single objective like protesting about the expansion of airports, seaports, etc.

Insider and Outsider Groups.

They are usually consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. A very good example is the Nigerian Bar Association.

Outside groups have no access or links to the government and machineries. They are often radical in nature as they are most times denied by government. An example is the Animal Liberation Front; which champions right for animals.

Anomic Groups.

These groups have unpredictable actions and behaviors as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavior rule or style, and sometimes act violently. A very good example is the EndSARS# protesters.

Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups.

Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. These groups have their own registered offices, constitution and so on.

Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachments, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS.

- They serve as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs.
- They promote public participation in the activities of government of the day.
- They serve as sources of information to the government.
- The activities of pressure groups ensure that governments do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.
- They champion the rights of the under-privileged especially promotional pressure groups. They act as watchdogs on the government.
- They are instrumental in mounting of pressure on the government so that it can implement policies that are of benefits to the citizens.