

A 2-page review of Chapter 15 (An overview of the idea of pressure group.)

Pressure group can be said to be a formal or organised 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. These groups influence both public policy, administration, they determine political structures of the society and forms of government. The pressure group is ^{also} referred to as "The Functional Representative", this implies that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. These groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic-oriented, gender-sensitive, economic or social.

Pressure Groups and political parties may sometimes have similarities, but they are different from each other. ^{which includes} Political parties seek to gain government powers, while, pressure groups influence political decisions. Political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. Political parties do account for their actions, while, pressure groups are not accountable for any of their actions. Examples of pressure groups in Nigeria includes; ASUU (Academic Staff Union for University), NBA (Nigeria Bar Association of Nigeria), Christian Association of Nigerian (CAN), Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). There are different types of pressure groups which includes; Interest groups, this groups are also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. Cause groups, these are promotion groups, that seek to promote particular causes. Insider groups and Outsider groups, the insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. On the other hand, outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machinery. However, the insider and outside group changes from time to time based on the party or government in power.

Atomistic groups, these groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. 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 groups without a formal organisation.

here are ^{various} functions of pressure groups which includes; It serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs. Another function of pressure groups is that it promotes public participation in the activities of the government of the day.

Pressure groups act as sources of information to the government. They ensure that government do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship. The pressure groups champion the rights of the underprivileged, especially promotional pressure groups. They ensure that the interest of minority groups are not trampled upon by the government. Another function is that they are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens. Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. They lobby in so many ways; they lobby with governmental officials directly, they might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives.