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Assignment: Write a 2 page review of chapter 15

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

There are many definitions of pressure groups. According to Anifosewe (1999) they are Interest, lobby or even protest groups. It is basically a formal or organized body with common interest whose main aim is to influence government decisions by putting pressure on them.

They are referred to as **THE FUNCTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**. *They represent* various Interest and sectors in the society based on their functions. In Nigeria there are many examples Nigeria Bar Association for lawyers and Nigeria medical association for doctors. Their functions influence both public policy and administration. This may not be the case everytime but it helps. Political parties are not pressure groups as there are many differences between them and pressure groups;

- Pressure groups influence government decisions but they do not seek government powers.
- Pressure groups help achieve social change with political parties.
- Pressure groups narrow their goals but political parties do not.
- Pressure groups unlike political parties are not accountable for their actions.
- Pressure groups are informally organised unlike properties that are formally organized.

Pressure groups are very useful in the democratic process they work closely with political parties to achieve social changes, they serve as watchdogs and checkmate to prevent the tyranny of the majority, they also create awareness and promote good accountability in the society daily. We should also be careful when it comes to pressure groups, when the democratic process become dominated by specific pressure groups people that have narrow interest become highly influential. In democracy there is need for compromise and if they refuse to compromise and remain rigid and uncompromising they can monopolise the democratic process.

## ***Types of Pressure Groups***

### **1. INTEREST GROUPS**

They are sectional groups and represent people in the society. An example is the trade units Convention of Business Integration.(CBI).

### **2. CAUSE GROUPS**

They are promotion groups and seek to promote particular causes are Charities and environmental groups. Like Amnesty International.

### **3. INSIDER AND OUTSIDER GROUPS**

Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and they have regular access to legislators and ministers eg is NBA that is Nigerian Bar Association. They tend to have influence on government vision and missions.

### **4. ANOMIC GROUPS**

They have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on moment and situation in the society. They are not guided by adequate behavioural styles and rule. They may sometimes act violently.

### **5. ASSOCIATIONAL AND NON ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS**

Associational groups are usually registered with adequate authorities in the state or country. Non associational groups do not have a formal organisation.

## **FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

- *Promotes Participation in Government*
- *Links government to the people*
- *Influence legislation*
- *Promote minority interest*
- *Provide the government with information*

**Pressure groups' Lobbying** :Their are many way that pressure groups achieve their goals some are lobbying and direct political participation and media advocacy. They lobby in many ways example lobbying legislators and government officials and they may also sponsor legislative Bill's and ensure passage of bills.

