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**CHAPTER FIFTEEN( AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP)**

To mount pressure means to persuade someone or to coerce a person onto doing something which make a pressure group a formal and 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. The pressure group is referred to as the “Functional Representative”. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. This is usually done through their occupations or professions. For example, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) represent the lawyers and solicitors in Nigeria. According to Anifowose (1999) pressure groups is described as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups”. What pressure group seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings and with some pressure the government is able to listen to them. Examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are ASUU (Academic Staff Union for University), Afenifere, Oodua People’s Congress, Arewa Consultative Forum, Arewa’s People Congress and Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC)

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

**INTEREST GROUPS**

This group is also seen as sectional groups representing the people in the society. Examples are CBI known as the Confederation of British Industry and Covention on Business Integration (CBI)

**CAUSE GROUPS**

These groups are promotion of groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, we can see the Amnesty International which campaigns for the need to end human right abuses. Any group that champions social movement is also seen as cause group. It is aimed at achieving a single objective like protesting about expansion of airports, seaports, railways etc.

**INSIDER GROUPS AND OUTSIDER GROUPS**

Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They gave regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigerian Bar Association NBA is an example of such groups. An insider group may be of high or low profile but they tend to have influence in government’s mission and visions. Outside groups have no link or access to the government and its machineries. Examples include, Animal Liberation Front which champions the rights for Animals and Earth Liberation Front which argues for the rights to earth exploitation and destruction.

**ANOMIC GROUPS**

Anomic groups have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on the moment and situation of the society. These groups are not guided by appropriate behavioral style or rule and they may sometimes act violently. Protest, rioting and strikes are some means through which they mouth pressure

**ASSOCIATIONAL AND NON ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS**

Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. On the other hand, non associational pressure groups are pressure groups without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social tradition, tribal or even race afflictions.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

1. Links government to the people- One of the functions of pressure groups is that it serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs. Pressure groups are able to sensitize the people on such matter and at the same time relate to the government what the opinion of the people is.
2. Promotes participation in Government- Another function of pressure group is that it promotes public participation in the activities of the government of the day.
3. It serves as a source of information for the government
4. It helps in promoting the interest of the minority
5. It helps in influencing legislation

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals which includes lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. Pressure groups may lobby in so many ways. They may lobby government officials directly or sometimes they may lobby through friends, spouses, children and other relatives