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**A SUMMARY OF AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP.**

**What is pressure?**

Mounting pressure is persuading someone or coercing a person into doing something. Then 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. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue, it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. 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, the Nigerian Bar Association which represents the lawyers and solicitor

Pressure groups and political parties activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. 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 policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. However, these differences do not point to the fact that pressure groups. Pressure group's existence is to check mate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. Pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society, problems can arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups.

**Types of pressure groups are:**

Interest group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. Cause groups are groups which seek to promote particular causes, any group that champions social movement is also seen as "cause group".

Insider group and outsider groups; insider group are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators while outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact. The Anomic groups have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule and they may sometimes act violently.

Associational groups and non- associational groups; associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country, they have their own registered offices, constitution and so on. On the other hand, non-associational groups are pressure group without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions, just to mention a few.

**Functions of pressure groups**

- Links government to the people
- Serving as sources of information to government
- Promotes participation in government

- Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies
- Promotion of the interest of the minority
- Influencing legislation

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. Pressure groups lobby in so many ways, they lobby with governmental officials directly.