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

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This makes a pressure group 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. 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. In nature these groups could be religious, business-like, educational, economic, social among others. Pressure groups and political parties activities may sometimes appear similar but they are different from each other. They do not seek to gain powers like political parties, they aim to influence political decisions. Pressure groups are not accountable for any of their actions but political parties are. However, political parties and pressure groups work together to achieve certain social changes. Pressure groups make the democracy better.

Moreover, in the democratic process, there is a need for compromise in order to reach consensus regarding the common good. While pressure groups have their important place in the scheme of things in a nation, there is some downside.

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

**INTEREST GROUPS.**

This group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society.

**CAUSE GROUPS.**

These groups are promotional groups which seek to promote particular causes. It is always aimed at achieving a single objective.

**INSIDER GROUPS AND OUTSIDER GROUPS.**

Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. An insider group may be high or low in profile, either ways they still tend to have influence on the government’s decision and vision. On the other hand, Outsider group have no access or links to the government, groups in this category are radical in nature because they are mostly denied by the government.

**ANOMIIC GROUPS**

This groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. They are not guided by a particular behavioural style or rule.

**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, constitutions and so on. Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS.**

* Links government to the people.
* Promotes participation.
* Serving as sources of information to government.
* Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies.
* Promotion of the interest of the minority.
* Influencing legislation and Pressure groups’ lobbying.