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CHAPTER FIFTEEN- AN OVERVIEW OF THE PRESSURE GROUP SUMMARY.

Pressure groups are existent in order to fulfil its fundamental aim which is the protection of the interest of their group members through the influence of laws and governmental policies and laws to it’s advantage. According to Anifowose, pressure group is referred to as "interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups. This can also be known as ‘The functional representative’. Some examples of pressure groups, in Nigeria are: ASUU (Academic Staff Union for University), Afenifere, Oodua People's Congress (representing the Yoruba tribe), Arewa Consultative Forum, Arewa People's Congress (representing the Hausa tribe), Nigeria Bar Association of Nigeria (NBA), Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) etc.

Pressure groups checkmate and make democracy better, to help curb political apathy and treat gaps in the democratic process. This makes pressure groups and political parties relate because they serves similar functions/purposes. There are several types of pressure groups; interest groups:(sectional groups that represent the people e.g. trade units) cause groups-( Aimed at solving a particular cause or a single objective), Anomic groups: (These groups take actions based on the present situation of the society mainly for the interest of their members. This is done by upholding strikes, riots, and protests. E.g. ASUU), insider and outsider groups:, and associational groups and non-associational groups.

Pressure groups as a body tend to carry out several functions and duties. One of them is the promotion of participation in the Government and political activities. Another one is the linking of government to the people where they able to serve as the voice of the citizens. Thirdly, the Provide information to the Government on particular issues in the society in the different areas they represent. Lastly, they persuade e government to implant policies that will be beneficial to the citizens thereby influencing legislation.

Pressure groups adopt different strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political action (e.g., organised protests).Lobbying is a form of advocacy with the intention of influencing decisions made by the government. Clearly, some pressure groups exert more influence than others e.g., civil rights groups, trade unions, and professional associations are more widely recognised and accepted than newly formed pressure groups or single-issue pressure group. They may also provide funds in certain cases for the passage of the bill.

To conclude, pressure groups play an important role in the issues of the society whereby they have the ability to express the opinions and views of the minority groups that are not heard. This makes pressure groups beneficial to the citizens.