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AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP( CHAPTER 15)

In order to understand the idea of a pressure group the word pressure was explained as and of persuading someone into doing something. A pressure group was defined as 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 or simply put a pressure group is an organised coming together to influence the government policies and decisions. A pressure groups main function is to make sure that their opinions are regarding to issues related to the community. A pressure is also referred to as THE FUNCTIONAL REPRESENTAIVE. There are various kinds of pressure groups such as Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Nigeria Medical Association, Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and so on. Each of these association represent various conditions and interests. Pressure was also described interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups by Anifowose during the year 1999. A pressure group came into existence to protect the interests of their members and more of the of people in the society. This act is a way of allowing those that cannot be heard by the government. These groups could also be related to religion, education, ethnicity, gender and so on. In some criteria’s pressure groups are presumed to be similar to political parties without considering that political parties have a variety of political goals while pressure groups have a goal and also that political parties aim for the gain of power while pressure groups do not aim to gain power but to influence the government.

Basically, pressure groups help to make the government improve although dormancy of these groups in a democratic area could bring about certain issues that would be forced into the hands of the Leaders. There are certain types of pressure groups such as interest groups, cause groups, anomic groups, associational and non-associational groups and so on. All pressure groups have functions no matter what type it is. The functions of pressure group are the fact the they link the government to the public, to promote participation in government, to serve as sources of information to the government, to curtail dictatorial tendencies, promote the interest of the minority and they influence the legislative. Pressure groups also practice lobbying in order for their influence to extend the more. Most pressure groups lobby so as to pass on their beliefs and interests to a lot of people and to the government. Their action of lobbying can either be through friends, spouses, children and any other relative.