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MATRIC NUMBER; 18/MHS O7/052

LEVEL; 200

**ANSWERS;**

**UNDERSTANDING PRESSURE GROUP**

A pressure group is a formal or organization organized with a common interest or its aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal og 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. The pressure group is referred to a ‘’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. What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their bidding. And with some pressure through the right channels and means, pressure groups are able to make government listen to them. In addition to that, these groups influence both public policy, administration, and even go long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government.

Pressure groups existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. Also, to treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participatiuon, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society.

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

**INTEREST GROUP**; this group ia also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. E.g trade unit

**CAUSE GROUPS**; these groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. Any group that champions social movement is also seen as cause group, even though the group lacks formal structure. It is always aimed at achieving a single objective like protesting about the expansion of airports, railways e.t.c.

**INSIDER GROUPS AND OUTSIDER GROUPS**; insider groups are regularly consulted by government. They have regular access to ministers and legislators. The Nigeria Bar Association is an example of such group. An insider group may be high or low in profile, nevertheless they intend to have influence on governments mission and visions. On the other hand outside groups have no access or links to government and its machineries.

**ANOMIC GROUP**; groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work is based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule.

**ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS AND NON-ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS**; Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in the state or country. Also these groups have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on. Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

* **LINK GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE**; one of the functions of pressure groups is that it serves as alink between the government of the day and the people it governs. Pressure groups stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitise the people on such matters.
* **PROMOTES PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT**; some pressure groups engage in demonstration and other measures to put their views across to the government. This help’s in promoting participation in the activities of the government.
* **SERVING AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION TO GOVERNMENT**; as the pressure groups lobby government on various fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues they may not even be aware of.
* **PROMOTION OF THE INTEREST OF THE MINORITY**; pressure groupd champions the rights of under-privileged, especially promotional pressure groups.

**INFLUENCING LEGISLATION**; another pressure group that they are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens. Pressure groups put pressure on government to influence its policy, change a policy direction, withdraw entirely a particular policy that does not favour their members or the citizenry.

**PRESSURE GROUP LOBBYING**; pressure group 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. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives.