

Name: Onyebashi Awele Victory
Matric Number: 19/MHS01/354
Department: MBBS
Course Title: Government and Political Institutions
Course Code: GST 203

A Review of The Overview of Pressure Group

A pressure group is a formal or organised body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the sole goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. They are referred to as FUNCTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE. The pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. What the pressure group seeks to achieve is that government should do its bidding. These pressure groups may be religious, educational, ethnic oriented or gender based. Examples of pressure groups are: the Nigerian Bar Association, Academic Staff Union for University (ASUU), Areas People's Congress, etc.

Pressure group and political parties are different in the sense that while the former seeks to influence government policies and decisions and does not seem power, the latter seeks to gain political power. Another difference is that pressure narrow their goals while political parties have a wide range of policies. Pressure groups are created to checkmate and make democracy better, as well as to compensate for the tyranny of the majority of the people in society.

There are different types of pressure groups, some of these are:

Interest groups: these are seen as sectional groups representing the people of the society. Examples are; trade units, Confederation of British Industry.

Cause groups: these are groups that seek to promote a particular cause. Examples are; environmental groups and charities.

Insider and Outsider group: insider group have access to government and they maybe low or high profile, but they intend to have influence over government decisions. Outsider group have no access to government, they are usually radical in nature as government denies them.

Another set of groups are the ANOMIC group. This groups have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on the moment in the society. Associational and non-associational group: associational group are registered groups which have their constitution, an example is Nigerian Medical Association, non-associational group don't have formal organization, their arrangement is based on kinship or family ties, social transaction, tribal or race affiliation.

The function of pressure groups cannot be overemphasized. They link the government to the people. They also promote public participation in government. Citizens are able to participate in decision-making of the government. They serve as a source of information to government. They also curtail dictatorial tendencies of government by challenging government and its decisions. They promote the interest of the minorities and those who don't have a voice. They influence legislation.

Pressure groups use different methods to achieve their goals, these may include: lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action, like organised protest, and strike. The ability and degree to which a pressure group achieves their goals depends on the ability of it to be recognized as a legitimate by the population, media and by those in power.