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**Chapter 15**

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

Pressure group is an association of a group of people with common goals and interest, these set of individuals come together to achieve their purpose. According to Anifowose 1999 Pressure group is described as “interest groups, lobby groups or even protest group “. Pressure group came into existence to complement or even protect the interest of the members of their group. What these Pressure groups seek to accomplish is ensuring that the Government does their bidding.

In nature, these pressure groups vary in different places; it could be religious, business- like, educational, ethnic- oriented, gender- sensitive, social or economic etc. Some examples are ASUU (Academic Staff Union for University), CAN (Christian Association of Nigeria), NBA (Nigeria Bar Association of Nigeria), NLC (Nigeria Labour Congress) etc. Pressure groups and Political parties may appear similar sometimes, but they are not. The existence of Pressure group is to make sure that Democracy is being at its best in the Country.

While pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in a nation, there is also downside. Sometimes due to their own selfish interest pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions forgetting that government resources are limited. e.g. When professional body goes on strike it’s the citizen that will suffer and most at times the government might be incapacitated due to shortage of funds to meet the requirement. The concept of pressure group was originated from the US that is there are that represents the association that is going through the use of pressure to influence some better decisions about politics.

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

As earlier mentioned pressure groups varies in various aspects, but they can be grouped majorly:

1] ASSOCIATIONAL GROUP:

\* Educational groups

\* Student Union.

\* Labour Union

2] NON- ASSOCIATIONAL GROUP:

\* Ethnic group

\* Racial Class

\* Linguistic

3] INSTITUTIONAL GROUP

4] ANOMIC GROUP

**TECNIQUES USED BY PRESSURE GROUPS**

1) Lobbying techniques: They mostly influence their actions through inner actions of the governmental bodies to execute their plan.

2) Striking techniques: Pressure groups know the best time to strike the Government decision, to get their attention from the people and government.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

• Links Government to the people

• Promotes participation in Government

• Influences Legislation

• Promotion of the interest of the minority

• Serving as sources of information to Government

**References**

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