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## CHAPTER 15

### AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

The word pressure means to persuade, to cause someone into doing something. Pressure group is a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on the governmental institutions with a goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage.

There are distinctions between political parties and pressure groups.

- political parties seek to gain government power while pressure groups aims to influence political decisions.
- political party have wide range of policies, while pressure group focus their goal
- political parties have account of their actions, while pressure group don't have account of their actions.
- political parties are more formally organized than pressure group

### FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

- To checkmate the government and induce democratic better
- To compensate for the absence of majority of people in the society
- To bridge gaps in democratic process
- To encourage participation
- To enhance good accountability in a civil liberties

### TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

Interest groups: Also seen as sectional group, representing the people of the society. For example the trade unions, Convention on Business Integration (CBI)

Cause groups: These groups are pressure groups, which seeks to promote particular causes. For example charities and environment groups. The pressure group is always about achieving a single objective.



Inside groups and outside groups:

Inside groups: is usually consulted by the government, they have regular access to the minister and legislator. (MBA) Nigeria Bar Association is an example of inside groups. They intend to influence government members and decision.

Outside groups: They have no access or link to the government and its mechanisms. They use other ways or forms to have impact. Example is the South Liberation front, which demands right for animals.

Anomoc groups:

This group are unpredictable in actions and behaviour as they are based on moment and situations in the societies.

They are not guided by particular behavioural style or rules, they sometimes act violently.

Associational groups and Non associational groups:

Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. They have their own registered officers, constitution etc. Non associational groups are pressure groups without formal organization. Their organization and authority are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social bond etc.

Functions of pressure groups

- A Links government to people
- A Promotes participation in government
- A Serve as source of information to the government
- A Promoter of the interest of the minority
- A Influences legislation
- A Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies

Pressure group strategies

- # Lobbying: pressure group mostly influence the actions through inner actors of the government / bodies to execute their plans or will.

\* Striking: pressure group knows the best time to strike the government decisions and policies to get audience or attention from the people and government.