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**ASSIGNMENT**

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

 **A pressure group may be defined as any group of people bound together by some common interests or profession who engage in some activities to influence. Pressure group is a formal or organized 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. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decision and policies. The pressure group is referred to as “The Functional Representative”. This idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions, For example, The Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) represents the lawyers and solicitors, while (NMA) represents doctor’s interests. There is also ASUU which champions the interest of academic and condition of learning in Nigeria’s universities.**

 **According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as “interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups”. Pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or groups (Oyeleye, 1998), Example of pressure groups in Nigeria are: Academic Staff Union for University (ASUU), Afenifere, Oodua People’s Congress (represent the Yoruba tribe), Arewa Consultative Forum, Arewa People’s Congress (representing the Hausa tribe), Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), (CAN), (NLC).**

 **Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. The first distinction is that political parties seek to gain powers, while pressure groups do not seek to gain power. Rather, their aim is to influence political decisions. Second, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. Also pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their actions, while political parties do account for their actions. Political parties are formally organized than pressure groups. However, these differences do not point to the fact that pressure groups and political parties have nothing in common, they do. In fact, pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social changes.**

**Types of Pressure Groups**

* **Interest Groups.**
* **Cause Groups.**
* **Insider Groups and Outsider Groups.**
* **Anomic Groups.**
* **Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups.**

**Function of Pressure Groups**

* **Links Government to the People.**
* **Promotes Participation in Government.**
* **Serving as Source of Information to Government.**
* **Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies.**
* **Promotion of the Interest of the Minority.**
* **Influencing Legislation.**
* **Pressure Groups Lobbying.**