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

To mount pressure means to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. A pressure group promotes its interests regarding an issue, it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The functional representative is what the pressure group is referred to as. this is because different groups represents people from different sectors of the society. This is usually done through their occupations or professions, examples are the NMA which refers to the NIGERIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION which represents doctors interests ..we have also groups for achieving interests of academics and conditions of learning in Nigeria's universities.
Anifowose in 1999 described pressure group as interests groups, lobby groups or even protest groups. Pressure groups came into place to ensure that government comply to their biddings and and with some pressure, means and channels, pressure groups are ready to make some governments listen to them. Political parties are completely different from pressure groups but they appear similar. Firstly political parties seek to gain power while pressure groups seek to influence the decisions of the government. Secondly, political parties has wide range of politics while pressure group have small range goals.
Thirdly,pressure group are not accountable for their actions but political parties are. sometimes due to selfish reasons pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government limited resources.types of pressure groups are interest groups which are seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, confederation of British industry (CBI). Cause groups is another type of group that is there to promote a particular cause.for example for charity etc.
Insider groups and outsider groups.insider groups are those groups that have access to government while outsider groups do not have access to governments because they intend to influence governments decisions. They now use other means. Outsider groups changes from time to time based on the party or people in power.Anomic groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on moment and situation. They dont have appropriate behaviour style ..so they can start rioting etc. Association groups are registered groups while non association groups are not formal, they can gather around with family and friends meeting in any place.
Functions of pressure group are to link government to the people by them passing information to the citizens about decisions of the government. It promotes participation in government activities. They also help in serving as information sources to governments as the people in power may not be aware of what the citizens are being passing through. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, they help to promote the interests of the minority as to make sure that their interests are not trampled on because of where they are in the society. They also influence the legislators in making new policy which will be benefiting to people in the society. To achieve some of this goal, pressure groups takes part in lobbing. Pressure group in conclusion is a formal or an informal organisation that their aim is to put pressure on government institutions to influence government policies and laws to it's own advantage.

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