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**ASSIGNMENT: Overview of the idea of pressure group.**

Pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This means a pressure group a formal or organised body with a common interest whose fundamental aim to put pressure on any government institution with the goal of influencing government policies and law to its own advantage.

The pressure group is referred to as **‘’the functional representative’’**. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. It is usually done through their occupation or profession.

Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar but they actually do differ. While political parties deal with seeking to gain powers but pressure group on the other hand does not deal with gaining of power because their main aim is to influence political decision. Also, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure group narrow their goals. Political parties do account for their actions but pressure groups do not account for any of their actions. Political parties are formally organised than pressure groups. These does not mean that they are not related to each other to achieve a common certain social goal and changes.

Pressure groups existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for a tyranny of majority of people in the society. Also, to treat the gap in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participation, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decision, while not considering government’s limited resources.

**Types of pressure groups.**

***Interest groups:***

This group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. E.g, the trade units.

***Cause groups:***

These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charity homes and environmental groups.

***Insiders groups and Outsider groups*:**

Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigeria Bar Association is a good example.

The outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to find other ways to have impact. The example of such groups is Animal Liberation Front.

***Anomic groups:***

Groups have unpredictable actions and behave as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. They sometimes act violently.

***Associational groups and non-associational groups:***

Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. These groups have their own registered offices and so on. Non-associational groups are groups without a formal organisation. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions, just to mention few.

***Functions of Pressure Groups***

* Link government to the people.
* Promotes participation in Government.
* Serving as sources of information to government.
* Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies.
* Promotion of the interest of the minority.
* Influencing legislation.
* Pressure Groups’ lobby