

IBE CASSANDRA EZINNE

19/MHS01/185

MBBS

Pressure group is a formal body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on government institution with goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. It is referred to as the functional representative. What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their bidding and through the right channels they are able to make government listen to them. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are; ASUU, Afenifere, Oodua People's Congress, Nigeria Bar Association of Nigeria and Nigeria Labour Congress, Pressure Groups and political parties' activities may appear similar but they are different from each other. Political parties seek to gain government powers, while pressure groups aim is to influence political decision. Pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or groups.

Moreover, political parties have a wide range of parties, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. Also, pressure groups are not actually accountable for their actions, while political parties are accountable for their actions. In addition, political parties are more formally organized than pressure groups. However, pressure groups and political parties do have somethings in common. They relate together to achieve certain social changes. Political parties are more formally organized than pressure groups.

Pressure group's existence is to checkmate and make democracy better. Also, to treat the gaps in the democratic process, to encourage participation and enhance good accountability in our daily society. However, problems may arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups. In this situation, the voice of a small group with narrow interest can become overly influential. In democratic process there is an essential need to compromise in order to reach consensus regarding the common good. While pressure groups have their importance, they also have some downside. Sometimes, due to their selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government's limited resources.

The types of pressure groups are; interest groups: this group also seen as sectional groups represents people in the society, cause group these groups are promotion groups which seek to promote particular causes, insider and outsider groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government, while outsider groups have no link to government. They have to use other ways to have impact, anomic groups these groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society, and the last group is the associational and non-associational groups. The associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities of the state or country. On the other hand, non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization.

The functions of pressure groups include, linking government to people, promoting participation in government, serving as source of information to government, curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, promoting of the interest of the minority and influencing legislation. Pressure groups lobby in various ways. They lobby with government officials directly. Also, they may sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.