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**MATRIC NO: 19/MHS11/039**

**COUSRE: GOVERNMENT**

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

**MEANING OF PRESSURE GOURP?;** According to Anifowose [1999]

pressure group is described as an interest group, lobby groups or even protest

groups. Pressure group came into existences to complement, enhance or even to

protest the interest of their members of groups. pressure group in my own words

can be define as organized groups, which influences government dictions socially

or economically, without necessarily entering into election activities for the control

of government, in doing this they influence the executive, legislature and other

officials of government to achieve their immediate aim, however, some of this

groups are part of political process, because sometimes appear similar but they are

different from each other and they attempt to reinforce or change the direction of

government policy, but do not wish as it were to be in government. Pressure groups

existence is to checkmate and make democracy better to compensate for tyranny of

majority of people in the society, examples of this pressure group include ASUU[

Academic staff union for university], Afenifere, oodua peoples congress[

representing the Yoruba tribe], arewa consultative forum, arewa peoples congress[

representing the Hausa tribe], Nigerian bar association of Nigerian[NBA],

Christian association of Nigerian[CAN], Nigeria labor congress[NLC].

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

1] **Interest groups** ; this group is also seen as sectional group, representing the

people in the society e.g. the trade union, for instance, CBI[ confederation of

British industry

2] **cause groups** ; theses groups are promotional groups which seek to promote

particular causes e.g. charities and environmental groups; like the amnesty

international, which campaign for the need to end human right abuse.

3] **The groups and outsider groups** ; they regularly consulted by the government

and have regular access to ministers or legislators e.g. the Nigerian bar association

4] **Anomic group;** they have unpredictable action and behavior as they work based

on the moment and station in the country

5] **Associational groups and non associational groups;** this groups that fall under

this categories are usually registered with appropriate authorities

**FUNCTION/MERITS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

They are different functions of pressure groups; such as they help to link

government to the people, that is they severs as a link between the government of

the day and the people that governs it, they also help in promoting participation in

the government, that is pressure groups help in the promotion of public

participation in the activities of the government of the by using different

demonstrative measures to point views to the government

Also they serve as sources of information to the government; this is also another

function of pressure group that is they are as a source of information to the

government agencies they help in giving the government valuable information on

the aspect of issues. They also curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, this explains that

criticism of government policies curtail any dictatorial tendency government may

have. It also holds and promote interest of the minority and influencing legislation,

that is it promote champion rights and they are instrumental in mounting of

pressure on the government

**PRESSURE GROUP LOBBYING;** this group adopt variety of strategies to

achieve their goals and aims which include lobbing elected officials, media

advocacy and direct political action e.g. civil right groups, trade union etc. pressure

group lobby in so many ways they lobby with governmental official directly e.g.

ministers, legislators and other governmental bodies . They may also sponsor bills

in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of bills.