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**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].

There are also different types of pressure groups, such as *The Interest Groups,* which is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society eg the trade units. There is also *The Cause Groups* which are promotion groups, which seek to promote a particular cause. *The Insider and Outsider Groups,* where the insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and have regular access to ministers or legislators , for example the NBA ,while the Outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries, they have to use other ways to have impact ,for example the Animal liberation Front.

*The Anomic Groups,* which have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on the moment and situation of the society. They mount pressure through riots, protests etc. Lastly *The Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups.* The Associational groups are usually registered with authorities in a state or country and have their own registered offices , constitutions and so on. The Non-associational groups are groups without a formal organisation.

Functions of Pressure groups, they link government to the people, they stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitive the people on such matter and the same time relate to the government what the opinion of the people is. Promoting participation in government, by engaging in demonstrations and other measures to put their views across to the government. Serving as sources of information to the government, by lobbying government on various fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues they may not even be aware of. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, they ensure that government do not perpetuate in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship. Promotion of the interest of the minority, influencing legislation.

Pressure Groups lobby in so many ways, they lobby with government officials directly. They lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends , spouses, children, and other relatives, may even sponsor Bill’s in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the Bill’s.