**LEBILE CELINE MOTUNROLA**

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**MBBS**

**200L**

**GST 203 REVIEW ON CHAPTER 15**

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

A pressure group is a formal organized body with a common interest, and whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies to its own advantage. Pressure groups can be described as interest groups, lobby groups, or even protest groups, by Anifowose. Pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of group members. They seek to ensure that the government follows whatever they place for them.

Pressure groups differ from political parties, in the sense that political parties seek to gain political power, while pressure groups aim to influence governmental policies. Political parties have a wide range of policies, while pressure groups have straight goals. Pressure groups are not accountable for their actions, but political parties are accountable for their actions. Political parties are formally organized the pressure groups. Despite all their differences, they both have the same goals which is to achieve social changes.

Pressure groups helps to keep in check governmental powers to prevent tyranny, and promote democracy. Although, pressure groups have downsides. They can alter the direction of the government decisions, due to selfish interest, by not considering the government limited resources.

Pressure groups have different types; Interest group. This group is seen as sectional groups that represents people of the society. Cause groups, are promotional groups, which seek to promote particular causes. Insider and Outsider groups, are regularly consulted by government, they are usually low profile, and influence government decisions. Anomic groups have unpredictable actions and behavior, because the work based on the current state of the country. Associational and Non-Associational groups, are registered groups with appropriate authorities. Non associational are not formal organizations. Their arrangements are by family attachment, kinship, social traditions or racial afflictions.

Pressure groups serves as a link between the government and the people its governs. They stay abreast with the day to day relevant information, and are able to sensitize the people on such matters, at the same time communicate their opinions to the government. They promote public participation in governmental activities, by encouraging its people to speak out. Pressure groups ensure that the government do not put themselves in high powers thereby drifting to dictatorship, i.e. they curtail doctorial tendencies of the government.

They serve as sources of conveying information to the government. They interact and provide the government with valuable information on aspects of issues being overlooked. Pressure groups help in mounting pressure on government, in order to implement policies to the advantages of citizens, they put pressure on government to influence its policies, change a policy direction or withdraw it entirely. They ensure the rights of minority groups are not being overlooked or ignored by the government. They support the rights and privileges of the minority. They can also sponsor the bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure passage of bills.

Pressure groups adopt variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. Some pressure groups definitely are able to influence their interest to the government than others. The degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals depends on their ability to be recognized as legitimate by the population, media and people of power. Examples of widely recognized bodies are; Trade Union, civil rights groups and professional association.