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**Medicine & Surgery**

**Overview Of the Idea Of Pressure Group**

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something .This makes a pressure group a formal or organized body with common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to it’s own advantage. The pressure Group is referred to as the “The Functional Representative.“ Examples of pressure group includes ASUU, NBA, NMA, etc.

Types of Pressure Groups

* Interest Groups: This is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society . For example, the trade units, for instance, CBI known as the voice of business in the country and in Nigeria
* Cause Groups: This groups are promotional groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups. Any group that champions social movement is also seen as “cause group" .
* Insider Groups and Outsider Groups: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers and legislators. The NBA is an example of an insider Group. On the other hand, Outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machines. Examples include the Animal Liberation Front. Groups like this are mostly denied by government.
* Anomic Groups: Groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule ( they may sometimes act violently). Protest, rioting, strikes...are some of the ways through which they mount pressure.
* Associated and Non Associated Groups: Associated groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities. Non Associated groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUP**

1. Links Government to the people:
2. Promotes participation in government
3. Serves as a source of information to the government
4. Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies
5. Promotion of the interest of the minority.
6. Influencing Legislation
7. Pressure groups' lobbying