**NAME: UNWAETOR JOYCE SAMUEL.**

**DEPARTMENT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY.**

**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/SMS09/078.**

**ASSIGNMENT: REWIEV OF CHAPTER FIFTEEN IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS.**

**TOPIC: AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP.**

Pressure group is an organized group of people who are trying to persuade the government or other authority to do something for example to change a law. this makes a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. The pressure group is referred to as the functional representative, this is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions and this is usually done through their occupations or professions.

It is obvious their trade unions, business organization and professional association can exert considerable pressure upon government. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are ASSU (academic staff union for university), Afenifere, Oodua people's Congress (representing the Yoruba tribe), Nigerian Bar Association of Nigeria(NBA). it is however important to distinguish the difference between pressure groups and political parties as the they appear similar. Political parties seek to gain governmental powers while pressure groups aim at influencing political decisions. Second, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups marry their goals. also pressure groups and not actually accountable for any of their actions, while political parties do account for their actions. it is also obvious in its features that political parties are more formally organized and pressure groups. however, these differences do not point to the fact that pressure groups and political parties have nothing in common. pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social goals. Pressure groups may align their interest with that of certain political parties that are believed to possess the capability to further their interests. Pressure group in a democratic society and ensures accountability in our daily society. as much as we see the importance of pressure group, there is some downside. sometimes due to their own selfish interest pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions while not considering government limited resources.

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**.

**Interest groups**: this group is also seen as sectional groups representing the people in the society. They use various form of advocacy in order to influence for example, the trade units, for instance, CBI (confederation of British industry) known as the voice of business in the country, and in Nigeria

**Anomic pressure groups**: These are interest groups that use violence, demonstrations, arson, assassination, strikes and the like in expressing their aims and objectives. They are mob groups, not well organized but may be interested in some common goals. Street demonstrators and student riot groups are examples.

**Cause groups**: Cause groups are those that represent a segment of society but whose primary purpose is economic and noneconomic and usually focused on promoting a particular cause or value. For example, protesting about the expansion of airports, seaport, railways etc.

**Associational groups and non-associational groups:** associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in their state or country while non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization.

**Insider groups and outsider group**s: Insider pressure groups are regularly consulted by ministers and civil servants and are trusted by government departments because they negotiate quietly and unobtrusively for their members. In contrast outsider pressure groups are as their name suggests are outside everyday contact with ministers and civil servants. Outsider groups lack such close and business-like links with government.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUP**

Pressure groups try to make the government more attentive to the needs of the people. This is because as groups with many members sometimes nationally spread, they command more respect than individuals who may be fighting for similar causes. Pressure groups provide specialized and expert information to the government on their interests and explain government policies to their members and the general public. Thus they are an important link between the government and the people.

They help to educate their members and the whole society on their fundamental human and political rights, and on some government policies. The political education and consciousness of citizens are promoted through the activities of pressure groups. They promote economic stability of the country through their useful advice to government on economic policies. Example is the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA).

They promote certain general welfare services. For example, human rights groups like the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) offer free legal services in court, especially on cases bordering on the exercise of fundamental human rights. Pressure groups help to integrate the differing interests of various groups in the society into a manageable whole. With this, the government’s attention to these needs will be more focused and effectively addressed. They promote and protect the interest of their members. For example, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASSU) got a special salary scale approved for its members.