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 **A REVIEW ON THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP**

Pressure, simply, is to persuade someone or coerce person into doing something. Therefore, pressure group is a formal or organised body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government and laws to to it’s own advantage. A 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. It is usually done through their occupations or professions. For example, Nigeria Bar Association(NBA), represents the Lawyers and Solicitors, while Nigeria Medical Association(NMA) represent doctor's interests. There is also the Academic Staff Union of Universities(ASUU) which champions the interest of academics and condition of learning in Nigeria's universities.

Anifowose(1999) described pressure group as “interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups". What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings. In nature, these groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic oriented, gender-sensitive, economic, or social, among others. Pressure groups and political parties' activities differ from each other: firstly, political parties seek to gain government powers, while pressure groups do not seek to gain power rather, their aim is to influence political decisions. Secondly, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas, pressure groups narrow their goals. Thirdly, pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their actions, while political do account for their actions. Fourthly, political parties are more formally organised than pressure groups. However, pressure groups and political parties are similar despite their differences: pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social changes at their interests.

Pressure group's existence is: firstly, checkmate and make democracy better, secondly, compensate for the tyranny of majority people in the society. Also, to treat the gaps in the democratic process. In addition, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participation, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. If pressure groups remain rigid and refuse to compromise on specific issues, they can potentially monopolise the democratic process by focusing public debate on few specific issues.

However, there are downsides to pressure groups: due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government ‘s limited resources.

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

**Interest Groups**: this group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society.

**Cause Groups**: these groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups. Any group that champions social social movement is also seen as “cause group" even though the group lacks formal structure. It is always aimed at achieving a single objective.

**Insider Groups and Outsider Groups**: Insider groups regularly consulted by government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. Outside groups have no successor links to the government and its machineries. Groups in this category are radical in nature because they are mostly denied.

**Anomic Groups:** these groups have unpredictable and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an apprioprate behavioural style or rule , and they may sometimes act violently.

**Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups**: are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. On the other hand, non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

1. Curtailing Dictatorial Tendencies
2. Promotes Participation in Government
3. Serving as of Information to Government
4. Links Government to the People
5. Promotion of the interest of the minority
6. Influencing Legislation

PRESSURE GROUPS' LOBBYING

Various strategies are used by pressure groups to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, and direct political action. However, some pressure groups exert more influence than others but the degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals may depend on their ability to be recognised as legitimate by population , media among others. Pressure groups lobby through: government officials directly, friends, spouses of government officials, among others.