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CHAPTER 15: AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

A Pressure group can be said to be 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.

It is referred to as The functional representative ,it represents various sectors of the society based on their functions ;mainly through their professions or occupations e.g ASUU(Academic Staff Union of Universities);they can also be said to be interest groups,lobby groups or even protest groups according to Anifowose.

Pressure groups serve as a checkmate and strengthen democracy but at times they also have their negative sides such as selfish interest,not considering the limited resources available and still making huge ridiculous requests.

Types of Pressure Groups:

Interest Groups :sectional groups, representing the people in the society e.g the trade unions (CBI)

Cause Groups :they are promotion groups that seek to promote/enhance a particular cause, for example: environmental groups.

Insider Groups and Outsider Groups :Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and have regular access to ministers or legislators e.g. NBA ;but the outsider groups do not have access to the government ,these changes from time to time based on the government in power.

Anomic Groups: they work based on situations in the society and therefore have unpredictable actions and behaviours,they aren't guided and may at times act violently .

Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups: associational groups are registered with appropriate authorities in a state/country ;while non-associational groups don't have formal organization their arrangements are by kinship ,tribal affiliations etc.

Functions of Pressure Groups:

- Links Government to the people
- Promotes Participation in Government
- Serving as sources of information to Government
- Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies
- Promotion of the Interest of the Minority
- Influencing Legislation

Pressure Groups' Lobbying

In order for pressure groups to achieve their goals they may use some various strategies such as lobbying elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political action (e.g. organized protests).