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### **Chapter 15**

#### **PRESSURE GROUPS**

Pressure groups are described as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups. Pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or groups”.

What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that the government does their biddings.

Pressure groups exist to checkmate and make democracy better ,to compensate for the tyranny of the majority of people in the society. Examples of pressure groups in Nigeria includes;

- A. Asuu (academic staff union for university)
- B. Afenifere, oodua people’s congress (representing the Yoruba tribe)
- C. NBA (Nigeria bar association)
- D. CAN(Christian association of Nigeria)
- E. NLC(Nigeria labour Congress)

### *Types of Pressure groups*

1. Non-associational pressure groups.
2. Anomic pressure groups.
3. Institutional groups.
4. Interest pressure groups.
5. Cause groups.
6. Insider groups and outsider pressure groups.

These groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. They have their own registered offices constitutions and so on. They are organizations that are formal.

1. NON-ASSOCIATIONAL PRESSURE GROUPS: these are non formal organizations, their arrangements and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even by family attachments, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions, just to mention few
2. ANOMIC PRESSURE GROUPS: they have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation. The society, they are not guided by behavioral style or rule.
3. INSTITUTIONAL GROUPS: these are groups where by the members are made up of professionals e.g lawyers (attorneys) journalists, doctors e.t.c

4. INTEREST PRESSURE GROUPS: these are groups representing the people in the society for example CBI- Confederation of British Industry.

5. CAUSE GROUPS: these are groups that ensure promotion in the society e.g charity and environmental groups.

#### Features of pressure groups

1. They stand as a close watch in regards to the government and its activities.
2. They stand as a vital role for political socialization; the majority of the people's wishes are being manifested by the pressure groups.
3. Pressure groups gain a widespread of public support from the people.i.e people move towards their discretion anytime any move is made.

#### Techniques of Pressure groups

1. Lobbying
2. Striking

#### A. LOBBYING

The use of lobbying also serves as a function because it is also an instrument being used by members of the pressure groups so that it can implement the interest of the citizens. Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with governmental officials directly. For example, they lobby legislators, ministers and other government's machinery. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives.

#### B. Striking

This can simply be said to be when workers make a unified decision not to work anymore. The purpose of this is to get the employer's attention and also for the employer to understand that without the current issue for which the strike was commenced being resolved, production or services will not continue. This is the shutting down of work processes to achieve a common goal.