

## Assignment 2

Write a summary on Chapter 15: Pressure Groups

### An Overview of the Idea of Pressure Groups

A pressure group is 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 to its own advantage. It is also referred to as The Functional Representative as it represents different aspects of the society based on profession or occupation. For example, National Union of Journalists and Nigeria Bar Association (NBA).

Pressure groups can be formed on different basis such as: religion, occupation, ethnicity, gender and so on but all aim at influencing government policies in favor of the members.

In a way, pressure groups and political parties are alike but differ in other sense. Pressure groups are not accountable for their actions but political parties are. Pressure groups do not seek to gain power but that is the main aim of political parties. Political parties have wide range of goals and manifestos but pressure groups tend to narrow down their goals. They are similar in the sense that they both aim to achieve certain societal changes.

Although pressure groups are of importance in democracy, there is still a negative side to it. ~~and~~ The most prominent one being that the rigidity and selfishness of some pressure groups on the govt to enforce some policies with consideration of sufficiency of government's resources. This is where compromise should come to play to ensure that both sides win.

There are different types of pressure groups. Each of them exist on the basis of ~~div~~ various common grounds <sup>such as:</sup> hence exist for

1. Interest groups: They are seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society.

2. Cause Groups: They come together to promote a particular cause. For example, eco-action groups and charities. Their purpose is to achieve specific objectives such as keeping the environment safe.
3. Insider groups and Outsider groups: Insider groups are pressure groups that have ~~direct~~ direct access to 'govt'. They are regularly consulted by govt. Example is Nigerian Bar Association. Outsider groups do not have link to govt or its mechanisms.
4. Amnic groups: These are groups with spontaneous behaviours and actions based on pending issues in the society.
5. Associational and non-associational groups: Associational are usually registered with appropriate authorities but non-associational groups do not have formal organisation.

Pressure groups perform different functions in the society. Pressure groups ~~link~~ <sup>acts</sup> as bridge between govt and people by relating to government the opinion of people. They promote the minority interests. They ensure the rights of the under-privileged are not trampled on. Also, they pressure government to implement policies in favour of citizens. They also act as source of information by clearly stating the opinion and views of people to the government. Pressure groups also promote ~~public~~ political participation by creating awareness.