**NAME: ABE, OLUWATOMILOLA VICTORIA.**

**DEPARTMENT: MBBS.**

**COURSE CODE: GST 203.**

**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/MHSO1/007.**

**Assignment:** In about a 2 page review Chapter 15 “AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP"

**CHAPTER 15**

**UNDERSTANDING PRESSURE GROUPS**

A pressure group is a form 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. Pressure group is described as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups.” pressure groups cams into existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or groups”.

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce the person into doing something. 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. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government policies and decisions. For example, the Nigerian Bar Association represent the lawyers and solicitors, while Nigerian Medical Association represents doctors’ interests. There is also the Academic Staff Union of Universities which champion the interest of academics and conditions of learning in Nigeria universities. Some other examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are: Afenifere, Oodua People’s Congress (representing the Yoruba tribe), the Arewa Consultative Forum, Arewa People’s Congress. (representing the Hausa tribe), Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Nigeria Labor Congress, etc.

There are numerous types of pressure groups; Interest groups, Cause groups, Insider and Outsider groups, Anomic groups, Associational and Non-Associational groups and many others

* Interest groups: This group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society.
* Cause groups: These groups seek to promote particular causes
* Insider and Outsider groups: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. Outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to impact.
* Anomic groups: These groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioural style or rule, and they may sometimes act violently.
* Associational and Non-Associational groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. Also, these groups have their own registered offices, constitution and so on. Non-Associational groups are peessure groups without a formal organisation. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions.

The pressure groups have quite a number of functions they play in the modern society some of which are:

* It serves as a link between the government and the people it governs.
* It promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day.
* They serve as sources of information to the government on issues they are not aware of
* They ensure the government does not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.
* They champion the rights of the under-privileged especially promotional pressure groups.
* They are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on the government so that it can implement policies to the benefit of the citizens.

**Features of pressure groups**

i.they stand as a close watch in regarding to the government and it activities.

ii. They stand as a vital role for political socialization majority of the people’s wish are being manifested by the pressure groups.

iii. 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**

* a. Lobbying
* b. Striking

**PRESSURE GROUPS LOBBYING**

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. Clearly, some pressure groups exert more influence than others. The degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals may depend on their ability to be recognized as legitimate by their population, media and by those in power. For example, civil rights groups, trade unions and professional associations are more widely recognized and accepted than newly formed pressure groups or single issued pressure groups.