Name: Oduma Prayer Uburebure

Matric No: 19/mhs01/282

Dept: Medical Laboratory Science

 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 and laws to its own advantage. Pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue as it seeks to influence decisions and policies. Pressure group is referred to as “The functional Representative".

 According to Anifowose (1999), pressure group is described as interest groups, lobby groups or even protect the interest of their members.

 What pressure group seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings. And with some pressure through the right channels and means, pressure groups are able to make governments listen to them. These groups influence both public policy, administration a d even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. These groups could be religious, business like, educational, ethnic oriented, gender sensitive, economic, or social, among others. Some examples of pressure group in Nigeria are ASUU, Oodua Peoples congress, Arewa consultative Forum, Arewa peoples congress, Nigeria Bar Association, Christian Association of Nigeria.

Pressure groups and political parties activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. The first distinction id that political parties seek to gain government powers, while pressure groups do not seek to gain powers. Rather, their aim is to influence government decisions. Secondly, political parties have a wide range if policies, while pressure groups narrow their goals . Pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their actions, while political parties account for their actions. Political parties are more organized than pressure groups. Pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social changes.

The existence of pressure group is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. However, while pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society, problems can arise when democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups. In this situation, the voice of the same group of people with narrow interest can become overly influential. If pressure groups remain rigid and refuse to compromise on specific issues, they can potentially monopolise the democratic process by focusing public debate on a few specific issues.

 There are different types of pressure groups: Interest group; this group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society.

Cause group; These groups are promotion groups which seek to promote particular causes. It is always aimed at achieving a single objective like protesting about the expansion if airports.

Insider Groups and outsider groups; Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government, they have access to ministers or legislators. Example is the NBA. Outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact. Example of this group is the Animal liberation front, which champions rights for animals. Groups in this category are radical in nature because they are mostly denied by the government.

Anomic Groups; these groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on movement and situation in the society these groups are not guided by appropriate behavioural Style or Rule and they may sometimes act violently.

Associational Groups 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, constitutions and so on. On the other hand, non associational groups a pressure group without a formal organisation.

There are different functions of pressure groups.

Link government to the people link government to the people; one of the functions of pressure group is that it serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governance.

Promotes Participation in Government; another function of pressure group is that it promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day. The activities of pressure groups therefore promote political participation and carries the citizens along.

Serving as a sources of information to Government; another function of pressure group is that they are sources of information to the government.

Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies; activities of pressure groups ensures that government do not perpetuate themselves npower thereby drifting into a dictatorship.

Promotion of the interest of the minority; Pressure groups champion the rights of the underprivileged especially promotional pressure groups. As they go about their activities, they ensure that the interests of the minority group and not trampled upon by the government.

Influencing Legislation; another function of pressure groups is that they are instrumental in mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are benefits of the Citizens. Pressure groups put pressure on government to influence its policy change a policy direction withdraw entirely a particular policy that does not favour their member of the Citizens.

Pressure Groups' Lobbying; pressure group may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals including lobbying elected officials Media advocacy and Direct political actions. Clearly some pressure groups exert more influence than others.

Pressure group lobby in So Many Ways. They lobby with governmental officials directly. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends, spouses, children, and other relatives.