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## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

### AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

#### Understanding Pressure Group

To Amount to pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a 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. The pressure group is referred to as “The functional Representative”. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions.

According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group is 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 member or groups (Oyeleye, 1998). What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that the government does their biddings. And with some pressure through the right channels and means, pressure groups are able to make government listen to them.

Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. The first distinction is that political parties seek to gain government powers; while on the other hand, pressure groups do not seek to gain power. Rather, their main aim is to influence political decisions. Second, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their actions. Also pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their action, while political parties do account for their actions.

Pressure Groups existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. Also, to treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society.

#### TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

Interest Groups: This group is also seen as sectional groups, resenting the people In the society.

Cause Groups: These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes.

Insider Groups and Outsider Groups: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. However, an insider group may be high or low profile, nevertheless they intend to have influence on government's mission and visions. On the other hand, outside group have no access or links to the government and its machineries.

Anomic Groups: Groups here have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society.

#### FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

Links Government to the People: One of the functions of pressure groups is that it serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs

Promotes Participation in Government: Another function of pressure groups is that it promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day.

Serving as sources of information to Government: Another function of pressure groups is that they as sources of information to the government.

#### REFERENCES

Agbaje, A. (1999). "Political Parties and Pressure Groups," in R. Anifowose & F. Enemu (Eds.), Elements of politics, Lagos: Sam Ironuasi Publications.