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**CHAPTER 15**

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This makes a pressure group a formal or organised with a common interest whose main goal is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing governmental policies and laws to its own advantage. A pressure group promotes its regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred to as a “Functional Reprensative”. For example, Nigerian bar association (NBA), Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) etc.

Pressure group’s 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 democracy process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. However, while pressure good accountability in our daily society. However, while pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society, problems can arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups.

While pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in a nation, there is some downside. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government’s limited resources.

There are various types of pressure groups. They are namely;

interest groups: these groups are seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society

* Cause groups: these groups seek to promote particular causes
* Insider groups: they are regularly consulted by the government and intend to have influence on their missions and visions
* Outsider groups: they have no links and access to government machineries but use other ways to have impact
* Anomic groups: they have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on the situation of the society
* Associational groups and non-associational groups.

Pressure groups are enacted for various functions but there are some universal functions that all pressure groups serve. Pressure groups link the government to the people, promotes public participation in government activities, influences the legislation and promotes minority interests. Also, it serves as sources of information to government and curtailing of dictatorial tendencies.