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**SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 15**

Pressure group tries to influence public policy in the interest of a particular cause. It 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. They represent different sectors based on their functions either through occupations or professions e.g Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), they represents lawyers and solicitors, National Union of Teachers (NUT), they represent the teachers. These groups influence both public policy, administration also determine political form and structure of the government. These groups could be religious, educational, social, economic, etc. Example; in Nigeria include OPU(Oodua People’s Congress), Nigerian Labour Congress(NLC), etc

**Difference between political parties and pressure groups**

* Political parties aim for power while pressure group influence political decisions.
* Political parties is wide while the other is narrow. Political parties are accountable for their actions while the other is not.
* Political parties is formally organized than pressure group. Pressure group make democracy better.

Pressure group have its own disadvantages, among them is that, sometimes, their selfish interest alter the directions of government decisions, while not considering government’s limited resources.

**Types of pressure groups**

* Interest group(sectional groups, representing the people in the society, e.g CBI, Confederation of British Industry).

* Cause group; they seek to promote particular causes e.g Human Rights Groups, Red Cross.
* Insider groups(have access to government visions and actions, e.g NBA. Outsider groups(have no access to government, and they make use other means e.g Animal Liberation Animal).
* Anomic groups have unpredictable actions and most times acts violently, it can be through protest, striking, rioting, etc. E.g #ENDSARSprotest.

* Associational groups(registered with appropriate authorities e.g Trade Unions) and non-associational groups are without a formal organization.

**Functions of pressure groups includes**

* They serve as intermediary between government and the people.
* It promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day.

* They serve as source of information for the government.

* They curtail any form of dictatorship.

* They ensure that the interest of the people(less privileged) are treated with respect.

* They pressurize the government into the implementation of beneficial policies to the people.

Pressure group make use of lobbying method in influencing the public policies. Lobbying is to seek to influence (a legislator) on an issue. People do this though children, spouses, friends, relatives, etc. Also, pressure group may sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bill.