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1) Review on Chapter 15(An overview on the idea of pressure group).

* UNDERSTANDING PRESSURE GROUP

 Pressure is to persuade or coerce someone into doing something. This makes a pressure group a formal or organized body with common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any government institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. The pressure group is referred to as “The Functional Representative” because of the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. Usually done through their professions E.g. Nigeria Bar Association and so on.

According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described “interest groups, lobby groups or even or protest groups”. In nature, these groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic-oriented, gender-sensitive, economic, or social, among others. Some pressure groups in Nigeria are: ASUU (Association Staff Union for University), Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

 Pressure Groups and political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar, but they differ from each other. For instance, political parties seek to gain government powers, meanwhile pressure groups do not seek to gain power. Rather influence political decisions. Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the injustice of majority of people in the society. Also, to treat gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. Pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in the 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 governments’ limited resources.

* TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS
1. Interest Groups: This groups are also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, the trade units.
2. Cause Groups: These groups are promotional groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For examples, charities and environmental groups.
3. Insiders Groups and Outside Groups: Insiders are regularly consulted by the government consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators and they could be high or low in profile. While on the other hand, Outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to impact.
4. Anomic Groups: Groups here have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the situation in the society. They aren’t guided by any behavioral rules and sometimes act violently.
5. 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. While non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment.
* FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS
1. Links Government to the People.
2. Promotes Participation in Government.
3. Serving as Sources of Information to Government.
4. Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies.
5. Promotion of the Interest of the Minority.
6. Influencing Legislation.
7. Pressure Groups’ Lobbying.