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**QUESTION:**

In about 2-page review chapter 15, “An overview of the idea of pressure group” in salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics.

To pressure someone 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. It promotes its interest regarding an issue, and it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. There are some pressure groups for occupations like Nigeria Bar Association represents lawyers, while Nigeria Medical Association represents doctors. According to Anifowose 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 members or groups. In addition to that, these groups influence both public policy, administration and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. Some examples of general pressure group are: ASUU, CAN, NBA, NLC etc.

Pressure groups and political parties may at times appear similar, but they are different from each other. The first difference is that political parties seek to gain government power while pressure groups do not seek to gain power rather aim to influence political decisions. Second, political parties have a wide range of policies, where pressure groups narrow their goals. Also, pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their actions, while political parties do account for their actions. Also, political parties are more formally organized than pressure groups. Despite all the differences, they still have something in common, pressure groups may align their interest with that of certain political parties that are believed to possess the capability to further the interests. Pressure groups come to being to checkmate and make democracy better and to also treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among we, to encourage participants etc.

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

* **INTERST GROUPS:** This group is seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, CBI (Confederation of British Industry).
* **CAUSE GROUPS:** These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote causes. For instance, charities and environmental groups.
* **INSIDER GROUPS AND OTSIDER GROUPS:** Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and have regular access to ministers or legislators. For example, NBA. Outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. For instance, Animal Liberation Front.
* **ANOMIC GROUPS:** Groups here have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. They are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style.
* **ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS AND NON- ASSOCIATIONAL GROUPS:** Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country while, non-associational groups are pressure group without a formal organization.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS.**

* **LINKS GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE:** It serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs,
* **PROMOTES PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT:** It promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day.
* **SERVING AS SOURCES OF INFORMATION TO GOVERNEMNT:** It serves as sources of information to the government.
* **CURTAILING OF DICATORAIAL TENDENCIES:** It ensures that the government do not prolong themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.
* **PROMOTION OF THE INTEREST OF THE MINORITY:** They ensure that the interests of minority groups are not exploited by the government.
* **INFLUENCING LEGISLATION:** They instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens.

**PRESSURE GROUPS LOBBYING**

Pressure groups adopt different ways to achieve their goals including lobbying elected officials, direct political action. Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with governmental officials directly. For example, they lobby legislators, ministers, they might sometimes lobby other government machineries.