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CHAPTER 15: AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

The mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies.The pressure group is referred to as “the functional representative”.

According of Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as “interest group, 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 (Oyeleye, 1998).

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 democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. Some of the pressure groups in Nigeria are; ASUU( academic staff union for universities), CAN( Christian association of Nigeria), NLC( Nigeria labour congress), NBA( Nigeria bar association). Pressure groups and political parties activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. Political parties seek to gain government powers, while on the other hand, pressure groups do not seek to gain power. Rather, their aim is to influence political decisions.

The types of pressure groups consists of; interest groups, cause groups, insider groups and outsider groups, anomic groups, associational groups and non-associational groups.

Thefuncions of pressure groups are; links government to the people, promotes participation in government, serving as sources of information to government, curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, promotion of the interest of the minority, influencing legislation, pressure groups lobbying.