**CHAPTER 15: AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP.**

According to Anifowose (1999) 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 (Oyeleye, 1998). Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar but they are different from each other. The first distinction is that 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. Second, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas 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.

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, infirm debates among ourselves, encourage participations, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society.

We have different types of pressure groups which include; interest groups, cause groups, insider groups and outsider groups, anomic group, associational group and non-associational groups. There are as well different functions of pressure groups and they include;

1. Promotes participation in government
2. Serving as sources of information to government
3. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies
4. Promotion of the interest of the minority
5. Influencing the legislation

Pressure groups have their various strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political actions (organized protests). The degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals may depend on their ability to be recognized as legitimate by the population, media, and by those in power. Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with government officials directly. For example, they lobby legislators, ministers and her government machineries. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives.