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**REVIEW OF CHAPTER 15**

**UNDERSTANDING PRESSURE GROUPS**

**To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce the 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. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government policies and decisions. For example, the Nigerian Bar Association represent the lawyers and solicitors, while Nigerian Medical Association represents doctors’ interests. There is also the Academic Staff Union of Universities which champion the interest of academics and conditions of learning in Nigeria universities. Some other examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are: The Arewa Consultative Forum, Arewa People’s Congress. (representing the Hausa tribe), Christain Association of Nigeria (CAN), Nigeria Labor Congress, etc.**

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

* **Interest groups( they represent the people in the society and are known as sectional groups).**
* **Cause groups( promotion groups which seek to promote a particular cause).**
* **Insider(they are regularly consulted by the government and have access to ministers or legislature, example Nigerian Bar Association) and outsider groups( they have no links to the government and its machineries but use other ways, example Animal Liberation Front).**
* **Anomic groups(they have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the current situation).**
* **Associational(they are registered by the appropriate authorities) and Non-associational(they are without a formal structure and are not registered).**

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

* **Links government to the people**
* **Promotes participation in government**
* **Promotion of interest on the minority**
* **Serving as sources of information to the government**
* **Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies**
* **Influencing legislation**

**PRESSURE GROUPS LOBBYING**

**Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. Clearly, some pressure groups exert more influence than others. The degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals may depend on their ability to be recognized as legitimate by their population, media and by those in power. For example, civil rights groups, trade unions and professional associations are more widely recognized and accepted than newly formed pressure groups or single issued pressure groups. They lobby the government directly through ministers and legislature and also indirectly through their spouses, kids and friends.**