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

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. A pressure group therefore is a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institutions with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. The pressure group is referred to as the “Functional Representative.” For example, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) represents the Lawyers and Solicitors.

**Examples of pressure groups are**; ASUU (Academic Staff Union for University), Oodua People’s congress (representing the Yoruba tribe), Arewa Consultative Forum, Arewa People’s Congress (representing the Hausa tribe), Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), etc.

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 pressure groups do not seek to gain power, rather their aim is to influence political decisions. Moreover, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. 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 democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. While, pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society, problems can arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups.

**Types of Pressure Groups**:

Interest Groups; this group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, the trade units, for instance, CBI (Confederation of British Industry) known as the voice of businesses in the country, in Nigeria, Convention on Business Integration (CBI).

Cause groups; these groups are promotional groups which seek to promote particular causes. It is always aimed at achieving a single objective. For examples, charities and environmental groups. For instance, the Amnesty International, which campaign for the need to end human right abuses.

Insider groups and Outsider groups; insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They’ve regular access to ministers or legislators. For example, the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA). On the other hand, outside groups have no access or links to the government, they have to use other ways to have an impact. For example, the Animal Liberation Front.

Anomic groups; groups here have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by appropriate behavioral style or rule and they may sometimes act violently. Protest, rioting, strikes and sometime revolution are some of the means through which they mount pressure.

Associational and non-associational groups; associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization

Functions of pressure groups; Pressure groups links Government to the People, promotes participation in Government, it also serves as source of information to government. Pressure groups helps in Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies, Promotion of the interest of the Minority and 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 (e.g., organized protests).

Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with governmental officials directly. For example, they lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries. Also, pressure groups may sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.