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**QUESTION: IN ABOUT 2 PAGES REVIEW CHAPTER 15, “AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP”, IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS, PAGES 194-200**

To mount pressure 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 government or institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. A pressure group promote its interest regarding an issue it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred to as "the functional representative" and this is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. This is usually done through their occupations or professions.

According to Anifowose (1999), a 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). What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings. And with some pressure through the right channels and means, pressure groups are able to make government listen to them. 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. The nature of these groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic oriented, gender-sensitive, economic or social, among others. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are: ASUU, NLC, CAN and NBA.

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, instead, 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 not account for their actions. For example, when you vote for a political party during election. That is to make them accountable. In addition, political parties are more formally organized than pressure groups. However, these differences do not point to the fact that pressure groups and political parties have nothing in common, in fact, pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social changes. Social groups may align their interest with that of certain political parties that are believed to possess the capability to further their interest.

While pressure groups have the importance placed in the scheme of things in a nation there is some downside. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions while not considering government's limited resources. For example, when some professional bodies go on strike, citizens suffer and government might be incapacitated due to shortage of funds to meet the requirement of these associations.

There are different types of pressure groups in society and they are; "Interest groups" which is also seen as sectional groups representing people in society for example the trade units, "Cause groups" which are professional groups that seek to promote particular causes and any group that champions social movement is also seen as a closed group even though the group lacks formal structure, "Insider groups" which are regularly consulted by the government and can be on high or low profile and "Outsider group" which have no access on links to the government and its machineries and they use other ways to have impact, "Anomic groups" that have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society, "Associational groups" which are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country and "Non-Associational groups" which are pressure groups without a formal organization.

Pressure groups have different functions, the link government to the people, promote participation in government, serves as sources of information to the government, curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, promotion of the interest of the minority and influencing of legislation.

Pressure groups adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action like organized protests. Some groups exert more influence than others and 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. For example, civil rights groups trade unions and professional associations are more widely recognized and accepted that newly formed pressure groups or single-issue pressure groups.

Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. The lobby with governmental officials directly. For example, the lobby legislators, ministers and other governmental machineries and they might sometimes lobby these government officials three friends spouses children and other relatives. Also, pressure groups responsible the legislative houses and contactless late is to ensure the passage of the bills.