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**CHAPTER FIFTEEN (15)**

AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP

**Understanding pressure group**

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

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 of their members or groups (Oyeleye, 1998).

Pressure 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. Secondly, political parties have a wide range of politics, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. Also pressure groups are not accountable for any for their actions, while political parties do account for their actions. In addition, political parties are more formally organized than pressure 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 business in the country, and in Nigeria, Convention on Business Integration (CBI).

Cause Groups

These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promotion particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups.

Insider groups and outsider groups.

Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) is an example of such groups. On the other hand, outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact.

Anomic groups

Groups here have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society.

Associational Groups and Non- Associational groups

Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. On the other hand, non- associated groups are pressure groups without a formal organization.

**Functions of pressure groups**

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