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**CHAPTER 15**

To mount pressure is to pressure 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 governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue. 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’. What pressure group seeks to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings. In nature these groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic-oriented, gender-sensitive, economic or social, among others.

Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may seem or appear similar sometimes, but they are different from each other. Pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social changes. Pressure groups may align their interests with that of certain political parties that are believed to possess the capability to further their interests. Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for tyranny of majority of people in the society.

There are some types of pressure groups and they are:

* Interest groups: This grouos is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society.
* Cause groups: These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes such as charities etc.