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**REVIEW OF CHAPTER 15**

Pressure means to persuade or coerce someone into doing something.

Pressure group is a formal or organized body with common interests, whose fundamental goals of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. According to Anifowose (1999), pressure group is described as “interest groups, lobby groups or even protest group”. Pressure groups come into existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or group (Oyeleye, 1998).

While the activities of pressure groups and political parties may appear similar, they are different from each other. The first distinction being that political parties seek to gain governmental power, whereas pressure groups on the other hand aim to influence political decisions. Another distinction is that political parties have a wide range of political policies, while pressure groups narrow their goals. Pressure groups are not accountable for their actions, but political parties do account for their actions or the actions of their members.

Pressure groups exist to check the activities of government and make the democracy better, while compensating for the tyranny of the majority of people in the society. Pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society as problems arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific people.

Though pressure groups do have an important place in the scheme of things in a nation, there are downsides to it. Sometimes due to selfish reasons, pressure is mounted to alter the directions of government decisions, while not considering the government’s limited resources. For instance, when professional bodies go on strike, the citizens suffer the effects and the government may be incapacitated due to shortage of funds to meet the requirements of these associations.

There are various types of pressure groups, some of them include:

Interest Groups also known as sectional groups that represent the people of the society.

Cause Groups are promotional groups seeking to promote particular causes such as charities, etc.

Insider and Outsider Groups are groups consulted by the government on a regular basis. They intend to have some kind of influence on the government’s mission or vision.

Anomic Groups are usually nit guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule, and may sometimes act violently.

Associational Groups refers to groups registered with the appropriate authorities in a state or country.

Functions of pressure groups include; Criticism of government policies curtailing any dictatorial tendency the government may have. Promoting public participation in the activities of the government. Pressurizing the government so that they can implement policies that benefit the citizens, et cetera.