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**ASSIGNMENT: REVIEW CHAPTER FIFTEEN OF YOUR TEXTBOOK**

**CHAPTER FIFTEEN: An overview of the idea of pressure group**

Pressure means to persuade a person or coerce him/her to do what you want. Therefore, pressure groups can simply be defined as a formal 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. They are referred to as “The Functional Representative” because they represent the different sectors that they are concerned with example Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) who is concerned with the learning conditions in Nigerian Schools.

According to Anifowose (1999), pressure group is described as “interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups”. What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings and through the right means, they can channel their thoughts t the government in power. Pressure groups go a long way to influence the political structure of the society and even the forms of government. Examples of pressure groups include: Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Oodua People’s Congress, Academic Staff Union for Universities (ASUU) and Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) amongst others.

Many may think that there are similarities between political parties and pressure groups but there are also some clear distinctions. Firstly, political parties seek to gain governmental power while pressure groups do not seek to gain power but rather to influence political decisions. Another is that political parties have a wide range of policies while pressure groups focus on their goals. Also political parties are accountable for their actions while pressure groups are not. Moreover, political parties are more organized than pressure groups. Amidst all these differences, they are still similar in some aspects. A major point to note is that they do relate to achieve certain social changes.

Pressure groups exist to checkmate democracy and make it better. They also help in treating the gaps in the democratic processes, encourage participation and enhance good accountability. There are some disadvantages attached to pressure groups that affect the things of nation. Sometimes due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government’s decisions, while not considering government’s limited resources.

We have different types of pressure groups. The first are the **Interest groups**; they are sectional groups that represent the interest of the society e.g Convention on Business Integration (CBI). The second are the **Cause groups**; they seek to promote particular causes, they are groups that champion social movement even though they lack formal structure. The third are **Insider groups and Outsider groups;** insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and have regular access to ministers or legislators e.g Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). Outsider groups on the other hand, outsider groups have no connection to the government whatsoever but other ways to have impact