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**CHAPTER 15:**

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP**

The mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This makes a pressure group 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 advantages. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies.The pressure group is referred to as “***THE FUNCTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES***”. Various pressure groups represents different sectors of the society based on their functions, for instance the [NBA]Nigerian Bar Association represents the Lawyers and Solicitors,[NMA]Nigerian Medical Association represents Doctor’s interest e.t.c.

According of Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as “interest group, 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). Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, tp compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. Also, to treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. Some of the pressure groups in Nigeria are; ASUU( academic staff union for universities), CAN( Christian association of Nigeria), NLC( Nigeria labour congress), NBA( Nigeria bar association). Pressure groups and political parties activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. 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.

The types of pressure groups consists of; interest groups, cause groups, insider groups and outsider groups, anomic groups, associational groups and non-associational groups.

The functions of pressure groups are; links government to the people, promotes participation in government, serving as sources of information to government, curtailing of dictatorial tendencies, promotion of the interest of the minority, influencing legislation, pressure groups lobbying.

Basically the existence of pressure groups is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate the tyranny of majority of people in the society and also treat the gaps in the democratic process ,to inform the debate among ourselves,to encourage participations, and to enhance good accountability in our society.