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**COURSE TITLE : GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

**Assignment : Review Chapter of 15**

**Understanding Pressure Group**

To mount pressure means to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This make a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any government institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. They are referred to as “The Functional Representative” e.g Nigeria Bar Association(NBA), Nigeria Medical Association(NMA).

Pressure group and political parties activities may something appear similar, but they are different from each other:

1. Political parties seek to gain government power, while pressure group aim at influencing political decision.
2. Political parties have a wide rage of policies. Whereas pressure group narrow their goals.
3. Pressure group are not accountable for their actions while political parties do account for their actions.
4. Also, political parties are more formally organized than pressure groups.

Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society.

While pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in a nation, there are some down side. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government's limited resources.

**Types Of Pressure Group**

1. Interest Group
2. Cause group
3. Insider Group and Outsider Group
4. Anomic Group
5. Associational Group and Non-Associational Group

**Functions of Pressure Groups**

1. Serve as links to government
2. Promotes participation in government
3. Serving as sources of information to Government
4. Curtailing of Pictorial Tendencies
5. Promotion of the interest of the Minority
6. Influencing Legislation
7. Pressure Groups’ Lobbying