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**CHAPTER: CHAPTER 15**

It is understood from the chapter that pressure is the act of persuading a person into doing something. So a pressure groups function does not fall far from the same tree. A pressure group is a formal body with a common interest whose main aim is to pressure any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its advantage. It represents its interest and it is often referred to as THE FUNCTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE. We have different pressure groups there is the Academic Staff Union of Universities, Nigerian Bar Association and so on they all focus on the different areas they could be academic, religious, business oriented, gender sensitive or come in other forms.

Anifowose describes pressure groups as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups. They protect the interest of their members by ensuring that the government does their job by applying pressure to ensure they have the attention of the government. They affect public policy, administration and the political structure of the society.

It is important to note that pressure groups and political parties are different even though to the layman they may look similar one of the difference is that political parties seek to gain governmental power while pressure groups what to influence government decisions. Political parties have a lot of policies while pressure groups have a limited amount of goals. Furthermore, political parties are accountable for their actions while political groups are not accountable for their actions. Lastly, political parties are more formally organized thank pressure groups. Despite these differences they still have some similarities they relate together to ensure that certain social changes take place.

The purpose of pressure group is to make democracy better and compensate for the tyranny of people in the society. It ensures accountability, bridge gap in democratic process and increase self-awareness and debates among ourselves. Despite how beneficial these groups can be they still have their down side. If the society id dominated by few of a specific group they will yield too much influence meaning that they can take over the decision making process to some extent which may not be beneficial for the common good. At times they may act selfishly and put a lot of pressure on the government not taking into account the governments limited resources or limited actions.

There are different types of pressure groups one of which is known as *interest group* they are also known as sectional groups that represent the people in a society. They include trade unions etc. Another type is the *cause group* they seek to promote a particular cause like charities and environmental groups. Groups that campaign social movement are also known as cause groups. An example of this group is Amnesty International. *Insider groups and Outsider groups.* The insider groups are those that have influence on the government’s decisions that are regularly consulted by them like the NBA. While the outsider groups have no link to the government had to organize events such as rallies to get the governments attention. They are usually radical in nature an example of this group is the Animal Liberation Front. These groups change regularly as the government in power changes.

*Anomic groups.* This group work based on the situation in the society and their actions are most times unpredictable. They do not have a behavioral code and could mount pressure violently or through peaceful protects. The last group is the *Associational group and Non-associational group.* The associational groups are registered under authorities in a state they have their own registered offices and even constitution while the latter are pressure groups with no formal organization. The organization is arranged based on kingship or even based on family attachment.

The pressure group does a lot of thing one of which is that it links the government to the people. It promotes public participation in government. It serves as a source of information to government through the lobbying of government on different fonts. The pressure group influences the decision of the government to only implement policies beneficial to the citizens. It also helps to curtail any dictatorial tendencies and lastly, it promotes the interest of the minority.

Different strategies are adopted by pressure groups to push their interest. Some pressure groups have more influence than other pressure groups this is due to their ability to be recognized as legitimate by the people. The pressure groups may lobby with government officials directly, they lobby legislators, ministers and they may lobby through friends and family.