**SUMMMARY OF CHAPTER 15: AN OVERVIEW ON THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP.**

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To be pressured, means to persuade someone or coerce someone into doing something. This makes a pressure group a 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 own advantage. Pressure groups promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. A pressure group is referred to as “The functional Representative”. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. This is usually done through their functions. This is usually done through their occupations or professions. For example, the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) represents the lawyers and solicitors.

Some pressure groups, through the right channels and means, are able to make government listen to them. These groups influence both public policy, administration and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. These groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic oriented, gender sensitive, economic or social.

The difference between political parties and pressure groups is that political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups do not seek to gain such powers, but rather aim at influencing political decisions. Also, political parties have a wide range of policies where as pressure groups narrow their goals. It may seem as if pressure groups and political parties have nothing in common. They do. Pressure group and political parties, relate together to achieve certain social changes. Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of the people in the society.

**Types of Pressure Groups**

**1.** Interest groups: This is also known as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, trade units, for instance, CBI (Confederation of British Industry) known as the voice of business in the country.

**2.** Cause groups: These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups. For instance, the Amnesty group, which campaign the need to end human right abuses.

**3.** Insider and Outsider groups: The insider groups are groups which have regular access to ministers and legislators. The Nigeria Bar Association is an example of such groups. On the other hand, outsider groups, have no access or links to government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to impact. An example is the Animal Liberation Front, which champions right for animals.

**4.** Anomic groups: Groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviour as the work based on the moment and situation of the society. They may sometimes act violently because they are not guided by an appropriate l style or rule. They mount pressure by means of protests, riots, strikes and revolutions.

**5.** Associational and Non-associational groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. These groups also have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on. Non-associational groups on the other hand, a pressure groups without a formal organization. Their arrangement or gathering are by virtue of kinship o even family attachments, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions.

Pressure groups perform various functions, and they include;

* The promotion of public participation in the activities of government of the day. Some groups engage in demonstrations to put their views across to the government.
* They serve as a source of information to the government. The interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues they may not be aware of.
* Pressure groups, serve as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs.