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**COURSE: Government and political institutions**

**ASSIGNMENT TITILE In about 2-Page review Chapter 15, "An Overview of the Idea of Pressure Group," in Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics, pages 194-200**

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 ***REVIEW OF CHAPTER 15***

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

**To mount pressure on someone/a person is to persuade someone or to make a person into doing something. A pressure group is 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 decisions and policies.**

 **According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as “interest groups, 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. Pressure group’s exist in order to checkmate and to make democracy better, in order 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 is some downside. 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 GROUPS**

***1) Interest Groups:* also known as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, the trade units.**

***2) Cause Groups:* These are promotion groups, they seek to promote particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups. An example of this group is the Amnesty International, which campaign for the need to end human right abuses.**

***3) Insider Groups and Outsider Groups:*  Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigeria Bar Association(NBA) is an example of such groups. The outsider groups are the "political loop" are described as outsider groups. These fall under three subcategories: potential insiders, outsiders by necessity, and ideological outsiders.**

***4) Anomic Groups:* This groups have unpredictable actions and behavior because they work based on the moment and situation in the society. They are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule, and they may sometimes act violently. Protest, rioting, strikes, and sometime revolution, are some of the means through which they mount pressure.**

***5) Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups:* : associational groups which are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country, also, these groups have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on. On other hand, non- associational groups are the pressure group without a formal organization.**

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

***1) Linking of the Government to the People:* it serves as a link between the government of the day and the people its governs. The pressure groups stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitize/inform the people on such matter and gives the government the opinion of the people is.**

***2) Promotes Participation in Government: They help sometimes in the reduction of political apathy that is they try to increase the interest of people in the government in order to make them want to participate in political activities.* Some pressure groups engage in demonstrations and other measures to put their views across to the government. The activities of pressure groups therefore, promotes political participation and carries the citizenry along.**

***3) Serving as Sources of Information to Government:* As the pressure groups lobby government on various fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues they may not even be aware of.**

***4) Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies:* The activities of pressure groups ensures that government do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.**

***5) Promotion of the Interest of the Minority:* Its champion the rights of under-privileged, especially promotional pressure groups. As they go about their activities, they ensure that the interests of minority groups are not trampled upon by the government. Thus, pressure group act as watchdogs on the government.**

***6) Influencing Legislation:* Pressure groups is that they are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens. Pressure groups put pressure on government to influence its policy, change a policy direction, withdraw entirely a particular policy that does not favour their members or the citizenry.**

**PRESSURE GROUPS’ LOBBYING**

**This is one of then strategies pressure groups adapt in order to make things work.**

**Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying of elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political action for example the organization of protests. Some pressure groups may exert more influence than others. The degree in which such groups are able to achieve their goals depend on their ability to be recognized as legitimate by the population, media, and by those in power.**

## **Pressure Groups lobbying in so many ways. They lobby with governmental official directly. For example, they lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries. Also, pressure groups may sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.**