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**ASSIGNMENT**: 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.

Mounting pressure on someone is to persuade that person to doing something. This is exactly how a pressure group operates. A pressure group is therefore, a formal or organized group of people or body with a common interest and whose fundamental aim is to mount or put pressure on governmental institutions and aim at influencing governmental policies and decisions, to their advantages. It is also known as “Functional Representative”.

According to Anifowose in 1999, pressure group is described as interest, lobby or even protest groups. Pressure groups are formed to complement, enhance or even protect the interest of their members or groups according to Oyeleye in 1998. They could be religious, business like, educational, ethnic-oriented, gender-sensitive, economic, social, etc.

There are clear distinctions between a pressure group and a political party although; their activities may sometimes appear similar. The first distinction between them is that, a political party seeks to gain governmental powers while a pressure group does not seek to gain governmental powers. Secondly, a political party has a wide range of policies while a pressure group narrows its goals. Thirdly, a political party accounts for its actions while a pressure group does not account for its accounts

There are various types of pressure groups and they include;

1. interest groups,
2. cause groups,
3. anomic groups,
4. outsider groups and insider groups,
5. associational and non-associational groups.

Interest groups are also called “Sectional Groups” as they respect the people in the society. Examples include trade unions like CBI. Cause groups are promotion groups which seek to make a particular cause. Examples include Amnesty International. Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and they have regular access to ministers and legislators. Examples include NBA, NMA, etc. Outsider groups have no access to government and its machineries. Examples include Animals Liberation Front, Earth Liberation Front, etc. Anomic groups have unpredictable actions and behaviors as they work according to the state of situation of a state or country. Association groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in the state or country. Non-association groups are not registered with appropriate authorities in the society.

Pressure groups function in the following ways;

1. They act as a linkl between the government and the people,
2. They help to promote participation in government,
3. They serve as a source of information to the government,
4. They promote the interest of the minority.