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**AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP (CHAPTER 15).**

To define pressure, we would say it’s the process of persuading a person into doing something, this make a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose main aim is to put processing on any government institution with the aim of influencing policies and law or decisions to its own advantage.

The pressure group is referred to as the functional representative. This is to understand that different pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. This is usually done through the occupation or profession they are in. Pressure group can be described as interest group, lobby group or even protest group. Pressure groups came into existence to complement and protect the interest of their members or group. In nature, these groups could be religious, business, like educational, ethnic concerned, gender sensitive, Economic or social among others e.g. ASUU, NLC, NBA (Nigeria Bar Association).

Pressure group and political parties may seem similar but they are quite different. Political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups do not seek to gain government powers but rather influence political decisions. The main aim of pressure groups is to make democracy better, to compensate for the autocracy of major of people in the society. Pressure groups problems can crises when democracy process becomes dominant by few specific group. Also due to the own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decision.

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUP**

**INTEREST GROUP/SECTIONAL GROUP**: This is an organized group represent the people in the society. For example, the trade units for instance, CBI (Confederation of British Industry) Known as the voice of business in the country, and in Nigeria, convention on Business Integration (CBI).

**CAUSE GROUP**: These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes e.g. charities and environmental groups. They are groups that champions social movement even if the group lacks formal structure and they always aim at achieving a single objective.

**ASSOCIATION GROUPS AND NON- ASSOCIATION GROUPS**: Associational groups are mostly registered with appropriate authorities in a state/country. These groups also have their own registered offices, constitutions. The non- associational groups are formed by pressure group without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions and many more.

**INSIDER GROUPS AND OUTSIDE GROUP**: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government e.g. NBA and mostly have influence on government mission and visions. On the other hand, outside groups have no access or links to government and its machineries. They are mostly radical in nature because they are mostly denied by the government. Both inside and outside groups can change based on the government in power.

**ANOMIC GROUPS**: They have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the movement and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style and they may sometimes act violently e.g. rioting.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS.**

**It promotes participation in government:** some pressure groups engage in demonstrations and other measure to put their views across the government.

**It links government to the people:** pressure groups stay up to date on relevant information and are able to inform the people on such matter and at the same time relate to the government what the opinion of the people is.

**It serves as a source of information to the government:** As pressure groups lobby government on multiple fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues they may not even be aware of.

**Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies:** Criticism of government policies limit any tyrannical tendency government may have. Also, the activities of pressure groups ensure that government do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.

**It promotes the interest of the minority:** pressure groups champion the rights of the under- privileged, especially promotional pressure groups. As they go about their activities, they ensure that the interest of the minority groups is not trampled upon by the government.

**It influences the legislature:** They are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on a government so that it can implement policies that are of benefit to the citizens.

**Pressure Group’s Lobbying:** pressure groups exert more influence than others. The degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals may depend on their ability to be recognized as legitimate by population, media, and by those in power. For example, civil groups, trade unions, and professional associations are more widely recognized and accepted than newly formed pressure groups. Pressure Group Lobby in so many ways. They lobby with government officials directly, For example the lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries.