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

Pressure group is an organised group of people coming together to influence the government decisions and government policies. According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as “interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups.” The aim of pressure group is to seek and ensure that the government does their biddings. These groups influence both public policy, administration, and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government, in nature these groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic-oriented, gender-sensitive, economic, or social, and so on. Pressure groups do not seek to gain power, their aim is to influence political decisions, pressure groups narrow their goals, pressure groups are not accountable for their actions; all these listed shows how pressure groups differs from political parties. Pressure groups have their own importance which has already been discussed above, but it has some negative or down sides to it. Due to their own selfish interest, pressure is put or mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government’s limited resources. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are: ASUU( Academic Staff Union for University), Afenifere, Oodua people’s congress, Nigeria Bar Association of Nigeria ( NBA), Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). There are types of pressure groups, they are:

1. Anomic groups: They are originated from certain events e.g ENDSARS. This group expresses their dissatisfaction with their spoken accusation towards the government. They create pressure on the country’s political system through protest, riot, e.t.c. They are not guided by an appropriate behavioural style or rule and they may act violently sometimes. They mount pressure though strikes, rioting, protest, e.t.c
2. Institutional groups: They are made up of professionals such as NBA, AMSA, NUNSA, e.t.c.
3. Associational group: They are constitutionally controlled, they are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country, and they also have their own registered offices, constitutions, e.t.c.
4. Non- Associational groups: Non- associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation. Their arrangement and gathering are through kinship or family attachment, social traditions, tribal or race afflictions, and so on.
5. Cause groups: These groups seek to promote particular causes, for examples charities and environmental groups, any group that champions social movement. It is always aimed at achieving a single objective, like protesting to expand health care facilities.
6. Interest groups: This group is also known as sectional groups, representing the people in the society e.g Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

There are other types of pressure groups, such as insider groups and outsider groups.

Some functions of pressure groups are lobbying, linking government to the people, promoting participation in government, serving as sources of information to the government, influencing legislation, curtailing of dictatorial tendencies which is very important, promotion of the interest of the minority and influencing legislation.