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**Chapter15: AN overview of the idea of pressure group**

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This makes a pressure group a formal or organised bogy 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. This pressure group is referred to as the functional representative.

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.

**Types of pressure groups**

1. Cause groups: these groups are promotion groups which ask to promote particular causes, for example charities and environmental groups. It aimed at achieving a single objective, like protesting about the expansion of airports, seaports, railways, etc.
2. Interest groups: this group is also seen as sectional groups, representing 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 in business integration (CBI).
3. Insider groups and outsider groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The insider and outsider group changes from time to time based on the party or government in power.
4. Associational groups and non- associational groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. Also, these groups have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on.
5. Anomic groups: Groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society.

**Functions of pressure groups**

1. Serving as sources of information to government
2. Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies
3. Promoting of the interest of the minority
4. Links government to the people
5. Promotes participation in government

**Pressure group lobbying**

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political action.

Pressure groups lobby with governmental officials directly. For example, they lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives. Pressure groups may sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.