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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.

 **ANSWER**

 Pressure is the use of persuasion or intimidation to make someone do something. A pressure group is an organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal influencing government policies and law to its own advantage. What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings and these groups influence both public policy, administration, and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. Examples are Nigeria Labour congress (NLC), ASUU (Academic Staff Union for University).

 Pressure groups and political parties are sometimes similar but they are different from one another. For instance, political parties seek to gain government power while pressure groups do not seek to gain power. Rather, their aim is to influence political decisions. However, political parties are more organized than pressure groups. Pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social changes. Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better for people in the society and in this situation, the voice of a small group of people with narrow interest can become overly influential.

 The types of pressure group are:

1. Interest groups: this group is referring to as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. Example, the trade union.
2. Cause groups: they are promotion groups which seek to promote particular causes. Any group that champions social movement is also seen as “cause group”, even though they lack formal structure. The group was aim at achieving a single objective like protesting.
3. Insider groups and outsider groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and have regular access to ministers or legislators while outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact. Groups in this category are radical in nature. The insider group and outsider group changes from time to time based on the party or government in power.
4. Anomic groups: groups in this category have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. They are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style and sometimes act violently.
5. Associational groups and non-associational groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state while non-associational groups are pressure group without a formal organization.

The functions of pressure group include:

* Links government to the people: it serves as a link between government of the day and the people it governs.
* Promotes participation in government: it promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day.
* Serving as sources of information to government.
* Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies: criticism of government policies curtail any dictatorial tendency government may have.
* Promotion of the interest of the ministry: pressure groups champion the rights of the under-privileged, especially promotional pressure groups. They also act as watchdogs on the government.
* Influencing legislation: They are instrumental in mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens.
* Pressure groups’ lobbying: some pressure groups exert more influence than others. Pressure groups lobby with governmental officials directly. They may sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.