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**ASSIGNMENT TOPIC: CHAPTER 15; AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP**

To mount pressure is to persuade someone into doing something. A pressure group is a formal or an organized body with a common interest whose core aim is to put pressure on any government institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. The pressure group is referred to as functional representative which is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. This is usually done through their occupations or professions. What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their biddings. These groups might be religious, business-like, educational, gender-sensitive etc. some examples are ASUU(Academic staff union for university), CAN(Christian association of Nigeria), NLC(Nigeria Labor Congress).

Pressure Groups and Political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar but are completely different. One is that political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups do not seek to gain power rather their aim is to influence political decisions. Second, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. Third, pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their actions, while political parties do account for their actions. Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society.

Types of Pressure Groups

1. Interest groups: this group represents the people in the society.
2. Cause groups: these promotion groups seek to promote particular causes. Eg Amnesty international
3. Insider groups and outsider groups: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and are high or low in profile eg Nigeria bar association. Outsider groups have no access or links to the government, they rather use other ways to have impact.
4. Anomic groups: these groups have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the current situation of the society.
5. Associational groups and non-associational groups: Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization.

Functions of pressure group

1. Links Government to the people
2. Promotes participation in Government
3. Influencing legislation
4. Serving as sources of information to government
5. Curtailing of Dictatorial tendencies
6. Promotion of the interest of the minority