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**CHAPTER 15**

**: An overview of the idea of pressure group**

To mount is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This makes a pressure group a formal or organised body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any government policies and laws to its own advantage. The pressure group is referred to as”the functional representative”. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their function. The Nigerian bar association (Nba) represents the lawyers and solicitors while the Nigerian medical association (Nma) represents doctor’s interest.

According to **Anifowose(1999)** pressure group is described as” interest groups,lobby groups or even protest groups”. Pressure groups came to existence to complement,enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or groups. Pressure groups and political parties activities may sometimes appear similar but they different from eachother. The first distinction is that parties seek to gain government powers while on the other hand, pressure groups do not seek to gain power. Rather,their aim is to influence political decisions.

Pressure group's are existence is to checkmate to compensate for the tyranny of the majority of people in the society. Also,to treat the gaps in the democratic process to inform debates among ourselves to encourage participation and to enhance good accountability in our daily society while pressuregroups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society,problems can arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a specific group.

**Types of pressure group**

**1.interest groups**

**2.cause groups**

**3.insider and outsider groups**

**4.Atomic groups**

**5.Association group and non associational groups**

**Functions of pressure groups**

1. **Links government to the people**
2. **Promote participation in government**
3. **Serving as source of information to government**
4. **Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies**
5. **Promotion of the interest of the minority**
6. **Influencing legislation**
7. **Pressure groups' lobbying**

**Interest groups** are 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 on business integration (CBI)

**Cause groups** are promotion groups which seek to promote particular for instance charities and environmental groups,amnesty international which campaign for human right abuses

**Insider and outsider groups** regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)is an example of this group and on the other hand outside group have no access or links to the government and its machineries e.g Animal liberation front which champions rights for animals and Earth liberation front which argues for rights of earth exploitation and destruction.

**Atomic groups** have unpredictable actions and behaviours as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioural style or rule

**Associational groups and non associational groups** usually registered with appropriate authorities in the state or country. Also,these groups have their own registered offices, constitutions so on. On the the other hand non associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation. Their arrangements and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment,social traditions,tribal or even race affliction just to mention few.