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**QUESTION:**

**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.**

**Chapter fifteen**

**“An Overview Of The Idea Of Pressure Group”**

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into something. This makes a pressure group a formal or organised body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with goal of influencing 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 functions.

According to **Anifowose** (1999) pressure group is defined as “interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups”. What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that government does their bidding. And with some pressure through the right channels and means, pressure groups are able to make government listen to them. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are: ASUU ( Academic Staff Union for University),Nigerian Bar Association of Nigeria (NBA) etc.

Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may appear similar sometimes but they have distinctions. The first being that political parties seek to gain governmental powers while pressure parties aim to influence political powers. Secondly political parties have wide range of policies while pressure groups narrow their goals. Thirdly pressure groups actually are not accountable for their actions unlike political parties. Lastly political parties are more formally organised than pressure groups.

**Types of pressure**

**Interest groups**: This group are seen as sectional groups representing the people in the society for examples trade units

**Cause groups**: These are groups are promotion groups which seek to promote particular causes for example charities and environmental groups.

**Insider and outsider groups:** The insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to minister legislators. While the outsider groups have no access or links to the governments and its machineries.

**Anomic groups**: These types of groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour they based on the moment and situations in the society examples of these actions are protest, rioting etc.

**Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups**.

Associational Groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a country or state. While the Non- Associational Groups are pressure groups without formal organisation.

**Functions of pressure groups**

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