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QUESTION: IN ABOUT 2 PAGES, REVIEW CHAPTER 15, AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS, PAGE 194-200

According to Anifowose (1999), pressure group is described as “ interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups”. Oyeleye (1998) says that pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or groups. To mount pressure is to persuade someone into doing something. This makes a pressure group a formal bosy with a commin interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing pgovernment decisions and policies. The pressure group is referred to as “ The Fundamental Representative”.

Pressure groups exist to echeckmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. Also they treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. While pressure groups have their importance in the scheme of things in a nation, there is some downside. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government’s limited resources.

There are different types of pressure groups and they include:

1. Interest Groups: This group is also seen as sectional groups. They represent the people in the society. Examples are the trade units and they include, convention on business integration (CBI) for Nigeria.
2. Cause Groups: These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups like Amnesty International which campaign for the need to end human right abuses.
3. Insider Groups and Outsider Groups: Insider groups are regularly cinsulted by the government. They have regular acces toministers and legislators. Influence grouos are always low in profile but they tenf to have influence on government missions and visions. Example is the Nigerian Bar Association.
4. Anomic Groups: These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioural style or rule. These groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in 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 organisation..

The functions of pressure groups are many in number and they include:

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 military
6. Influencing the legislation.