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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 pages 194-200.

**ANSWER:**

**Understanding pressure Group:**

**Pressure:** is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This makes a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. A pressure group seeks to influence government decisions and policies. 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. This is usually done through their occupations or professions. For example, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), represents the lawyer and solicitors, while Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), represents doctor’s interests.

According to ANIFOWOSE (1999) pressure group is described as ‘interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups.’

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS.**

1. **Interest groups**: this group represents the people in the society. It is also known as sectional groups. Eg; 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).
2. **Cause groups:** this are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. Eg; charities and environmental groups.
3. **Insider groups and outsider groups:** insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have access to ministers or legislators. Eg; NBA. The outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact. Eg; the animal liberation front which champions rights for animals.
4. **Anomic groups:** this groups have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society.
5. **Associational and non-associational groups:** Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities In a state or country. They also have their own registered offices and constitutions. Non associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization. There arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race applications.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS.**

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

**PRESSURE GROUP’S LOBBYING.**

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political action (eg; organized protest). Some pressure groups exert more influence than others. Pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with governmental officials directly. For example, the lobby legislators, ministers and other government officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives.