

E-Content

Individual and Community Interface

Semester: V

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UNIT- V Community Organization

Course Code : XXXXXX

Course Name: Data structures using C

Community power structure

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Course Code : BASO3021

Course Name: Individual community Inteface

Power refers to the ability of an individual or a group to attain its objectives in spite of the opposition from other individuals or groups. According to Weber Party is the basis of access to power. Party is an associative type of organizational structure built around a common interest. It may be a class based interest, a status based interest or ethnicity based interest, or any other type of interest.

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So!!!!!!!

Among these community studies two categories can be clearly identified one supporting the major contention of the **elite thesis** and the other refuting the elitist argument and replacing it by what is known as the **Pluralist Thesis**

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Lloyd Hunter's Community Power Structure based on the study of distribution of power in Atlantic is a prominent study in the elitist tradition.

Hunter's study was based on **reputational approach**. He made a preliminary list of 175 leaders who held formal important positions in politics, business and civic organizations and have reputation for leadership.

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- he selected the panel of 14 judges representing religious, business and professional interest and asked them to select those who in their eyes are the top leaders. The result showed that half of these leaders were upper-class businessmen.
- The empirical study confirms the elitist thesis that a clear defined group of decision makers can be identified who are highly organized and who decisively dominate the public life of the organized and who decisively dominate the public life of the city.
- Pluralists led by Robert Dahl have challenged the main elitist contention that a society is marked by the existence of a single centre of political power

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They argued that in a society there are multiple centers of political power none of which are completely sovereign. The decision making maybe done by few but then this decision making cannot be understood except within the context of a continuous bargaining process among the elites and also of a general consensus established only through the mass approval which is hard to secure.

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Next according to Dahl the elite theories disregarded the fact that there may be different scopes of power and that a group having a high degree of influence over one scope may not necessarily have the same degree of influence over another scope within the same system.

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Functions

- Dahl selected three distinct decisions - areas covering urban development, public schools and political nominations.
- Within each area he studied a number of decisions thus he picks up three categories of political leaders which are political notables, social notables and economic notables and enquires whether each of these groups participate in decision-making only in one or in all of the three issue areas. He takes as the sign of power the ability to successfully initiate or veto the proposals for policies.

THUS!!!!!!

Dahl's pluralist model has been subjected to severe criticisms. Firstly the model wrongly locates power in concrete decisions or in activities having direct bearing on decision making.

He ignores the fact that power is also exercised in creating and reinforcing social and political values and institutional practices that limit the scope of the political process to public consideration of only those issues that are comparatively harmless to the interest of the powerful..

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References

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