

Power Analysis Worksheet

Definition:

Power is often defined as the ability to influence, or impose one's will on others, even if those others resist.

Power is:

- dynamic, and not static
- fluid, and not binary
- situational
- not subjective
- personal and systemic

Personal power is the power that resides in a person.

Systemic or institutional power is given by society based on the position that the person holds.

What is helpful for intercultural work, is

- an understanding and self-awareness of one's personal power
- a systemic analysis of the power given by society

Instructions:

The following chart will help individuals self-identify the power that they hold, personally and systemically. Please complete this chart individually.

In the first column, marked "your identity," please name the way in which you self-identify. For example, under the category "age," write down how old you are. (For example, if you are 23, write down 23 under your identity for age). Complete the column, naming your gender identity, racial identity, and others until you have finished the column.

After you have finished this, please name your perceived power in relation to your church or your ministry. For example, if you have named that you are 23 years old, do you think that this is something that would give you more power or less power in relation to your church or ministry? If you think that it gives you more power, then put a check-mark in that box. Continue completing that column.

Similarly, consider your power in relation to society. If you have named that you are 23, do you think that this gives you more or less power in relation to society? Continue making checkmarks in this column until you have completed it.

When you have finished both columns, add up the number of checkmarks in the column for church/ministry. Also, add up the number of checkmarks under society.

Notice if there was a difference between these columns. Notice if you have a higher number, or a lower number. If you are in a group setting, and if you are comfortable, share your number with other participants—notice people who have higher numbers and lower numbers.

Spend some time talking about the implications of this.

- Was there anything that surprised you?
- Did this reinforce ideas that you already had about yourself? Your church/ministry? Society?
- Why is it important to talk about power in the context of intercultural ministries?
- What are the intercultural implications of this exercise on power?

Power Analysis Worksheet

	Your Identity	Power in Relation to Your Church/Ministry	Power in Relation to Society
Ability			
Age			
Citizenship			
Education			
Ethnicity			
Gender identity			
Geographic location			
Language			
Marital status			
Ordered Status			
Profession			
Racial identity			
Sexual orientation			
Socio-economic class			