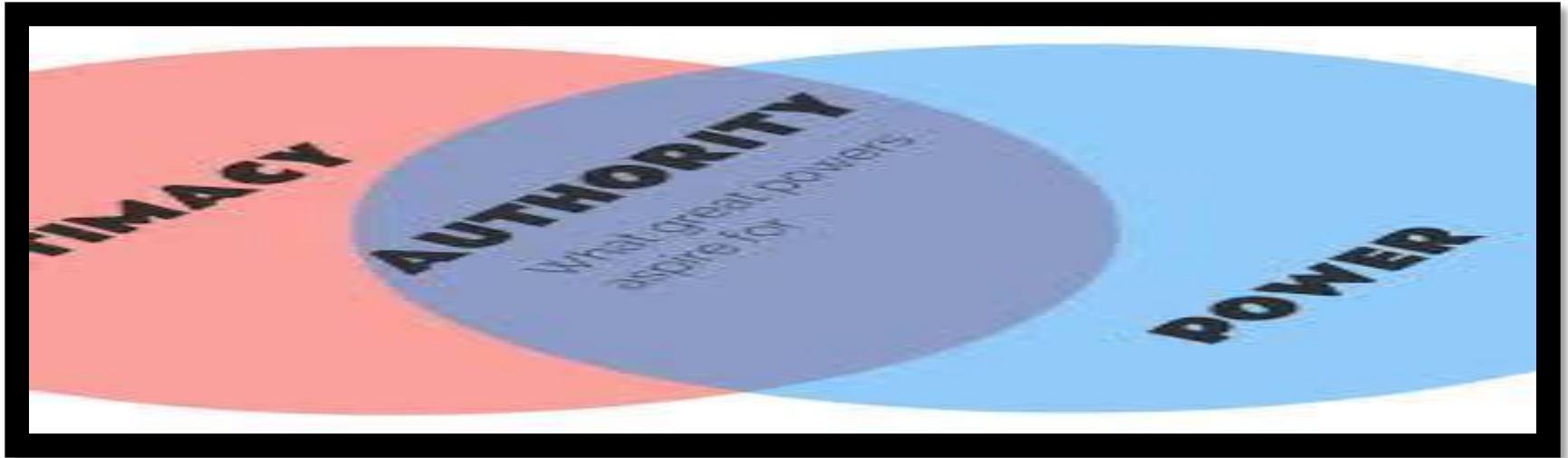




Basic Concepts

Power & Authority

Sem-III CC-5

Topic 2.1

Power: Definition

- Power is a special kind of influence.
- The exercise of influence consist in affecting the actions of others than the self.
- Power is relational
- Power is behavioural.
- Power is situational

Power: Definition

- “A has power over B to the extent that he can get B to do something that B would not otherwise do” --- R A Dahl
- Bertrand Russell refers to power as “the production of intended effects”.
- “ Power is a capacity to impose one’s will over another by reliance on effective sanctions in case of non-compliance” --- G Schwarzenburger

Power: Definition

- “Relationship in which one person or a group is able to determine the actions of another in direction of the former’s own ends”--- David Easton
- Power is “the chance of a man or a number of men to realize their own will even against the resistance of others who are participating in the action”--- Weber

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SOURCES OF POWER

- ❖ Knowledge
- ❖ Organization
- ❖ Status
- ❖ Skill
- ❖ Popularity
- ❖ Authority



Stephen Lukes on Power

- “Three-dimensional view” of power: by Lukes
- ability to make decisions to go one’s own way in observable conflicts: one dimensional approach
- ability of social actors and groups to control which issues are decided upon : two dimensional groups or individuals exercise power by making decisions in their own interests as well as by limiting the alternatives available to others.

Stephen Lukes on Power

- Three dimensional perspective: ‘radical view’ of power.
- the ‘manipulation of desires’
- the supreme exercise of power to get another or others to have the desires you want them to have (1974).
- E.g., capitalists shaping desires through media
- ‘ideological’ exercise of power is not explicitly observable or measurable

Authority



Legitimate
use
Of
power

Authority

- “Authority is the power to command obedience”: MacIver
- Robert A Dahl: A commands B and B feels A has perfect right to do so and he has a complete obligation to obey.
- Legitimate power is authority.

Types of Authority: Weber

- Max Weber has pointed out to three sources of the validity :

- **LAW**

Traditions

Charisma

Types of Authority

- Traditional : norms and habits
 - King, patriarchal heads
- Legal-Rational: rules and regulations, laws
 - Democratic rulers
- Charismatic: extraordinary power of the individual
 - Social and religious leaders and reformers
 - Routineization of Charisma