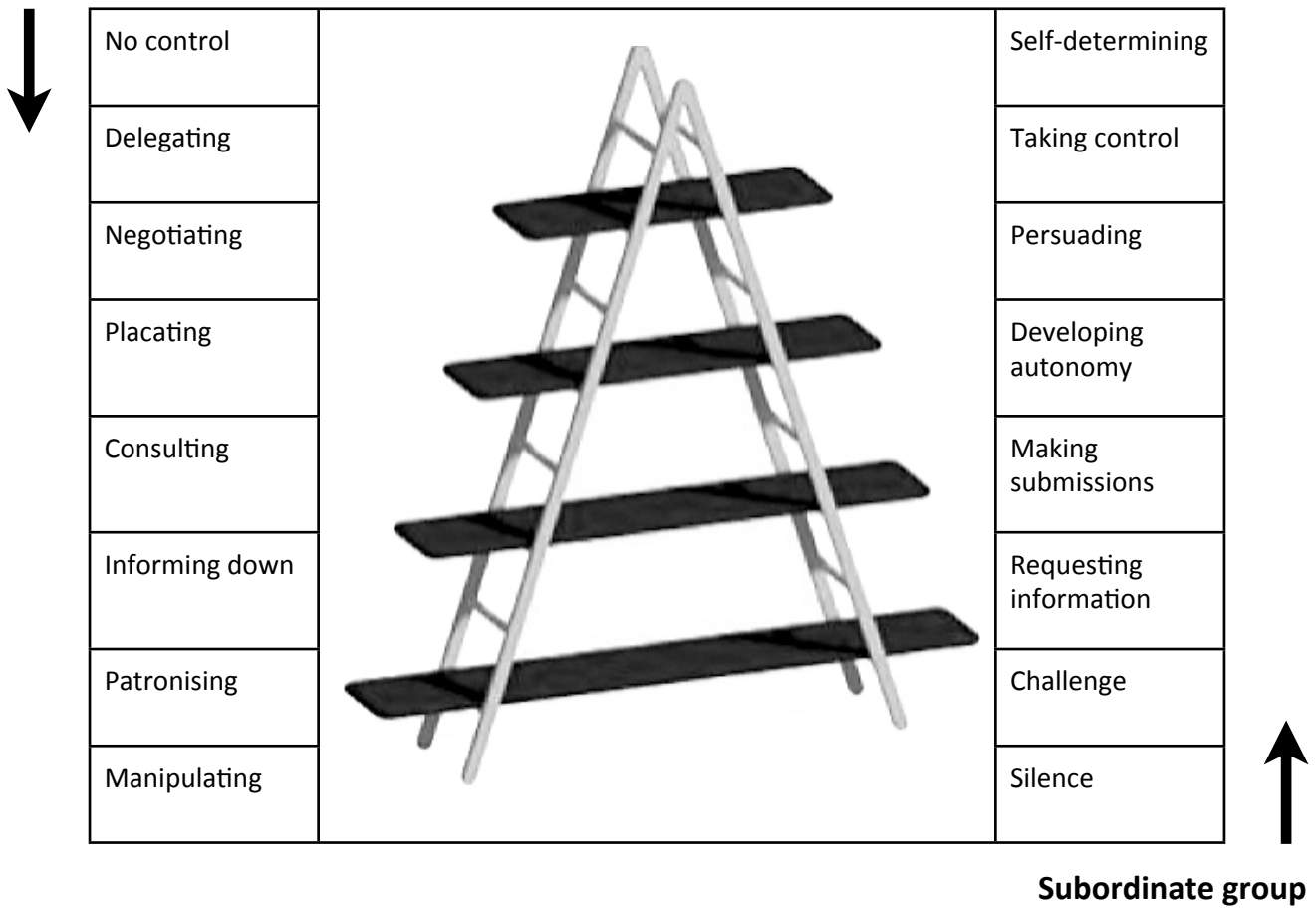


## The Ladder to Power

**Dominant group**



The ladder indicates steps toward self-determination and the sequence in which control over decision-making shifts. It can be applied in domestic as well as group and societal situations and assumes that power is finite (see 'The Power Pole').

The ladder represents relative power between two groups. The left hand side shows the behaviour, or hierarchy of actions, of the dominant group. The right hand side shows the subordinate group and their actions in relation to the dominant group's behaviour.

The model suggests that the subordinate group should try to move one step up to challenge if it wants change and keep moving up the right side, always pushing the dominant group one step ahead.

There may be many good reasons why a subordinate group is not in a position to move up to the next step. They may be fully occupied trying to thwart an attempt by the dominant group to move them down a step, in which case maintaining equilibrium is success.

This model combines two others: a model by a planner interested in citizen participation and control<sup>1</sup> and one from structural analysis dealing with power-over one's own situation.

<sup>1</sup> Sherry R. Arnstein. *Eight Rungs on a Ladder of Citizen Participation*. Journal of the American Institute of Planners. 35 (4), July 1968.