

The 3-ring circus

SPECIFIC ISSUE/S: Any kind of issue

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES: To develop an understanding of structures in society and how they are influenced by the values of the dominant group/s

LENGTH: 15 - 30 minutes

GROUP SIZE: Any

GROUP CHARACTERISTICS: Any kind of group

FACILITATOR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED: Facilitator needs to understand how the model works; basic facilitation skills are sufficient

RESOURCES NEEDED: The 3 Ring Circus handout

INSTRUCTIONS: Give participants a copy of the 3 Ring Circus handout and explain the model.

Give some examples of how the three types of 'power over' might be exercised. Use the examples below to get started.

<i>Context</i>	<i>Ideological power</i>	<i>Political power</i>	<i>Economic power</i>
Teacher in a school	Emphasise New Right theories in teaching	Order detention for swearing	Allocate a scholarship
Baby in a family	Get picked up by smiling	Get a meal by screaming	Grab a toy
Police officer	Campaign against drunk driving	Arrest a person	Give resources to support a community safety campaign

The institutions and organisations in the following list all have power in these three areas. In groups of 4-5:

- i) create a table similar to the one above and state of how each of the following exercise economic, ideological and political power
- ii) For each institution or organisation discuss which, if any, form of power is the most dominant.

Institutions and organisations:

a church/religion; a family; rugby; Parliament; a bank; a marae; a psychiatric ward; a prison; a school; the army

Ask the sub-groups to feed back to the whole group.

FACILITATION TIPS: This activity can precede the Power Pole; however, explain that the values of the most powerful group or groups will dominate in every context. Participants may have a better grasp if you do the Power Pole activity first.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: INODEP (Ecumenical Institute for the Development of Peoples) adapted by AWEA