GJ Introduction to Course on Social Power

1. Multi-dimensional Global Challenges
   - Peace & Security
   - Law & Governance
   - Economy & Employment
   - Education & Healthcare
   - Energy & Ecology

2. Effective solutions require changes at the level of
   - Public policies and responsible private initiative
   - Institutions for global and national governance
   - Educational content and pedagogy
   - Theoretical understanding of society and its processes
   - Development of mind, thinking, creativity, values and individuality

3. WAAS-WUC Transdisciplinary Courses
   - Individuality and Accomplishment – August 2014
   - Toward a Transdisciplinary Science of Society – September 2014
   - Transformational Leadership – March 2015
   - Education for the 21st Century – September 2015
   - Mind, Thinking and Creativity – April 2016
   - Social Power – October 31 to Nov 2, 2016
   - New Economic Theory – February 2017
   - Creativity and Individuality – November 2017
4. Where can humanity find the power to address these challenges effectively?

5. Accomplishment and Power

• Human beings undertake purposeful activity for accomplishment

• Accomplishment includes meeting material needs, fulfilling social aspirations, satisfying intellectual curiosity, enjoying life, growing personally, developing civilization and culture, and evolving as a species.

• All these forms of accomplishment require power – power of movement, change, growth, development and evolution.

6. Human beings utilize myriad forms of power for –

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7. All these are forms of Social Power

- They arise from interaction, cooperation, coordination and organization between human beings.
  - Language
  - Markets & Money
  - Internet

- They are all expressions of the capacity of the society to express human energies to achieve the goals and aspirations of the social collective.
  - These energies are physical, social, emotional, mental and spiritual

8. Process governing expression of social energies

- Awareness of opportunities & challenges generates Energy
- Aspiration for accomplishment converts the energy into Force
- Organization of the directed energy transforms it into Social Power
- Expression of the power generates accomplishment

*This process applies to all forms of social energy & all fields of expression*

9. The source of these energies is what we call Society

- Society is the sum total of human **individuals** living and acting in families, groups, communities, national and international organizations.
- Society includes the structures, systems, activities, values, customs, beliefs, knowledge, skills, laws and institutions that define the complex nexus of **relationships** between these individuals and groups.
- Society is a **living organism** that is greater than the sum of its parts – rather than a mechanical assemblage of parts, linkages, interactions and interrelationships.
- Society grows, develops and evolves by increasing levels of **awareness, organization and integration** between its geographic units, social groups, institutions, activities, sectors and levels.
10. **Social Power is organized at multiple levels**

- Formal organized structures – military, government, law
- Partially organized activities – political, economic, transport, communication, media, education, healthcare, entertainment, etc.
- Informal institutions – values, beliefs, culture, custom and ways of life.
- Social potential – the unlimited reservoir of unorganized aspirations, energies, knowledge, skills, capacities and activities that are available to organize and draw upon by individuals and the collective.

11. **Distribution of Social Power**

- The distribution and utilization of social power for individual and collective benefit is determined by both formal and informal institutions, legal and extra-legal factors, national values and culture.
  - Concentration & distribution of political power
  - Concentration & distribution of wealth and economic power
  - Divisions between social classes and castes
  - Access to information, knowledge, & education
  - Freedom of worship & authority of religious bodies
  - Social conformity & freedom of individual thought and self-expression

12. **Themes for Discussion**

- The social potential is the source of all the evolutionary achievements humanity has drawn up for its advancement over thousands of years.
- This potential is unlimited, since the more it is drawn upon and effectively organized, the more it grows, develops and evolves.
- Societies differ widely in their capacity to draw upon and organize this social potential both spatially and temporally.
- The distribution of social power – both legally and illegally – has a profound impact on the overall power of society and its capacity for accomplishment.
• Every society has the potential to vastly increase its capacity to generate, release, direct and organize social potential for higher levels of accomplishment.

• The individual is the key and catalyst for conversion of social potential into effective power.

• Societies develop in the measure they are able to empower their members to access and utilize the available social power for individual and collective benefit.

13. **Objectives of this course**

• To become conscious of the enormous underutilized social potential available to modern society to address challenges & tap opportunities

• To identify ways to enhance the generation, direction, organization and expression of social power to promote human welfare & well-being

• To evolve practical strategies for mobilizing greater social power individually and collectively

• To evolve a transdisciplinary conception of human accomplishment applicable to all fields