Society and Social Power

Janani Ramanathan
Associate Fellow, World Academy of Art and Science
Research Associate, Mother’s Service Society

Individual Accomplishment, Growth & the Character of Life in Management, History, Literature, and Psychology
Are we more empowered today than ever before?

Life expectancy is increasing

We have better access to education

We are moving towards food surplus

The idea of human rights is established

There is less discrimination

There are fewer wars

Instant long distance communication is possible

Travel is easier, safer, faster
What is the relationship between the individual and society?

The individual does not exist separate from society.

His/her growth is defined, sanctioned and supported by society.

All movements headed by an individual derive their energy and power from the support of society.
What is society?

Society consists of people and structures

These people are related to each other, through a formal or informal mechanism

Society has a physical as well as a non-physical basis

It is a complex, organized structure of interdependent, overlapping groups and subgroups or people and structures

It is a living organization
Society is a living organization

Society is alive. It is alive because it:

• Senses
• Reacts
• Feels
• Thinks
• Remembers
• Learns
• Acquire habits and skills
• Evolves
What is the function of society?

Society preserves and protects what has been created.

It empowers each individual member for his or her own survival, growth, and accomplishment.

It provides us peace, stability, food, health care, education, freedom, communication, transportation, trade, finance, emotional fulfillment.
How does society get its power?

Society is a large reservoir of individual energy

This energy is converted into power through:

• Coordination
• Specialization
• Hierarchy
• Integration