Hart’s Ladder of Young People’s Participation

9. Youth and Adult Initiated and Directed
8. Youth Initiated, Shared Decisions with Adults
7. Youth Initiated and Directed
6. Adult Initiated, Shared decisions
5. Consulted and Informed
4. Assigned and Informed
3. Tokenism
2. Decoration
1. Manipulation

ABOUT THE LADDER: Sociologist Roger Hart wrote a book called Children's Participation: The Theory And Practice Of Involving Young Citizens In Community Development And Environmental Care for UNICEF in 1997.

This groundbreaking work put the work of young people and adult allies around the world in the context of a global movement for participation, offering needed guidance and criticism of many efforts.

The "Ladder of Children's Participation," also called the "Ladder of Youth Participation," is one of many significant tools from the book.

SOURCE: www.freechild.org/ladder.htm
LADDER OF YOUNG PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION: EXPLANATIONS

9. Youth and Adult Initiated and Directed ➔ Designed and run by youth and adults in full partnership.

8. Youth Initiated, Shared Decisions with Adults ➔ Designed and run by youth who share decisions with adults.

7. Youth Initiated and Directed ➔ Designed and run by youth and decisions made by youth.

6. Adult Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth ➔ Designed and run by adults who share decision-making with youth.

5. Consulted and Informed ➔ Designed and run by adults who consults with youth. Youth make recommendations that are considered by adults.

4. Assigned but Informed ➔ Youth did not initiate, but understand and have some sense of ownership.

3. Tokenism ➔ Symbolic representation by few. May not have genuine voice. May be asked to speak for the group they represent.

2. Decoration ➔ Adults use youth to promote or support a cause without informing youth. Youth are not involved in design or decision-making.

1. Manipulation ➔ Youth involvement used by adults to communicate adults’ messages.