

Outcome 6: Young people express their voice and demonstrate social commitment



Indicator 3: Young people are listened to

Ladder of Participation Activity

- Ask young people to work in small groups
- Explain that you want to understand how often young people's voice shapes decision-making
- You can use the ladder of participation (below) to help young people think about this. Talk young people through the ladder of participation
- Ask young people to think about all the opportunities/projects/events/activities they have been involved in as a member of the group (it's useful to set a time scale i.e. within the last 6 months). Do this individually and write each opportunity on a post it note
- Then ask each group to put the opportunities they have identified where they think they fit on the ladder.
- Give young people plenty of stickers and ask them to put a sticker on those post its where they felt that their participation really shaped that activity/event/project etc.
- In their groups ask young people to look at those post-its with stickers on and try to explain what difference their involvement made to that opportunity and give an example.

Harts Ladder of Participation¹

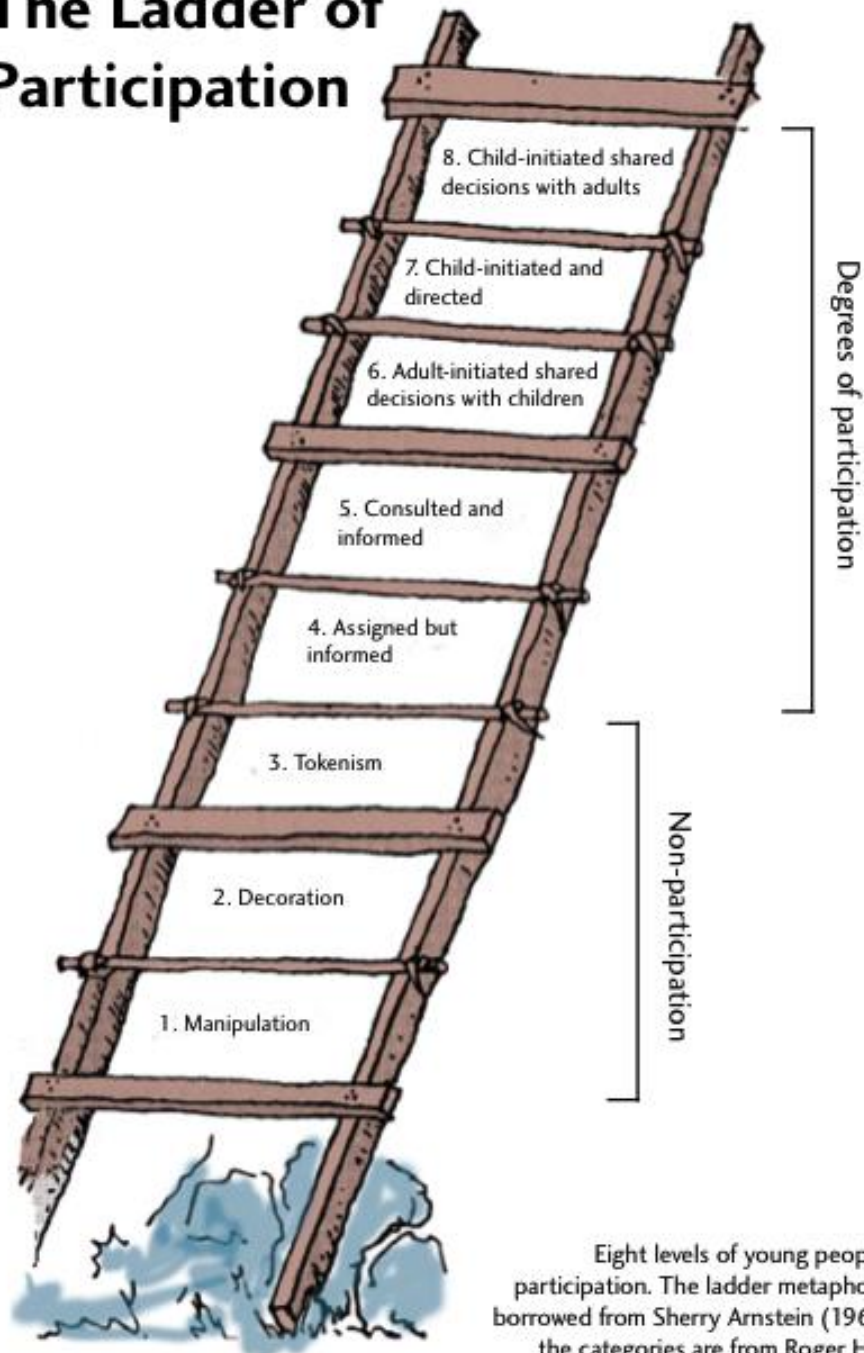
In 1992, Roger Hart developed the Ladder of Participation. The bottom three rungs are non-participation; the remaining 5 rungs outline degrees of participation.

¹ https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/childrens_participation.pdf





The Ladder of Participation





Rung 8 – CYP led activities in which decision-making is shared between CYP and adults working as equal partners

Rung 7 – CYP led activities with little input from adults

Rung 6 – Adult led activities, in which decision-making is shared with CYP

Rung 5 – Adult led activities in which CYP are consulted and informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of adult decisions

Rung 4 – Adult led activities in which CYP understand purpose, decision-making process and have a role

Non-participation

Rung 3 – Adult led activities in which CYP may be consulted but with minimal opportunities for feedback

Rung 2 - Adult led activities in which CYP understand purpose, but have no input in how they are planned

Rung 1 – Adult-led activities in which children and young people do as directed without understanding of the purpose of activities

