

# INDICATORS OF THE CIVIC PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH

Roger A. Hart

Graduate School of the City University of New York

**Many of these indicators will realistically need to be measures of national government policy and local provision rather than measures at the level of individual youth.**

# Information

- Informed regarding their rights?
- Informed regarding government structure and decision-making?
- Informed regarding public resources and services available to youth?
- Informed regarding voting procedures
- Regular access to uncensored press
- Opportunities to produce media for other youth?
- Internet access
- Local library access

# Association

- Public space and freedom to safely meet with ones peers.
- Freedom to debate politics within the community and to express dissent in public settings.
- 
- **Membership** in youth organizations
- **Membership** in politically-neutral youth organizations
- Opportunities to participate in the making of decisions in the **governance** of youth organizations (clubs, recreation group etc)
- Freedom and opportunity to form associations and to **self-organize** and manage organizations
- Youth Internet networks for collective action

# Participation

## School Governance

- Representative governance structures with youth.
- Opportunities for direct participation of all children.
- No opportunities for participation.

# National Political Participation

- The right to vote for local political offices  
(and at what age?)
- Voting for local political office
  
- The right to vote for national political offices  
(and at what age?)
- Voting for national political office

# Participation in Local government decision-making

- Participation in local government decisions affecting youth through the democratic representation of youth in local government councils
- Participation in local government budget allocations for youth programs and services (e.g. Porto Alegre, Brazil and Indian Panchayets)
- Regular consultation of youth regarding local government decisions affecting youth
- Regular consultation on, and critical evaluation of, the provision of resources and services

# Community

## Participation/voluntary activity

- Opportunities in school curricula to critically evaluate and act upon community issues
- Participation in community-based organization for community action
- Participation in social or environmental action project
- Freedom and opportunity to participate in the reproduction of culture and religion, including minority cultures and religions, through public participation in community events and rituals and participation in faith-based organizations

# Inter-generational societal participation

- Any person older than forty years that is a friend who you see at least once per week
- Any child younger than 12 years who you spend time with, or look after, at least once per week
- Involvement in any community-based organization that also has members aged over 40 years/under 12 years
- Free access of youth to local public recreational spaces that are non-segregated for use by people of all ages (Municipal policy).



# **PARTICIPATION IN PERSONAL HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT**

- **Regular health evaluation and access to ones own personal health records?**
- **Sufficient information to competently monitor ones own health?**
- **Safe access to emergency non-judgmental information and advice?**
- **Information and opportunity to care for the health of others (e.g. Child-to-Child programs)**