

Annex 5

Sarah White's 'Interests in Participation' Model

Sarah White's model of 'Interests in Participation', as highlighted in her article 'Depoliticising Development: The Uses and Abuses of Participation', demonstrates transformational youth participation as defined in this publication. It recognises various **forms of participation** – from nominal to transformational – and indicates what **interests** drive these forms of participation from two perspectives:

1. That of the originator – i.e. the organisation/government.
2. That of the participants – communities, and in our case, youth. (Of course it has to be remembered that communities/youth can also initiate participatory processes, and often transform orthodox processes in unexpected ways.)

Finally, it highlights the **function** or result of this participation. Of course, White points out that 'interests' in reality are far more complicated than a chart can suggest. In Table A5.1, we try to provide some examples from youth participation for each of White's forms of participation.

Table A5.1 Interests in participation

Form Degree of participation (less to more)	Top-down Interests of those who design development programmes	Bottom-up Participants' view of, and expectations from, their participation	Function The result of such participation
<p>Nominal To show that an agency is 'doing something' about participation to tick a box; i.e. have youth 'groups' on paper with random involvement in meetings.</p>	<p>Legitimisation To enhance the legitimacy of the agency. Seen to be participatory.</p>	<p>Inclusion Communities want to be part of process, want to gain leverage, but not always successful. Also, individual gain.</p>	<p>Display To 'show' outwardly that participation is taking place.</p>
<p>Instrumental For example, 'youth for development' programmes, where young people in communities are used to implement development programmes, not necessarily with their views considered.</p>	<p>Efficiency Creates efficiency and cost-effectiveness by replacing paid labour with community labour etc.</p>	<p>Cost Community members/youth feel it is costly in terms of their time and engagement in pursuits such as education, and their regular work, in the case of youth, often as entrants into employment.</p>	<p>Means Participation is a means to an end that does not necessarily benefit young people.</p>
<p>Representative Youth groups or communities develop their own by-laws/plans for development, thus enabling their voice in development planning for sustainability.</p>	<p>Sustainability Involvement of youth and communities enables more responsive planning.</p>	<p>Leverage Communities and youth want to leverage their interests in public planning.</p>	<p>Voice Youth and communities get the opportunity to integrate their voice in planning.</p>
<p>Transformative Participation as empowerment. Considering options, making decisions, collective action. Creates greater consciousness of power relationships, and of youth and community ability to make a difference. Controlled 'from below'.</p>	<p>Empowerment Agencies work in solidarity with marginalised communities and youth to consciously empower them, not just to create responsive programmes.</p>	<p>Empowerment Communities and youth realise their own potential as agents of change in critiquing, making decisions and acting for change.</p>	<p>Means/end Participation is a means to empowerment through greater access to services and resources/obtaining rights and as an end in itself (see bottom-up).</p>