

Using Youth-Adult Partnerships to Effectively Engage Youth

Elizabeth Weybright, Ph.D.
Washington State University

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Introduction

- Elizabeth Weybright, Ph.D.
 - Associate Professor, [WSU Human Development](#)
 - Interim Director, [WSU Extension Youth & Family Unit](#)
 - [Adolescent Health Promotion Lab](#)
 - [IMPACT Lab](#)



Overview

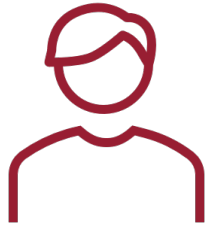
- Youth Development
- Youth-Adult Relationships
- Youth-Adult Partnerships
- Activities to work effectively with youth



Youth Developmental Contexts



Out-of-School Context






Positive Youth Development

Problem free isn't fully prepared. And fully prepared isn't fully engaged.

-Karen Pittman



“Big Three”

-  Positive and sustained youth-adult relationships
-  Life-skill-building activities
-  Opportunities for contribution and leadership



Youth-Adult Relationships

1

Direct behaviors of adults with youth

2

How youth perceive the social and psychological environment created by adults



Association with Youth Outcomes



- ↑ Mental health
- ↑ Attitudes towards school
- ↓ Risk behavior engagement



Youth-Adult Relationship

Adult-
Centered
Leadership

Adult-Led
Collaboration

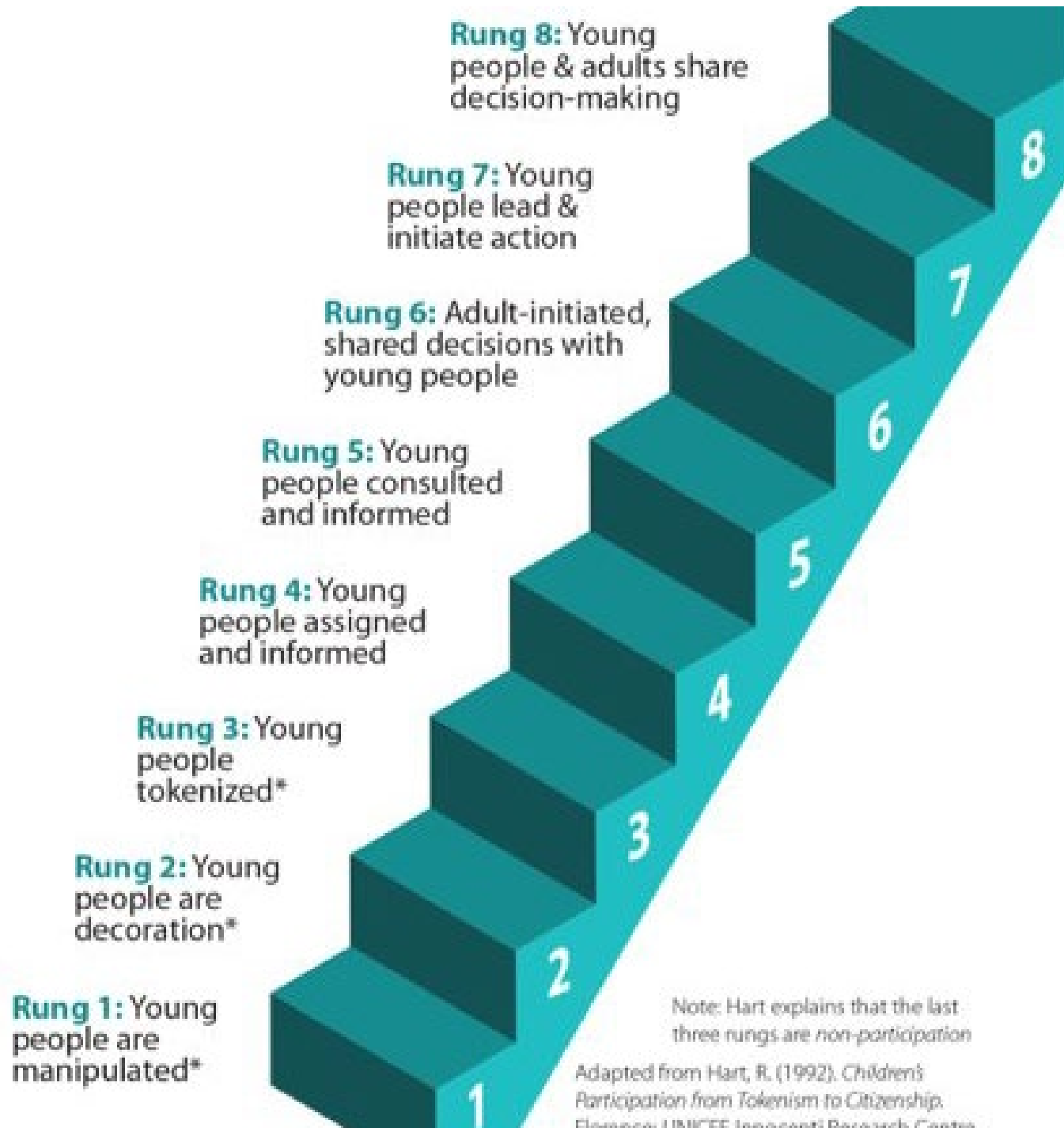
Youth-Adult
Partnership

Youth-Led
Collaboration

Youth-
Centered
Leadership



Hart's Ladder of Participation



1. What level of Hart's ladder is our [project/program] on?
2. What level should we be on?
3. What do we need to do to move to the right level for our [project/program]?

Youth-Adult Partnerships

1

Youth voice in decision-making

2

Supportive adult relationship



Youth-Adult Partnerships



Mutual respect
Shared responsibilities



Independence/autonomy



Adult as supportive mentor



Challenges and Benefits - Youth

YA4-H!
Youth Advocates for Health

Challenges of working with youth

- Teens are busy w/ Busy Schedules
- Scheduling teens around Food Smart Classes (Coordinating)
- Energy
- Text Sorry I... (Need to learn)
- Teens may not have put needed time into lesson. (Busy)
- Transportation
- ATTENTION
- Spam / Distraction

YA4-H!
Youth Advocates for Health

Teen Challenges

- HIP, SERVICE, EXERCISE, FITNESS, KNOWLEDGE, AGENCY, RELAXATION, HEALING, HEALTH, HANDS, HEART, HEAD, MIND, ALCOHOL, DEPRESSION, HAPPINESS, RESPECT, COMPASSION, CARING, CONFIDENCE, COMMUNICATION, TEACHING, REACHING, NUTRITION
- State University
- at Program
- Educational Levels
- Accountability
- Rate of Response
- Resources / Supplies
- Availability
- ELECTRONICS
- Cultural Differences
- NARROW RANGE OF EXPERIENCES
- LONG-TERM FOLLOW THROUGH
- DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS
- Parents
- Communication Methods
- Generosity
- Lack of Experiences
- Transportation

Teen Benefits

- Technology Skills
- Broaden our life experiences - Out of our Box
- Excitement
- Help Lighten the workload
- Joining in their Successes
- Optimistic
- Creativity
- Show lots of Growth
- Leadership Skills
- Fresh Perspective
- Keep us HIP / Contemporary
- Quick Learners
- Ability to Connect with Youth
- Aha Moments
- WILLINGNESS TO BE FLEXIBLE
- SO MUCH POTENTIAL
- DRIVEN TO SUCCEED
- GENEROUS

YA4-H!
Youth Advocates for Health

Benefits of working with youth

- CREATIVITY
- Fresh Ideas
- Learn new Idea re: Strategies.
- TECHNOLOGY
- FB, Twitter, INSTAGRAM, SOCIAL media
- ENERGY
- Enthusiasm
- Dynamic
- Skills - Driven
- VOICE / Empowerment
- value Diversity
- Outside the Box
- Highly Capable
- Youth look up to the Great with the youth!!
- (youth are) Fun to work with
- closer in age I can relate w/ other youth

Challenges and Benefits - Adults

YA4-H!
Youth Advocates for Health

Challenges of working with adults

- age barrier
- technology barrier
- Not Allowing Youth to take initiative
- Voicing Your Opinion
- Considering Other Points of Views
- harder to explain things to.
- Working With Others Schedules
- Don't listen often
- Adults accepting Changes
- having similar interests
- Thinks there is one way to do something
- youth know more about kids these days.
- Different thought processes

Youth Advocate
WASHINGTON EXT
4-H Youth

Adult Challenges

- Too high of expectations
- Transportation
- Assume we're not responsible
- assume we don't know as much
- helicoptering
- Takes Control of Situations
- PUT STRESS ON US!!! (unintentional/intentional)
- Miscommunication
- Undermine Youth
- Technology Gap
- Access
- Unintentionally Treating us like kids
- Don't give us opportunities to show our abilities
- Don't realize we experience the same experience they did

Adults ~BENEFITS~

- Share Experiences
- mentorship
- Encouragement
- forgiving
- Create a positive environment
- Push us to do better
- HELP ORGANIZE EVENTS
- letters of recommendation
- They're Fun!!!
- Sympathize & Empathize!
- Guidelines
- Give new ideas
- Willingness to ask for help
- Carpooling
- Financial Aid

YA4-H!
Youth Advocates for Health

Benefits of working with adults

- adults are COOL!!!
- Transportation
- There for us.
- More authority
- more experience w/ curriculum
- he help make a sense of things.
- been around longer more insight on situations
- Backbone
- They make the important calls
- Understand that you're busy
- Push us to be the best we can be.
- Nice to know they're there to help.
- Adults are SUPPORTIVE
- They're Realistic!
- Patient
- Give us Direction
- Adults help put ideas into action
- Enforce Rules
- they didn't use tech while growing up
- if they know how to deal with kids since they might + them

Disseminating into Communities

- 1 Focused attention on the purpose and outcomes of youth-adult partnerships
- 2 Continued translation of the youth-adult partnership vision into practice
- 3 Developing shared ownership to facilitate long-term sustainability



Thank you!



elizabeth.weybright@wsu.edu



@EWeybrightPhD



Resources

- **Curriculum:** <https://shop4-h.org/products/youth-advocates-for-health-curriculum-youth-adult-partnerships-for-health>;
<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/youthadultpartnership/files/2015/03/Youth-AdultPartnershipsTrainingManual.pdf>
- <https://4-h.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/YouthAdultPartnershipsInCommunityDecisionMaking.pdf>
- <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development/youth-adult-partnerships>



Sources

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