



ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

Access to Information, Participation in Decision-Making and Justice in the OECS: some thoughts

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The question

What regional basis for access in the OECS?

How do small island states see the issue of current access to information, participation and justice?

Youth are the future of our countries

Therefore, we should focus on youth of the Eastern Caribbean

Issue of access

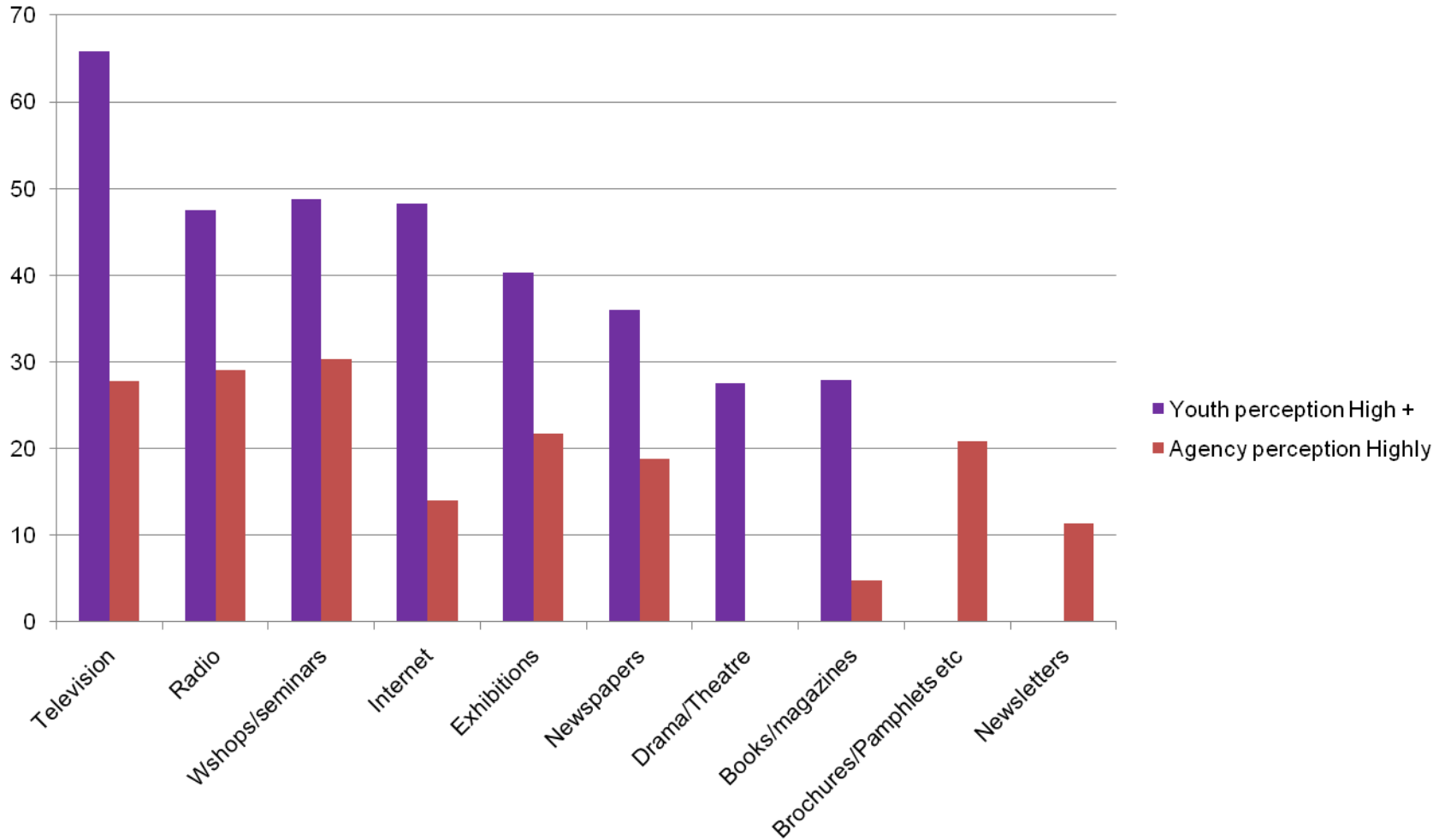
Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration

- recognizes that environmental issues are best handled with access to information, citizen engagement and access to remedies and relief

- consider access to information, public participation and justice an inalienable right
- identify the barriers to the use of information related to sustainable development with special reference to vulnerable communities and individuals
- develop/implement capacity building and technology support programs to remove those barriers and achieve full integration by those communities and individuals

OECS Experience

Youth perception of effectiveness vs environmental departments' perception of success of comm. tools



St. George's Declaration of Principles of Environmental Sustainability in the OECS

(Revised 2006)

Goal 2: Incorporate the Objectives, Perspectives, Resources and Talents of All of Society in Environmental Management

Goal 2 and its desired outcomes relate to:

Principle 4 - Ensure Meaningful Participation by Civil Society in Decision Making

Principle 5 - Ensure Meaningful Participation by the Private Sector

Principle 7 - Foster Broad-based Environmental Education, Training and Awareness

Supportive actions

- establishment of legal and institutional frameworks and regulatory mechanisms to assure and encourage the active participation of relevant public, private, non-governmental and community-based organisations in environmental management;
- establishment, strengthening and promotion of structures and procedures for the broad participation of civil society and the private sector in the design, implementation and evaluation of decision making processes and programmes regarding environmental management;

- creation of legal and institutional mechanisms to ensure and facilitate the public dissemination of information on development plans and activities as well as the transmission and consideration of comments from the public on such plans and activities;
- creation of policy environments that facilitate the flow of information, transparency and accountability on environmental management issues and actions taken by the government;

- whenever appropriate, development of agreements with civil society organisations and the private sector for the collaborative management of natural resources;
- development and implementation of environmental education strategies and programmes that target all sectors of society and that focus on improving environmental and natural resource use practices;
- creation of systems for monitoring the environmental performance of private sector firms, legal mechanisms for holding them accountable for negative impacts on the environment or human health, and incentives for rewarding good practices



Thank you for your kind attention

