

**YOUNG-IN CONFERENCE**  
**27 SEPTEMBER 2019**  
**ROEHAMPTON UNIVERSITY**

**BUILDERS OF A NEW  
DEMOCRACY: EVALUATING  
YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
PROGRAMME IN BHUTAN**

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Research questions

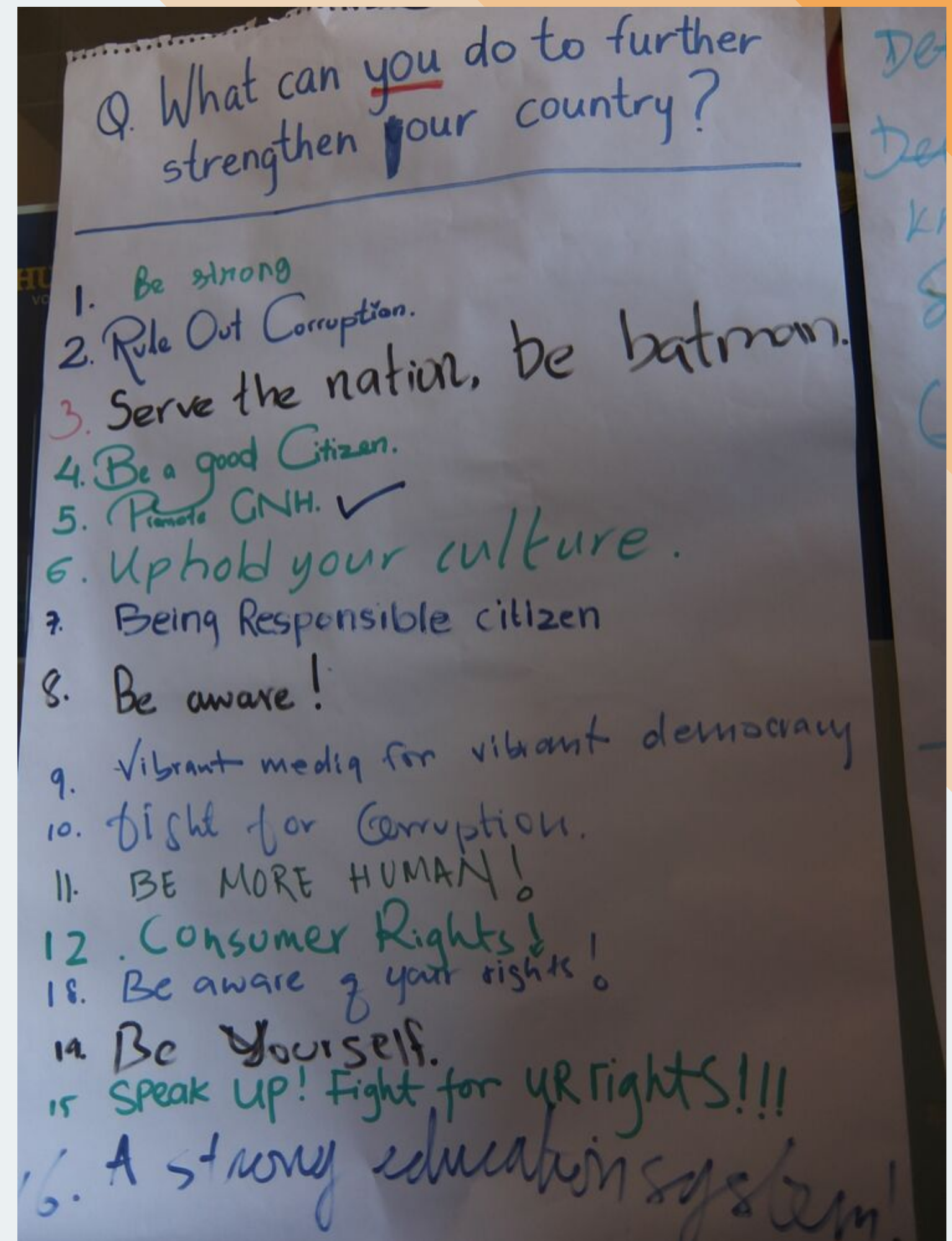
Theoretical and methodological background

Context: Youth Initiative in Bhutan

Data collection and analysis

Results

Conclusions



# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

## YOUTH INITIATIVE:

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN BHUTAN

1. How did the young participants' understanding of their social and political environment, and their role as active citizens, change as a result of the programme?
2. What factors made the Youth Initiative programme effective, according to the participants themselves?



# YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- 1) engaged citizenship
- 2) positive youth development
- 3) belonging and community connectedness
- 4) care
- 5) justice

(Dolan and Brennan 2016)



# Key theoretical and methodological issues

## **PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**

de Tocqueville (1835/1840), Arendt (1958)

## **QUALITATIVE METHODS**

Evaluating Communication for Development: A  
Framework for Social Change (Lennie &  
Tacchi 2013)

## **EVALUATING SOCIAL CHANGE**

# BUDDHIST KINGDOM, DEMOCRACY SINCE 2008



## GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS

# Youth Initiative outcomes: individual and collective

## CIVIC KNOWLEDGE AND ENGAGEMENT

- Political process and institutions
- Planning and problem-solving
- Feeling of self-/collective responsibility
- Local action

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Reasoned, evidence-based, empathic, balanced communication
- More confident to communicate

## YOUTH REPRESENTATION

- Presence in media
- Meetings or participation in relevant events
- Recognized by leaders as a viable source for youth voice

## COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

- Collective actions taken
- Sustainability and effectiveness of the action or strategy

# BACKGROUND OF PARTICIPANTS

*“ [...] my family, they are all uneducated. And I told that I was elected for my school, I was elected for the parliamentary. And they do not know what is parliamentary. My father, even I was expecting some of the questions from my family, but they didn't ask anything. And they simply tell you want to go, go if it is good for you, if it can make you better life, if it can help in your future.”*

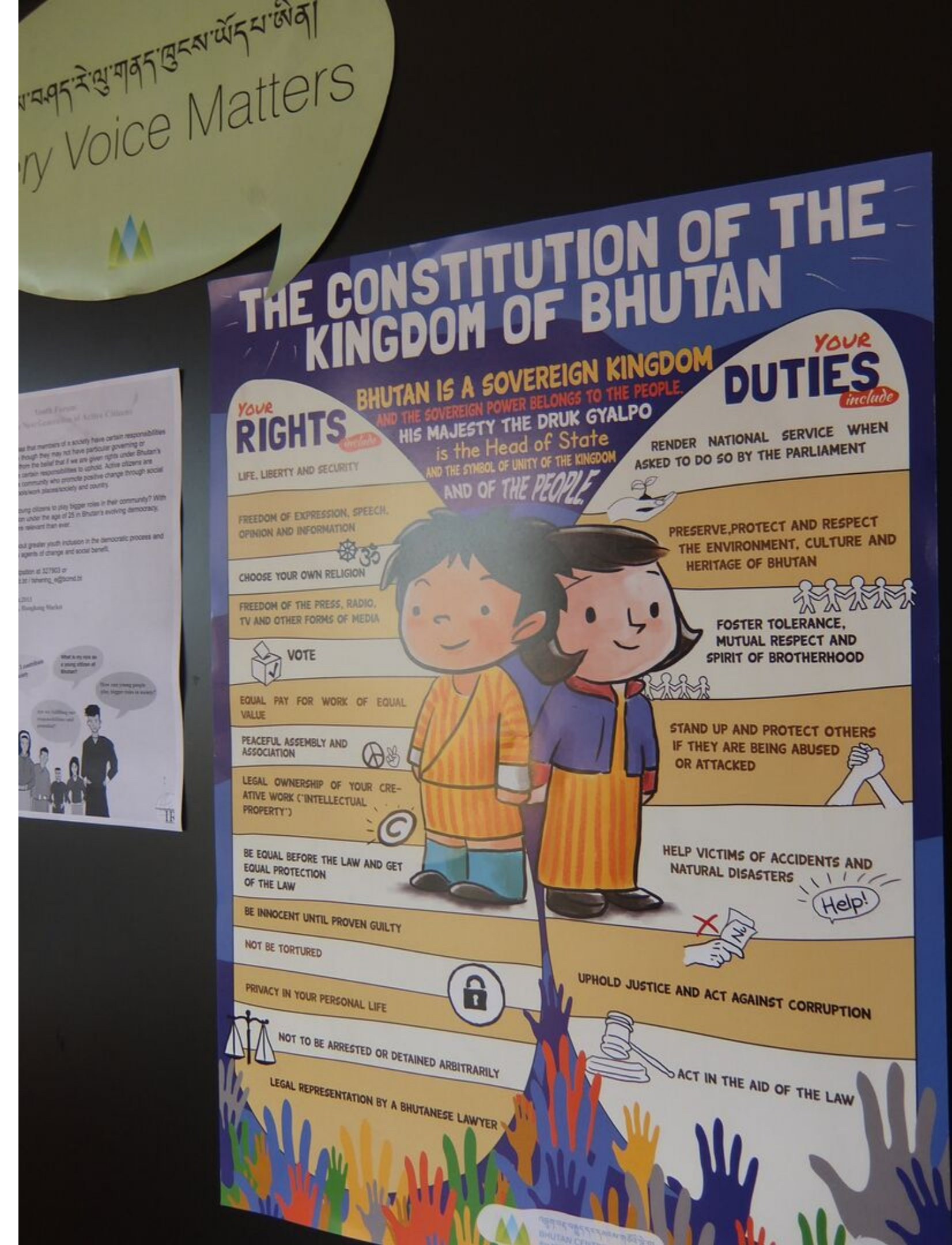
"Barun", male, 20 years  
Focus group discussion



# DATA AND ANALYSIS

- a) Focus group discussions
- b) Individual interviews
- c) Pre- and post-survey for youth representatives, including a question on the Most Significant Change
- d) Observation of training and meetings
- e) Communication outputs

-> Thematic qualitative analysis



# PRE AND POST-SURVEY

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Define the word “citizenship”
- 2) What makes a citizen “effective” in a democracy?
- 3) Would you classify yourself as someone who has a strong sense of civic responsibility? Why or why not?
- 4) What are the ways young people can bring change?
- 5) On a scale 1-10 (1 = poor, 10 = excellent), how would you rate your communication skills? Please explain why.

# RESULTS

*"YIDDD enhanced my motivation to contribute to help people. I strongly realized the need for a change in the society and the world at large. We have to lead by example. To make an impact we need to be innovative, different and very good which one shall be only by learning. So, YIDDD has made me a good learner."*

"Karma", male, 20 years  
Most Significant Change answer

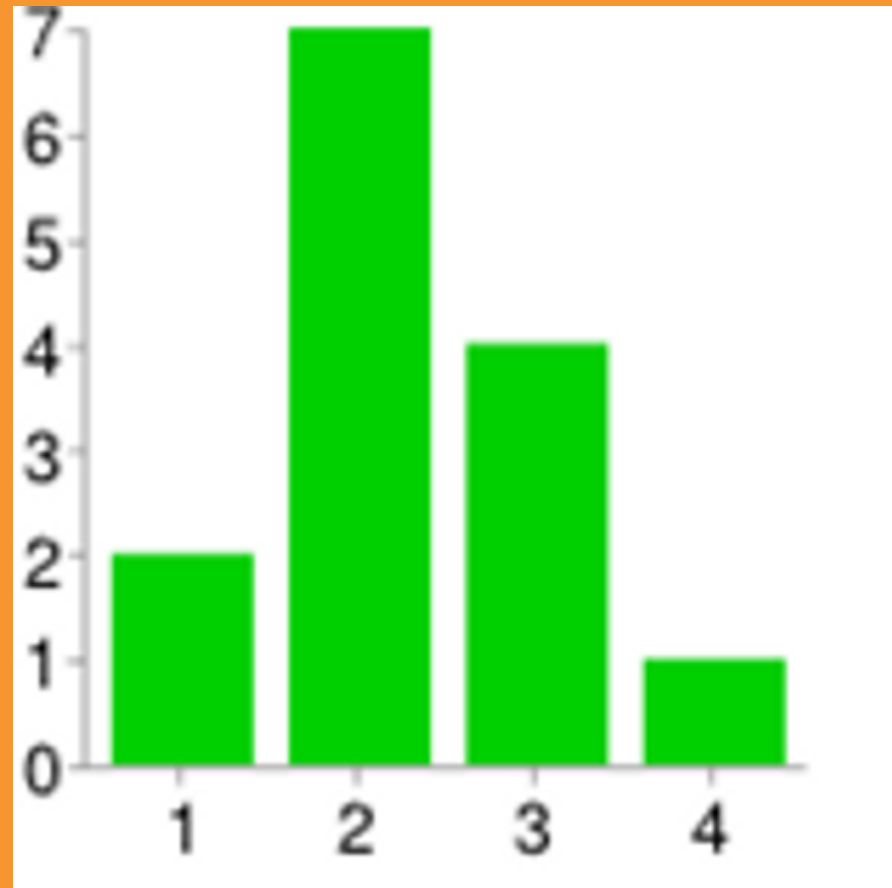


# GOOD CITIZENSHIP

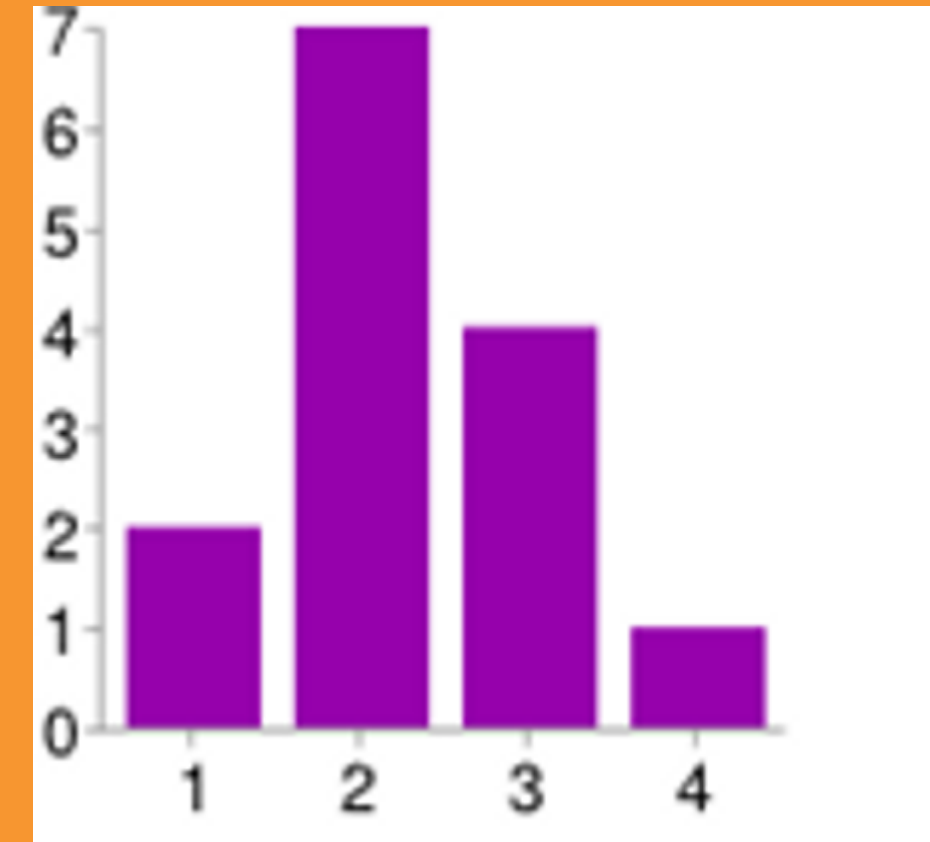
*...in the past our own Bhutanese concept of a good citizen was someone who would actually just listen whatever is being done...to just say ok to anything that is around. But we have been said that our responsibility isn't just to listen and to avail the services...we can also be service provider, not just to be service consumer...so I think with the change of time we are defining our own definition of good citizen (laughing). Good citizen...I think we cannot see much around. It's just these old things of people being silent, and just accepting whatever is around, what is going on in our country."*

"Jigme", male, 21 years  
Focus group discussion

# BARRIERS

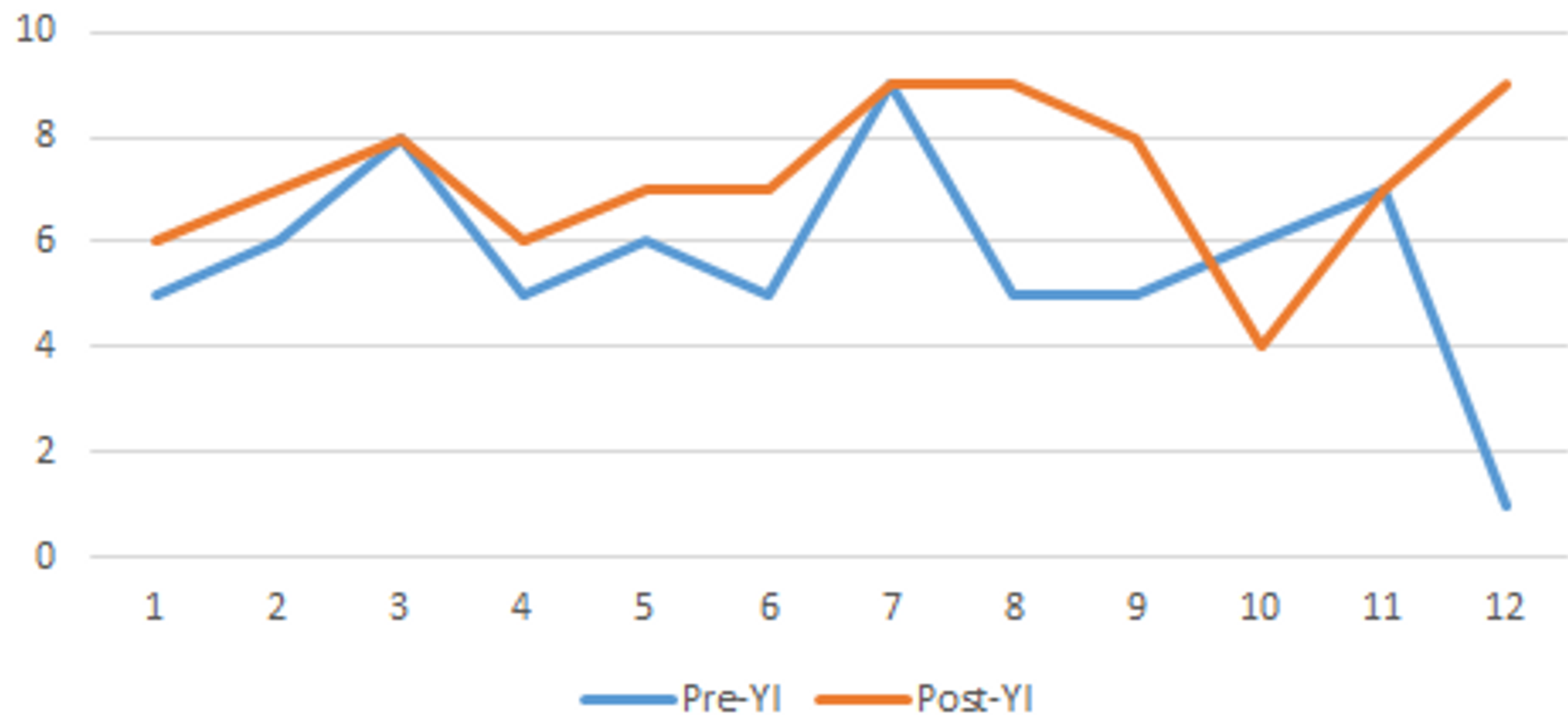


THERE ARE VERY FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN BHUTAN'S DEVELOPMENT.  
1 = STRONGLY AGREE, 4 = STRONGLY DISAGREE



I FEEL AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS THAT ARE CRITICAL OF OLDER LEADERS.  
1 = STRONGLY AGREE, 4 = STRONGLY DISAGREE

## How would you rate your communication skills (1-10)







# CONCLUSIONS

## LIMITATIONS & POSSIBILITIES

Selected group

Lack of baseline

Long-term impact

Youth participation in programme planning and evaluation



# THANK YOU!



## CONTACT

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