ABSTRACT

Investigating Policy Formulation Processes In The Social Sector
In regard to youth in transition from school to work in two Caribbean
Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Barbados and Trinidad and
Tobago

Asha I.O. Kambon

This dissertation has as its area of concern the political dynamics of
policy development. The study seeks to add to the body of policy research
on Caribbean SIDS, through (a) enhancing our understanding of the
phenomenon of social policy formulation and (b) contributing to the
generation of a theoretical framework for analyzing policy formulation
processes in the social sector for Caribbean Small island Developing
States (SIDS).

The study is located in the agenda setting stage of the policy cycle and
within that stage examines the problem framing, contesting and policy
articulation processes. The research design entails a qualitative study
utilizing data systematized and analyzed applying the ‘grounded theory
approach’ to construct comparative cases. The sites chosen for the study
are Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago and the domain for investigation is
youth in transition from school-to-work. The study uses the policy
subsystem as its unit of analysis and achieves triangulation of the data by
collection through three main processes: in-depth interviews, focus group
sessions and archival and current material. Purposive sampling technique
is employed for the key informants and in the case of the focus group
with direct beneficiaries, who are in the main poor and marginalized
youth, they have been selected from the communities of Laventille in
Trinidad and Tobago and Pinelands in Barbados.

In order to answer one of the three research sub questions the study
introduces two dimensions of governance ‘sway’ and ‘coaction’ which led
to the conclusion that policy actors were engaging in less expansive
governance and proceeding in the more closed, traditional hierarchical
modes of governance. An emergent theoretical framework for assessing
the policy formulation processes for Caribbean SIDS was proffered - the
OHMA framework.

Keywords: Asha I. O. Kambon, governance, policy studies, youth,
Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Caribbean SIDS