This study deals with the design and maintenance of an effective government system for Curacao and the Netherlands Antilles in which the handling of the country’s problems can be improved, thus permitting the attainment of a higher level of development for the nation and its parts. The target territory of the study is primarily the island of Curacao and the Netherlands Antilles in general; application of the findings to other countries is feasible especially if the premises of and the resulting adaptations to the model are taken into account. The Democratic Government Cycle (DGC) model used in the study, besides the territory concerned, is built around some central concepts. Pluriformity in order to be able to deal with the different aspects of the complex organization of the field, systems theory in general and the I/O-model in particular, management orientation, theory development and simultaneous application of the research findings. Organization development in the field concerned is mostly done without an explicit theoretical basis. The importance of a scientifically based approach becomes clear, if we can assume that the wise use of more theoretical tools will improve the results of such activities.

The core of the approach of the study is the conceptual model called "The Democratic Government Cycle" which, starting from a relatively lower level of perfection, is gradually improved by the findings of the research carried out to make contributions to it and raise it to a higher stage of perfection. In order to fit the conceptual model to some particular conditions of the field we made some assumptions (in the study they are called the starting points) about the environment of the local public administration. Taking into account some indications observed in the field we determined the requirements that a model which has to deal with the local situation effectively should meet. The initial DGC-model based on these requirements was then used in the study to test some of the characteristics and indications and to supply us with information to refine the conceptual model and to start a body of other theoretical elements.

Four field research projects were carried out during the study and their findings were used to adjust the initial model and convey it to its second stage of perfection. Future investigations should yield the necessary information to improve the level reached at the end of this first study. This research will have to take place on a regular basis in order to guarantee that the gap between the stage of the model and the real situation in the field remains an acceptable one.

Two research projects were designed and carried out in the first round, one dealing with the external (environmental) characteristics of the local public administration and the other with the internal aspects of the same system. Both employed survey forms to be filled in by the respondents. The external investigation was carried out on all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, covering politicians, civil servants and other community leaders, and it aimed at collecting data identifying existing and expected characteristics in primarily the environment of the public administration system of Curacao, but also in the Netherlands Antilles, which are relevant for the way this administration can deal with its problems. The data obtained by means of this investigation were processed by computer and the interpretation was done by identifying categories of theory elements and their characteristics.

Top government officials which concentrated in the select data identifying existent structures and organizations, which are relevant to the model. The data obtained by means of such studies, especially in the case of the external variables, is necessary.

The second round of field research was to Curacao to complement the interview technique. In the second field research project the target group consisted of city leaders living in Curacao. The results of the first similar research covered some aspects of the findings. The results of these investigations were used to formulate provisional statements necessary.

Persons of both the central government with vast experience in the research project on internal characteristics indicated preliminary statements about internal variables. In describing the new model based on the findings and to formulate additional requirements.

Next we proceeded by testing some of these findings applying them to two local case areas: one internal characteristics of the administrative system, the interview technique. In describing the new model resulting out of these investigations indicated.

Finally conclusions were drawn on the results of these investigations and a "methodology contribution" was made to the presentation of the study. The conclusions were presented and "methodology contribution" and a "general" category and a "perception of the two case areas: the local public sector and the political process in the administration system of Curacao, and the first projects in addition to the elements of the theory superstructure.

The presentation of the study was preceded by a preliminary contents.

The first of these chapters: the local public sector and the political process in the administration system of Curacao, and the first projects in addition to the elements of the theory superstructure.
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Top government officials were the target group of the internal research
which concentrated in the island of Curacao. Its main purpose was to col-
lected data identifying existing and expected characteristics of primarily
structures and organizations of the public administration system of Curaca-
, which are relevant to the way this system can deal with its problems.
The data obtained by means of this project was treated in the same way as
in the case of the external research, and provisional statements were made
about internal variables.
The second round of field research projects was designed and carried out in
Curacao to complement the information obtained in the first round, using
the interview technique.
In the second field research project on environmental characteristics the
target group consisted of political leaders past and present and commu-
ity leaders living in Curacao, and it aimed at the checking of some findings
of the first similar research and at obtaining additional information about
some aspects the findings of the first investigation pointed out.
The results of these investigations were used to update the formerly propo-
sed provisional statements and to formulate additional ones where this was
necessary.
Persons of both the central government and the island government of Curacao
with vast experience in the field were the target group of the second field
research project on internal characteristics, and its main purpose was to
check some findings of the first similar investigation (this time on the
internal characteristics) and to obtain additional information that these
findings indicated.
The results were used to update the provisional statements proposed earlier
and to formulate additional ones when the situation dictated such.
Next we proceeded by testing the relevancy of the model and the findings
applying them to two local areas chosen for this purpose: the education
sector and the political parties.

Finally conclusions were drawn, some recommendations were given and the new
resulting model was described, taking into account the subgoals of the
study.
The conclusions were presented in the two sections of "insight improvement"
and "methodology contributions", while we split the recommendations into a
"general" category and a "specific" one. The latter was divided further
into the two case areas: education and political parties.
In describing the new model we indicated some very useful further research
projects in addition to the description of the new DGC-model and some
elements of the theory supporting and complementing it.

The presentation of the study has been organized in four main chapters,
preceded by a preliminaries chapter containing the preface and table of
contents.
The first of these chapters (1) handles three separate introductory sub-
jects: the local public administration as the background of the study,
importance and definition of the problem and the study and the review of
related earlier studies.

Next we find the two core parts of the research dealing with the government
of Curacao, and the first one, chapter 2, deals with the theoretical as-
pects related to the study of this particular government. First the requi-
rements of the model are established by assuming some starting points and considering some characteristics and indications observed in the present system.

In the following section of this second chapter the initial model is designed on the basis of the aforementioned requirements, and described first in broad outline and then in detail, mentioning the major sources used to design the model and of which some should also be employed to complement the model when applying it.

The submodels of design and evaluation and some widely used denominations of variables which remain unstressed in the study conclude the chapter.

In chapter 3 the field research projects are dealt with. In the first section we elaborate on the design and the methodology employed with the four projects. Then the results are presented, first those of the two field investigations into environmental characteristics and then the findings on the internal ones.

To illustrate the relevancy of both the model and the findings a third section is included, in which model and findings are placed against a background of two particular areas: the education sector and political parties. The chapter is concluded with a summary of the proposed statements.

In chapter 4 we present the conclusions and recommendations grouped under the headings of the subgoals of the study: insight improvement, methodology contributions, policy recommendations and theory formulation.

Summaries in English, Dutch and Papiamentu (the native language of the Leeward Islands of the Netherlands Antilles) conclude the report.