

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH WITH YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF WELL-BEING

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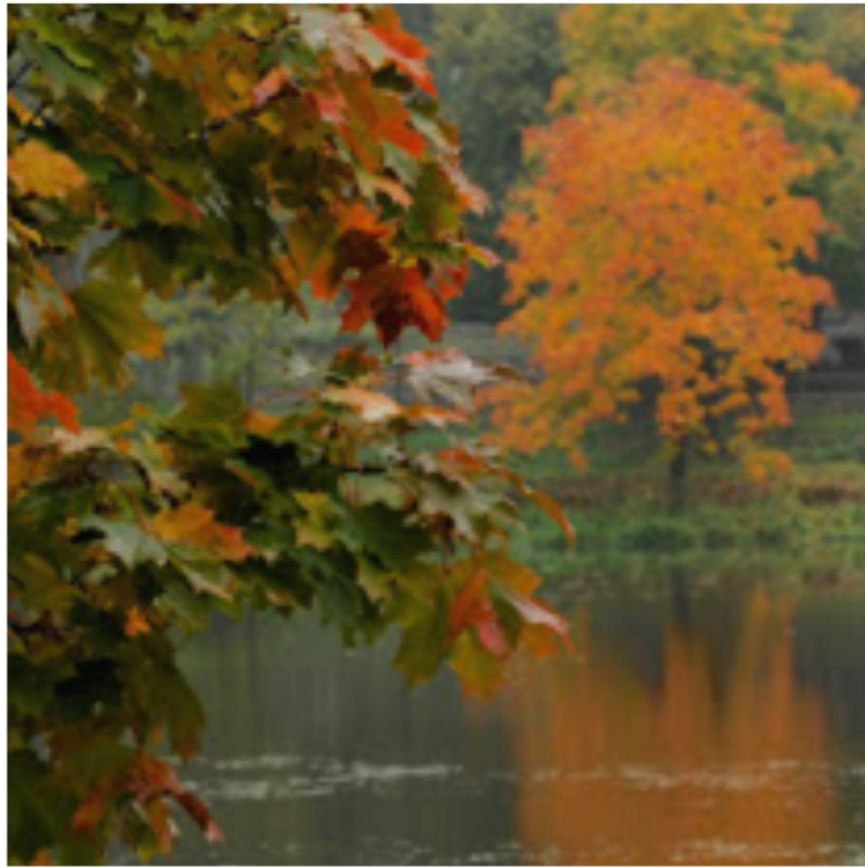
RESEARCH ON YOUNG PEOPLE - THE FINNISH CASE - THE METHODOLOGICAL PROCESS

who have been in
public care and
are leaving to
start independent
lives - transition
period ²

PARTICIPATORY PEER RESEARCH

- ◉ EU-funded “Rights of Children in Alternative Care, from Theory to Practice: Filling the Gap through Peer Research” organised by SOS Children’s Village International
- ◉ Poland, the Czech Republic, Albania and Finland
- ◉ 336 young people, 53 in Finland
- ◉ Interview schedule with 53 questions both open and closed questions, tape recorded
- ◉ 10 young people and 4 experts

THE SEMISTRUCTURED INTERVIEW SCHEDULE WITH OPEN AND CLOSED ANSWERS



- Translations
- Many actors
- Interaction
- Interpretation
- Time limits



CHALLENGES

- To collect data
- To analyse data
- To report
- The systems
- The concepts used in child welfare



KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING WHEN LEAVING CARE



YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING

- social, cultural and economic resources and health
- subjectivity

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH - ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS AND CO-RESEARCHERS



EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCES

- ◎ What can be learned from the other countries about child welfare services and how do these services support young people leaving care
- ◎ Develop social work with young people so that young people have the possibility to have their own say

THE PRINCIPLES

- ◉ Practitioners and researchers
- ◉ The empowering approach
- ◉ Take a supportive role while encouraging young people acting
- ◉ Using own expertise
- ◉ Young people as interviewers
- ◉ The young people offer their own contributions
- ◉ Involved in the research process
- ◉ Get some research skills and learn the skills needed in the working life

MUTUAL TRUST RELATIONS

- ⦿ Important issue when doing participatory research
- ⦿ Success of capturing research data and the extent to which the young people committed to the project
- ⦿ Atmosphere of sincerity, mutual trust and consultation (De Winter & Noom 2003)

CO-OPERATION

- ◎ International meetings (4)
- ◎ National meetings (2)
- ◎ Team meetings (3)
- ◎ Consultation and supervision
- ◎ Two days education of research skills (2)

THE STEPS OF PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROCESS - CO-RESEARCHER

1. Discussion of the interview themes
2. Formulation of the questions
3. Learning the research skills to do interviews
4. Doing interviews
5. Sending interview data by e-mail in a form of Terena File Sender
6. Reflection of the results
7. Dissemination of the results



THE REFLEXIVE RESEARCH PROCESS AS KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

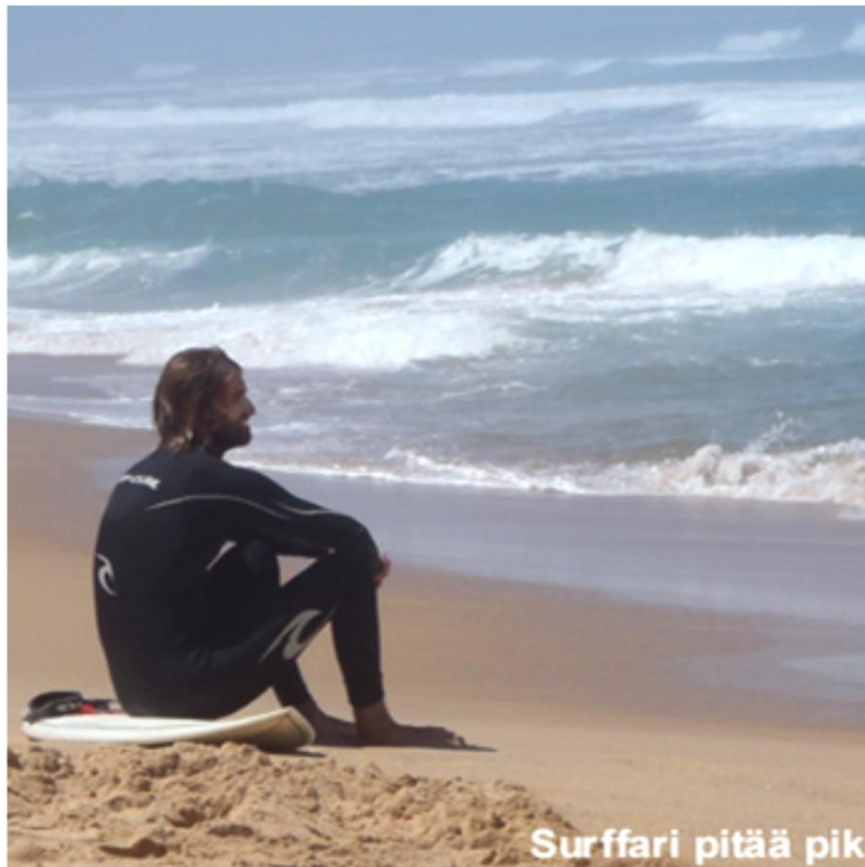
- Negotiations
- Respect
- Not knowing better
- Everyones expertise
- Empowering
- Encouraging



THOSE WHO HAVE IT WORST?

Differences in action and activity
6 active interviewers and two most active
Experience of failure?

Time decreases the level of involvement



THE INTERPRETATION OF THE REPLIES - SUBJECTIVITY

-EXPRESSIONS OF THEIR
OWN REALITY

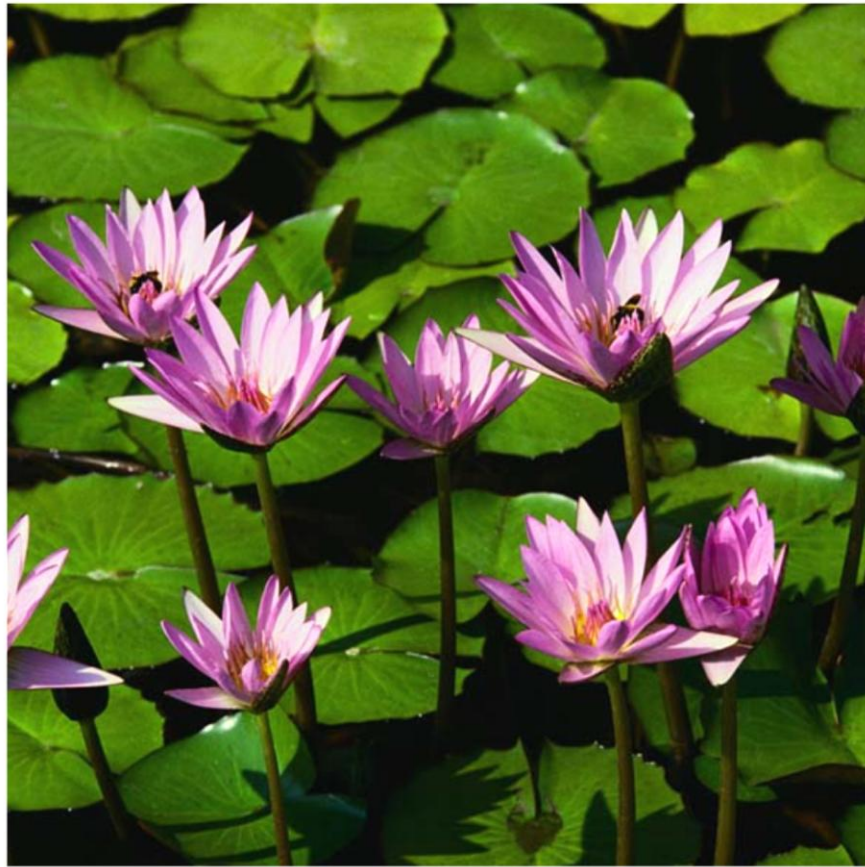


MENTAL PEACE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Self image

Future perspective

Fears and insecurities



ATTACHMENT AND BECOME ATTACHED

Workers in care
Friends, siblings, relatives
and after care workers

Be meaningful to
somebody



WORKING LIFE AND STUDIES

- 2/3 working place
or a study place
- Housing
- Livelihood



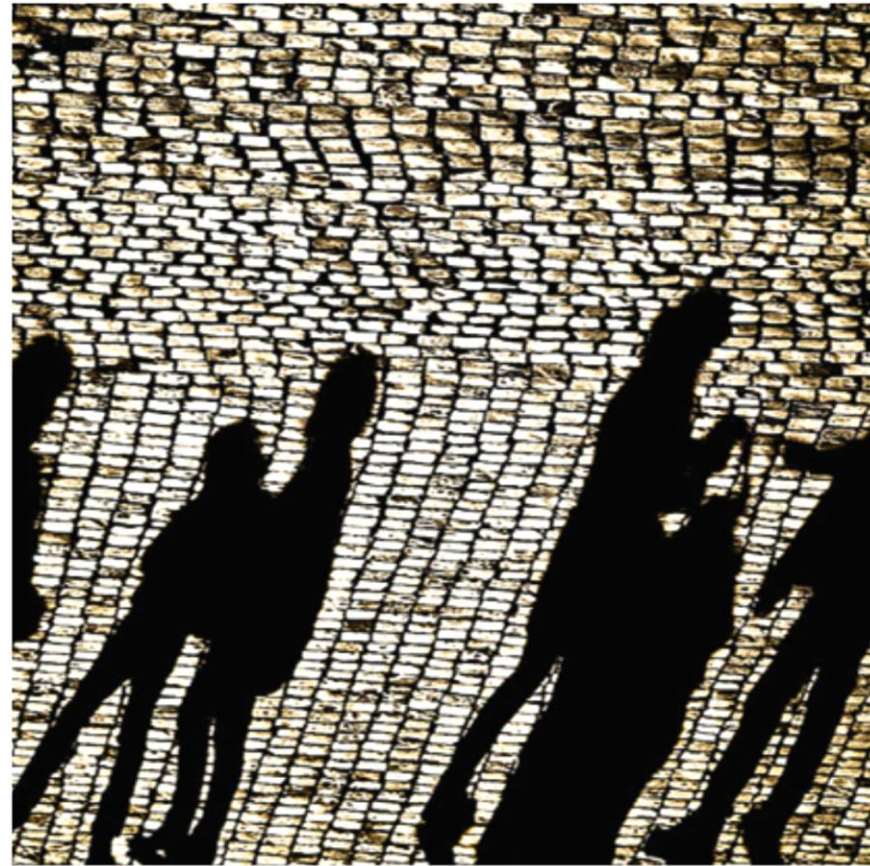
HOUSE WORK, HYGIENE AND ECONOMY

- 1/5 experience difficult in using money



FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO ENDING ALTERNATIVE CARE

Mechanical and
systemic
understanding of
maturation



YOUNG PEOPLE'S VARYING EXPERIENCES OF ALTERNATIVE CARE

- generalisations
- stereotypes
- prejudice