

Enjoyable Learning Experience, but also Difficult: Young, Unaccompanied Refugees' Perspectives on Participatory Research

Authors : Kristina Johansen

Abstract : Participation is a universal right that all children and young people are entitled to, according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Social work and action research share participation as a core value. However, we have limited knowledge of how children and young people of refugee background experience taking part in participatory research. The point of departure of this presentation is a qualitative study involving young, unaccompanied refugees, addressing the issues of psychosocial health and participation. The research design included participatory methods and action research. The presentation highlights the perspectives of young, unaccompanied refugees on what made participating in the research process valuable, what created challenges for participation and what created challenges for the action part in the research process. Feedback from participants indicated that taking part in enjoyable experiences, being listened to, sharing experiences, and learning from each other contributed to making the participation valuable. At the same time, participants addressed challenges related to communication, sensitive topics, participation in decision-making and powerlessness. The presentation will end with implications for social work research and practice involving young refugees.

Keywords : participatory research, power, young unaccompanied refugees, relationships, participation

Conference Title : ICSW 2023 : International Conference on Social Work

Conference Location : Tokyo, Japan

Conference Dates : September 04-05, 2023