



Tiedekunta/Osasto – Fakultet/Sektion – Faculty Faculty of Social Sciences		Laitos – Institution – Department Department of Social Research	
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Työn nimi – Arbetets titel – Title Experiences of unaccompanied refugee background youths about transnational family relations and about life in Finland			
Oppiaine – Läroämne – Subject Social Work			
Työn laji – Arbetets art – Level Master's thesis		Aika – Datum – Month and year October 2017	
		Sivumäärä – Sidoantal – Number of pages 122 + 6 attachments	
Tiivistelmä – Referat – Abstract			
<p>During Europe's refugee crisis in 2015, Finland received a record number of 3024 unaccompanied asylum seeking minors (the amount is modest in the Nordic sense but in Finland it was exceptional compared to the previous years' annual outcome of an approximate of 100 seekers). In this digitalized era it is easy to keep in touch with family back at home in many ways. In this study, experiences of unaccompanied refugee background youths are analyzed concerning their transnational family relations and about their life in Finland without family. The study investigates what kind of family relations youth had in their country of origin with their family members, how they maintain these relations transnationally and how they describe their life without family in Finland. The aim of this study is to make their narratives visible and heard. This study promotes publicity of vulnerable refugee background youths living without family due to the recent tightened preconditions for family reunification. Increasing the understanding of these youths living conditions, their growth, integration and development may be supported with enhanced purpose in the reception and integration services as well as in all children's services in general. This study benefits professionals in the social work field working with unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>Methodologically this study is qualitative, conducted on narrative method and based on phenomenological-hermeneutic understanding of human experience. Six youth who had come to Finland as unaccompanied asylum seeking minors were interviewed. Narratives were formed based on analysis of each interview. The themes were formed based on transnational theory about family relations.</p> <p>Every adolescent considered their childhood family very important and significant for them personally. Almost all adolescents described having very close relations to at least one adult member of the family. The youth had great appreciation for their parent's upbringing and realized sharing some important values with their parents. The children's departures abroad were decided by an adult family member. In their life in Finland the youth have regular transnational contacts with their childhood families abroad by mobile phone or by internet connections. Unaccompanied youths miss their families despairingly and are very worried about the wellbeing of their family members in their country of origin. Consequently, the adolescent and their family members try to avoid talking about everyday life problems and worries, in order to save the other from concern. Parents give transnational verbal support, spurring and advice to their children living in Finland by phone. Reciprocally the youngsters want to help their families materially though their material possibilities are quite restricted. The youths think it is their responsibility. Some of them send postal packages and money to their families.</p> <p>The results of the study show both deteriorating and enhancing factors in the wellbeing of unaccompanied minors living in Finland. The suppressors for their risks for wellbeing are lack of emotional family support, extreme difficulties in reunification of family, and the risk of marginalization. The promoters for mechanisms increasing their wellbeing are the realization of human rights in Finland (except the right for family), social networks, the capability to overcome challenges, and the belief for a better future.</p> <p>Thus, in order to improve the integration and wellbeing of unaccompanied youths, the Finnish society should be more tolerant towards these youth and the family reunification process should emphasize and take into account the rights of the children better, as it has been violated in recent practice. In addition, the reception and integration service sectors should help and support unaccompanied adolescents in creating prolonged social networks. This would prevent these youth from being left alone at the age of 21, after post care services end.</p>			
Avainsanat – Nyckelord – Keywords unaccompanied asylum seeking minors, refugee background youths, transnational family relations, narrative			