KUN HYVÄ TAHTO EI RIITÄ

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NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM AGORA-RESEARCHERS

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Two new publications about discourses of teacher education.
INTERRUPTING YOUTH SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN THE ETHOS OF VULNERABILITY, 2017-2021 (CoSupport), Academy of Finland

AIM OF THE PROJECT

To explore cross-sectoral policies and practices of youth support systems intended for young people considered vulnerable.

To create more room for young people’s own interpretations, responses and actions.

To focus on how and why the perceived vulnerability changes expectations and practices related to youth support systems.

To provide understanding of what young people and the professionals serving them consider "episodes of risk" and "risk situations."


During a short training programme in prison young adult explained how in the programme everyone is expected to set their own goals they’re suppose to reach. He continued:

‘Here in the project it’s really all up to you. If you try really hard and work with yourself you can be successful and make it.’ (interview, 2015).

In a short-term training programme for young people ‘at risk’ there was a session of happiness training. Young people were taught about the importance of positivity and happiness by referring to Indian people. The teacher enthusiastically said:

‘the people in India might be quite poor but despite of being poor they are very happy. You can be happy too if you really put effort to it’ (field notes 2016).
Extracts from documents and interviews of support systems, 2014-2018)

Emotions were reflected in a nice and secure environment accompanied and guided by project workers (Youth programme document).

Young people need more diagnoses for their problems. Diagnoses are good, they have a soothing effect as well (Youth worker interview).

Young people are vulnerable, fragile and highly sensitive. They need to be handled with care (Youth worker interview).

Young people have so many personal problems. They have low self-esteem, mental health problems, learning problems, attitude problems, all kinds of problems (Youth worker interview).
Extracts from research interviews, 2014-

Youth worker: Sometimes I really wonder what we are doing. I know it’s a financial question, project after project, and we need these projects in this organisation for funding but what about these young people? Does anyone think about them? Who cares about them when the project is over? (Youth worker, interview).

Youth worker: I think that sometimes these kinds of activities can even hinder access to education or working life (Youth worker, interview).

Youth worker: What else could we do in this situation? Ministry funds these activities and we do what we get funding for. And quite frankly, we are the only people who seem to care (Youth worker, interview).
Could you describe me what you do in this project?  
Well, we talk a lot about our emotions. I know it’s supposed to be good for me and people are really nice here but sometimes... You know, I would like to educate myself because when I get out of here I need to get a job.

Sometimes I think that I am considered as a some kind of idiot here. I know these people try their best but I can’t help thinking this way.

These people are all nice here. But what’s the point. I do what I am told to do. Otherwise I will lose my benefit.

This is actually my third project already. But at least you have something to do.
• Nuorille suunnattujen tukijärjestelmiin sinällään hyvää tarkoittava ote toimii helposti unohtamalla rakenteelliset ja järjestelmiin liittyvät ongelmat, kuten muutokset työmarkkinoilla, eriarvoisuuden kasvun, köyhyyden ja monimutkaisten tukijärjestelmiien viidakon.

• Lopputuloksena edellisestä voikin olla hyvinvointipolitiikka, joka tuottaa hyvinvoinnin sijaan pahoinvointia ja jossa yksittäinen nuori sekä nuoren lähipiiri ovat ”syyllisiä” epätoivottuun tilanteeseen.

• Miten nuorten näkemyksille voitaisiin luoda tilaa muuttamalla vallitsevaa yhteiskunnallista ja poliittista järjestelmää sekä siihen sisältyviä oletuksia ihmisyystä, kansalaisuudesta ja toimijuudesta?