

Project Summary

'Parenting in Precarity': Parenthood and Psycho-Social Health in the Context of a Precarious Residential Status

Background:

More than one third of the Swiss population has a migration background. There are broad array of legal residence permits for migrants. Some of them - or the absence of one - cause particularly uncertain and precarious living conditions, such as the status of asylum seekers, 'provisionally admitted' migrants, rejected asylum seekers, or undocumented migrants (Sans-Papiers). Many of those affected are parents and thus responsible for a family. Facing an uncertain residential status causes various life contextual challenges that impact the parental psycho-social health, interact with the family system, and affect family members, especially children. While access to 'formal' health care services often remains aggravated for those with a precarious residential status, families, social networks, and communities take over an important 'informal' support role. Nevertheless, nurses are expected to play a key role in supporting affected parents and their families e.g., in the field of 'Community Health Nursing' (CHN). Currently, little is known about how persons experience parenthood in the context of a precarious residential status, how this affects their psycho-social health, what their needs for care and support are, and what support services they use.

Aim:

Therefore, this study aims to develop a deeper understanding of a) how persons in the context of a precarious residential status subjectively experience their parenthood and in what extend this affects their psycho-social health, b) what 'informal'/'formal' support services they use regarding psycho-social and family health, c) how they experience access to health care services, and d) what implications can be derived for the development of adapted or targeted (nursing) health care services, e.g., in the context of CHN.

Methods:

To comprehensively achieve the aims of this study, a two-phase qualitative, explorative study is planned: Phase 1 follows an ethnographic research strategy with flexible use of (participant) observation and ethnographic conversations with affected parents. In phase 2, it is planned to participatorily develop implications for the development of (nursing) health care services in focus groups (or other suitable forms like workshops) involving multiple expertise ('expertise based on experience', 'stakeholder', and 'professional expertise').

Expected outcomes:

Implications can be derived as to what extent health (nursing) care and support services should be designed to a) reach affected parents and their families or facilitate access to health care services, and b) enable professionals in building relationships with those affected while considering their specific living conditions and to promote need-orientated psycho-social and family health care approaches. Further expected outcomes can be gathered in developing new methodological approaches for Nursing Science to involve vulnerable and hard-to-reach persons in research.

Keywords:

Parenthood, family, precarious residential status, psycho-social health, community health