

## Parental perspectives on poverty and well-being

*„Poverty as a risk factor - A qualitative study on vulnerability in childhood. What makes children stronger but also in need of protection.“*

Stephanie Meiland and Nora Iranee  
5th ISCI-Conference at University of Capetown, 2015/09/2

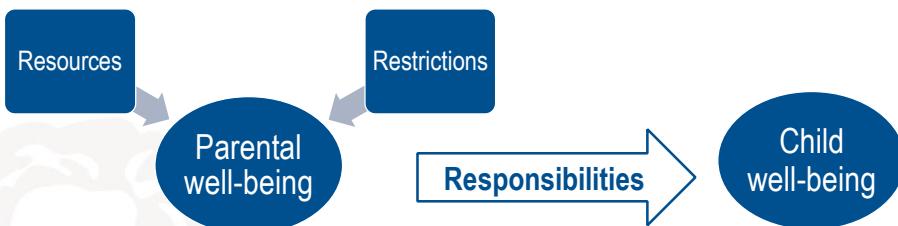
GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

10. September 2015

*Starting point*



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*Poverty as a risk factor - A qualitative study on vulnerability in childhood.  
What makes children stronger but also in need of protection.*

Project manager

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Funding and project duration

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Funding guideline „Sexual violence against children and adolescents in pedagogical contexts“

February 2013 - January 2016

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*Research concept*

- Poverty as the phenomenological starting point
- Multidimensional concept of vulnerability in childhood:
  - everyday experiences
  - realms of experiences
  - social actors and structures
- School and out-of-school context
- Children, parents, professionals & volunteers

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## Methodological approach

### Actors and institutions:

- children (8 - 11)
- parents
- pedagogical staff
- volunteers
- school and out-of school contexts



### Methods:

- semi-structured interviews with parents, teachers and pedagogical staff
- participant observation and semi-structured interviews with children

- Over 80 protocols and 45 interviews with children, siblings, parents and pedagogues

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## The Research field

- Housing estates on the periphery of the city
- Social housing
- High-rise apartment building influenced the image of the area in former years
- The „Child center“ is the only after-school day-care :

*„We are like an oasis [...] in this ,apartment-building‘-desert“*  
(Mrs. Müller-Ziegler)

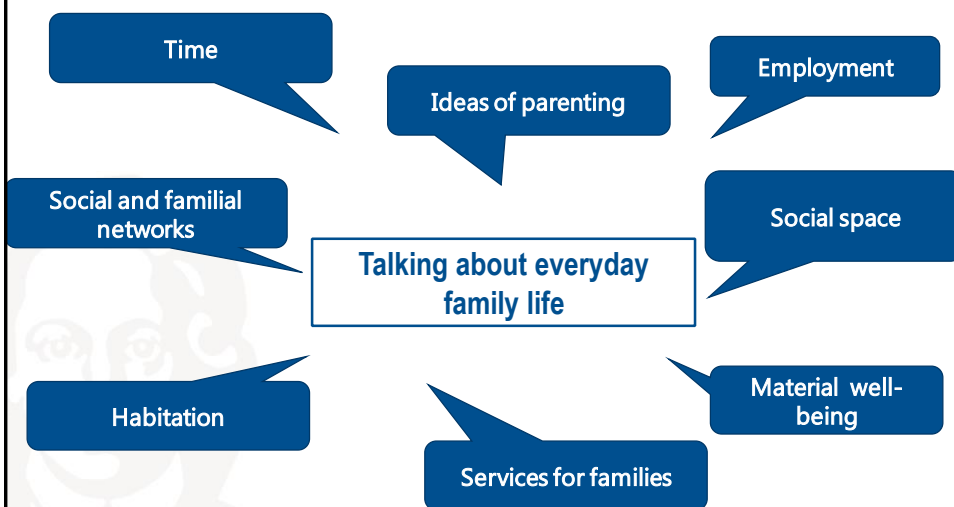
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Portraits

Ms. Issa	Ms. Fink	Ms. Naveed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 children</li> <li>• Single-parent</li> <li>• Living together with her children and her grand-child</li> <li>• Currently enrolled in an employment program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 children</li> <li>• Married</li> <li>• Youngest son is has „problems with the law“</li> <li>• Currently not working because of an injury</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 children</li> <li>• Widowed</li> <li>• Housewife</li> <li>• Lack of support</li> </ul>

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Dimensions of family well-being



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Ideas of parenting

Support

Education & Care

Safety &  
Protection

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*„[...] I try to support my children as far as possible, if they make mistakes, big, little mistakes, I try to stick with them nonetheless“*

(Ms. Fink)

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*„[...] they have to learn independently and have to become independent and when you are too clingy all the time, then they won't become open-minded, right, then they withdraw themselves and then at the end they will be over- anxious all the time“*

(Ms. Fink)

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### Conclusion

- Ideas of ‚good‘ parenting influence the perception of well-being in regard of social space, infrastructure for children and services for families
- Subjective ideas of ‚good‘ parenting are linked to being addressed as ‚marginalized‘ mothers
- Parental strategies for offering their children a ‚good‘ life and provide for their well-being

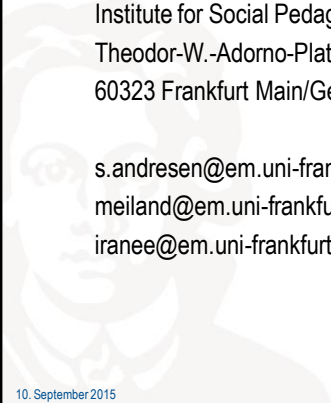
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