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The rearing environment and well-being of returned asylum-seeking adolescents in Kosovo and Albania

Danielle Zevulun, Margrite E. Kalverboer, A. Elianne Zijlstra, Wendy J. Post, & Erik J. Knorth

d.zevulun@rug.nl

The cycle of migration

- Pre-flight
 - Flight
 - Host country
-
- How about after return to the country of origin?

(Bronstein & Montgomery, 2011; Fazel, Reed, Panter-Brick & Stein, 2012)

Research questions

1. How are children faring after return in Kosovo and Albania?
2. Which factors predict their rearing environment and social-emotional well-being?

Predictor variables

Procedural characteristics host country

Stable residence permit

Return procedure

Child and contextual characteristics

Age

Gender

Ethnicity and country

Living area after return

Length of stay and length since return

(Carr, 2014; Davids & Van Houte, 2008; Gladwell & Elwyn, 2012; Knaus et al., 2012; Vathi & Duci, 2015)

Dependent variables

Social-emotional well-being:

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ; Goodman, 1997)

- Emotional problems
- Peer problems

Quality of the childrearing environment:

Best Interests of the Child Questionnaire (BIC-Q; Zijlstra et al., 2012; Zijlstra et al., 2013)

Best Interests of the Child (BIC) Model

Family: current situation

1. Adequate physical care
2. Safe direct physical environment
3. Affective atmosphere
4. Supporting, flexible childrearing structure
5. Adequate examples by parents
6. Interest

Family: future and past

7. Continuity in upbringing conditions, future perspective

Society: current situation

8. Safe wider physical environment
9. Respect
10. Social network
11. Education
12. Contact with peers
13. Adequate examples in society

Society: future and past

14. Stability in life circumstances, future perspective

Research sample

106 children in families returned from EU host countries

59 boys, 47 girls

55 Albanian, 30 Roma in Kosovo

21 Albanian in Albania

11 – 18 years old (M = 14.4 years)

Lived 2 months – 18 years in host country

On average 2.1 years returned in Kosovo or Albania

How are children faring after return?

SDQ:

Emotional problems: 32%

Peer problems: 30%

BIC-Q:

Quality of the childrearing environment: on average 9
conditions of sufficient quality

Which factors predict the social-emotional well-being and living situation?

Residence permit in host country

For children without a permit: no difference regarding forced or voluntary return

Belonging to a majority or minority ethnic group

Emotional problems: rural living area

Peer problems: older adolescents

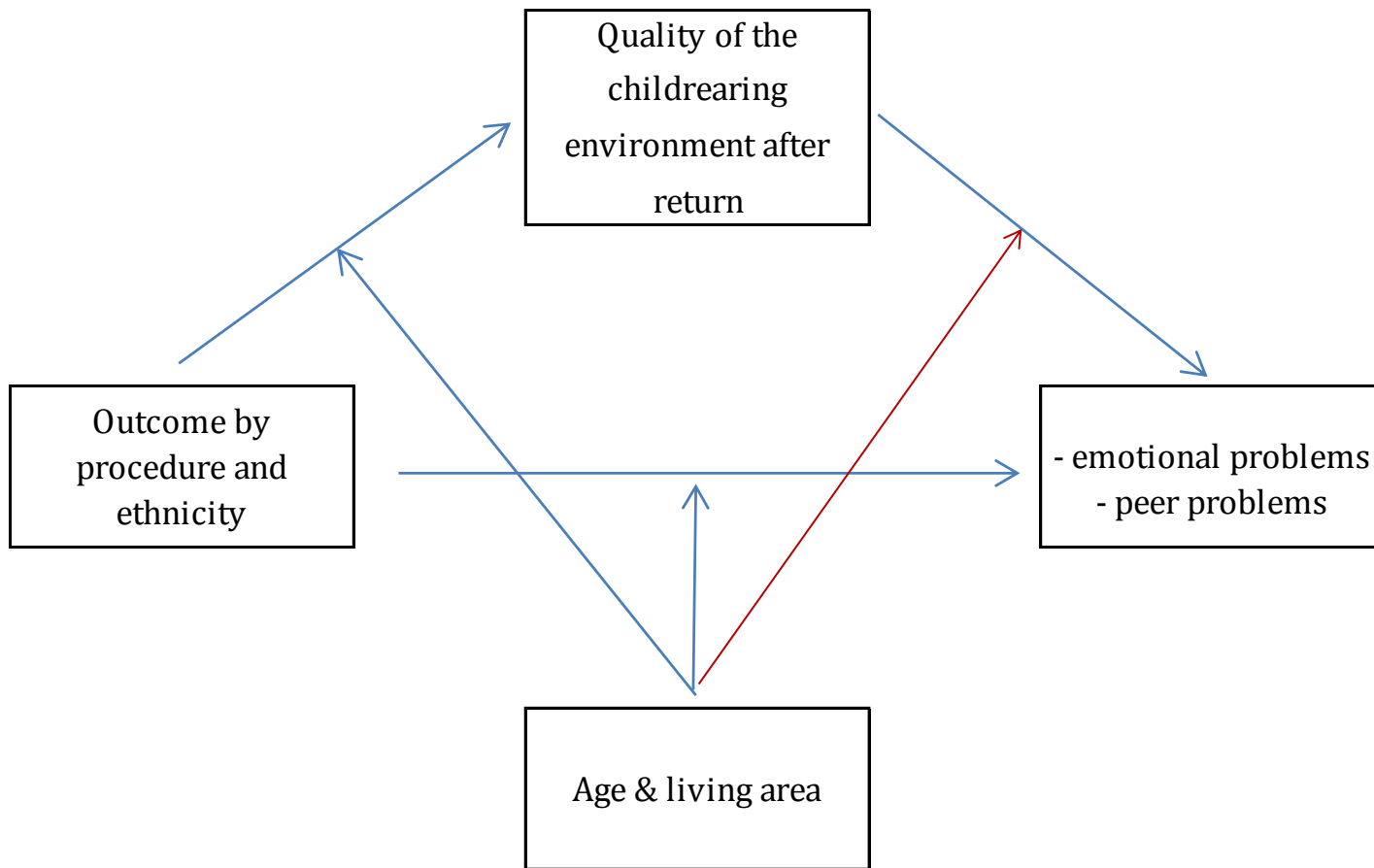


Figure 1. Conceptual model with mediator and moderators

Conclusion

Procedural factors and situation of families during the stay in host countries

Child- and contextual characteristics

Need of knowledge on situation of returned asylum-seeking children

- better-informed decisions asylum procedure
- support in line with child's needs

Thank you for your attention!

d.zevulun@rug.nl

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