

Challenges of Youth Participation in Participatory Action Research – Methodological Considerations of the Paamiut Youth Voice Research Project

Laila Wattar, Sandrine Fanous, Peter Berliner

Paamiut Youth Voice (PYV) is a Participatory Action Research (PAR) project, exploring youth perceptions, experiences, and the promotion of well-being in Paamiut, Greenland. Active youth participation remained a key challenge in the development of the local community through the locally initiated community mobilisation programme Paamiut Asasara. The challenges of youth participation in PYV are investigated in order to explore the implications of youth participation in PAR projects. The discussion of challenges is based on a methodological account of experiences from the research process clarifying how youth participation in the PYV project took place. Results are presented, concerning the young people's understandings and experiences of engagement and participation.

Key words: resilience, young people, inuit, collective identity, participatory action research

Introduction

Current research has identified the need to examine and improve children's conditions in Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland). The town of Paamiut, located on the west coast of Greenland with a population of approximately 1700 people, has during the last decades struggled with alcohol abuse, high rates of violence, suicide, crime, and child neglect. Addressing this, the town has