

“Children in the AnkerER facilities in Germany”

A description and analysis of the living conditions
and children’s rights in AnkerER facilities in
Bavaria

An Abstract of the Thesis By

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In 2018, seven highly criticised refugee shelters began operating in Bavaria, Germany. The shelters, called "AnkerER facilities", are dedicated facilities to accommodate all refugees, including their families with minors, immediately after their arrival into Germany.

This dissertation aims to inquire into the living conditions of the children in the Bavarian AnkerER facilities and whether they adhere to the "United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child" (UNCRC) treaty. Additionally, it focuses on conflicts that social workers faced while working in these facilities.

This research is primarily based on a qualitative social research approach. Methodologically, it resorts to oral in-depth interviews on a semi-structured base with experts working in Bavarian AnkerER facilities. For the evaluation and analysis of the data, I have predominantly applied Phillip Mayring's theory of qualitative content analysis. In six of the seven existing facilities, nine experts were interviewed.

This paper suggests that a significant number of requirements for the children’s legally entitled living standards in Germany are being ignored. It also shows that the social workers working in the AnkerER facilities have to deal with a dilemma involving ethical considerations, the wishes of their clients, and governmental or societal expectations.

The findings indicate that Germany is in fact not complying with the UNCRC in the Bavarian AnkerER facilities and, as a result, clear regulations and international standards need to be implemented to guarantee the autonomy of social workers counselling in the facilities.

Keywords: AnkerER Zentren/ AnkerER facilities, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Refugees