

THE PERCEPTIONS ON NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTS OF REFUGEE CHILDREN LIVING IN BERLIN

An Abstract of the Thesis By

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A significant amount of research has emphasized the importance of neighborhood environments for children; however, voices of children were often missing, especially of marginalized groups in society.

This study explored refugee children's perceptions on their neighborhood environments, using the approach of Participatory Action Research with child-friendly methodologies that can empower child participants. Participants ($n = 4$) were children aged between seven and eleven years, recruited from a Tempohome[temporary housing container facility] in Berlin. While child-led tours facilitated looking into children's insights from everyday experiences in their neighborhood, community mappings allowed children to visualize and analyze the data by themselves.

It was found that children were capable of creating attachments to places in their neighborhood and raising their voices concerning human rights.

These findings highlight the importance of understanding children's own perceptions on their neighborhood environments and listening to their opinions for taking their views into account.

Keywords: Refugee children, Neighborhood environment, Qualitative, Participatory Action Research (PAR), Child-friendly methodology, Child-led tour, Community mapping.