Child and Youth Services in Germany

Kinder- und Jugendhilfe in Deutschland
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The family as a community of adults (parents) and children…

- is highly appreciated
- is a focal point of life for children
- is subject to change processes
- enjoys the special protection of the state

**Tendencies:**

- two-generation family
- fewer children (one-child-family)
- differentiation of ways of life in the family
- Changing values
Structural Framework: Society

Children today…

- are normally planned for and wanted
- have siblings less frequently and have fewer relatives
- spend more time in educational institutions
- are subject to a variety of media
- live more frequently in metropolitan areas (city children)

- have rights and are entitled to e.g.:
  - Parental care
  - Equal opportunities
  - Health
  - Education
  - Play and leisure time
  - Freedom of opinion
  - Information and legal hearing
  - An up-bringing without violence
  - Protection against economic and sexual exploitation
Demographic development:
Population figures in Germany as at 31 Dec 2004 (in mio.)

- Young adults between 21 and 27: 5.9 mio.
- Adolescents between 18 and 20: 2.9 mio.
- Young people between 14 and 18: 3.6 mio.
- Children between 6 and 13: 6.4 mio.
- Children under 6: 4.2 mio.

In an overall population of 82.3 million, a total of 28 percent was less than 27 years old.
Young people live in a push-and-pull situation of...

- Traditions and modern life
- Favorable development conditions and intensified competition
- Commercialised leisure time and self-organisation
- Integration/emancipation and exclusion

**Of lesser importance are:**
- Faith
- Political activities
- Religion
School education is to…

- Impart knowledge
- Assess achievement
- Promote social skills
- Prepare the transition to vocational training and a job
- Compensate for social disadvantages (equal opportunities)
- Make social problems transparent and present options to take action
**Structural Framework: Society**

**Education system**

- **Elementary level** (age 2-5)
  - Nursery school

- **Primary level** (age 6-10)
  - Primary school

- **Secondary school level 1** (age 10-15)
  - Comprehensive school
  - Secondary technical school
  - Secondary modern school
  - Grammar school

- **Secondary School level 2** (age 15-19)
  - Higher technical school
  - Technical school
  - Vocational school

- **Tertiary level**
  - University, Technical University, University of Applied Sciences etc.

- **Further education**
  - College of voc. studies
  - Evening classes
Greater severity of social problems

- Demographic development
- Higher incidence of crises among young people’s biographies
- Higher incidence of stress in and excessive demands on the family
- Increasing unemployment, also among young people
- Reduced social services
- Growing doubts about the problem-solving capabilities of the political system

Consequently:

The participation of young people and a further development of democracy will be of vital importance for overcoming social problems and crises.
The Federal Republic of Germany is a state based on the rule of law

- The principle of the separation of powers
  - Legislative (legislation): Parliament
  - Executive (executive power): Government/ Administration
  - Judiciary (dispensation of justice): Justice

- The principle of the legislative powers being bound by the constitutional order

- The principle of the executive and judiciary being bound by law and justice

- Citizens enjoy the protection of independent courts against unlawful acts of the administration.
Used as a normative term, the 'social state' designates a state based on social justice as it should be:

- Basic Law, Art. 20, Paragraph 1: „The Federal Republic of Germany is a democratic and social federal state.“
- Basic Law, Art. 28, Paragraph 1: „The constitutional order in the Länder must conform to the principles of a republican, democratic social state governed by the rule of law, within the meaning of this Basic Law…“

Used as a descriptive term, the ‘social state’ characterises the structure and the extent of public measures and programmes to realize greater social justice (social security and social balance). The fundamental elements of the social state are its social policies and the social services/benefits provided in this context.
Federal Structure:

The Federal Republic of Germany is a federal state consisting of 16 so-called Länder, each of which is a state in itself.

Democracy as a question of self-determination, participation and the power of decision-making of the citizens.

→ Right of participation
→ Co-decision
→ Community-action groups
Structural Framework: The State

Public finance:

The Federation‘s public revenue is mainly derived from Federal taxes and the Federation‘s share of shared taxes.

The **Länder** (Federal States) obtain their revenue mainly from Land taxes and the Länders‘ share of shared taxes as well as the Financial Equalization Scheme aiming to mitigate financial disparities between the Länder, and from Federal, complementary grants.

The **local authorities** derive their funds mainly from community taxes, the local authorities‘ share of the income tax as well as trade tax, and from allocations made by the respective Land.
Position of the Child and Youth Services Act in Federal Legislation

- **Federation**: Child and Youth Services Act; four-yearly Child and Youth Report of the Federal Government

- **Länder**: give financial support to the organisations responsible for child and youth services; assistance of the local youth services

- **Towns and counties**: establish a youth office; In the context of local self-governments, they are responsible for local child and youth services including their planning and funding.

→ Child and youth services are mainly provided by non-statutory, non-profit making bodies and organisations.
Participation (pursuant to the Child and Youth Services Act)

Principle:

→ Parents and young people are citizens and are entitled to benefits.
→ They have participation rights
→ Professional staff in child and youth services are obliged to involve them.

e.g.:

**Right of choice** (§5 KJHG) = right to choose among the facilities and services of various providers and organisations

**Involvement of children and young persons** (§8 KJHG) = right to information, counselling and co-decision in line with a child’s specific stage of development

**Participation in granting educational support** (§36 KJHG) = right to the joint development of an assistance plan determining the needs, the nature and the extent of support services
Funding sources:

84.7% of the public funding made available to for child and youth services are provided by local authorities (towns, municipalities and counties).
 Tasks and Objectives

§ 1 KJHG (Child and Youth Services Act)

1) Every young person has a right to assistance in his or her development and to an appropriate upbringing so that he or she can become a responsible and socially skilled personality.

2) Care, upbringing and education of children are the natural right of parents and their primary duty. The state polity monitors the fulfillment of that duty.

...
Tasks and Objectives

Tasks of child and youth services (§§ 27 – 41)

- Socio-educational services
- Integration support for children and youth with emotional/mental disabilities
- Help for young adults
  - Non-residential socio-educational services
  - Foster family
  - Residential care
Personal Experience

- Private, non-profit agency based in Hamburg and founded in 1998
- Provider of child and youth services
- Services focus on children and adolescents with challenging behaviors (conduct disorders), emotional/mental disabilities and on delinquent/violence-prone youth
- Family services, such as parental trainings or family therapy are mostly based on the systemic-integrative approach
Our principles:

- a humanistic idea of man
- strengthening the clients’ self-confidence through acceptance and respect
- Confrontational education
- Empowerment (ressource-oriented)

Our team values:

- Autonomy
- Respect
- Commitment / Clarity
- Authenticity
Personal Experience

HSH NORDBANK RUN 2012
Personal Experience

KINDERFEST 2012
WORLD CHILDREN’S DAY
Personal Experience

Team-Building
Social Group Work

- Award of Excellence 2011 in Social Work – Guido Schomaker

- Currently, ten different, ongoing group trainings and projects addressing kids and adolescents aged between 5 – 21 yrs (e.g. anger management trainings, social skill and awareness programs, preventive projects in schools, e.g. team-building or anti-bullying campaigns)

- … A perspective?
Personal Experience

**Differences**

- Bureaucracy
- Medication and DAs
- Poverty (Contrasts)
- Attitude
- High status of family
- Importance of community
- Public transportation

NYAP
Thank you for your time and attention!
Sources

- IJAB
- Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend
- Infosystem Child and Youth Services in Germany: