

A STUDY OF ASYLUM SEEKERS STRATEGIES AND SOCIAL TRAJECTORIES TO PREVENT DEPORTATION IN REUTLINGEN

INTRODUCTION

The influx of migrants have reached an unprecedented level. Government has introduced new laws to deal with the situation. For example, the Bavaria State has introduced the anchor centres where asylum cases are filed without delay. The Federal Government have also established more administrative centres. Asylum seekers themselves generally refused to accept deportation as an option. To this end, they employ new strategies to outwit government plan. It is these strategies and social trajectories that is the focus of my research.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What strategies and social trajectories do asylum seekers adopt to prevent deportation?

METHODOLOGY

Location: Reutlingen.
Duration: Since July 2018 –ongoing
Narrative life histories, Biographies, participant observation and Interviews.

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FIELD EXPERIENCES

My field experience began in 2018 when I interviewed Benjamin Badmos as a preliminary preparation for the Research Methodology class. Thereafter, I had other encounters with asylum seekers some of whom I interviewed.. During the mobility semester, I visited several asylums in: Enigen, Pfullingen, Sodenfingen and Reulingen Stadt. Through participatory observation and discussion methods, was able to gather informations regarding their opinions and reactions when an asylum seeker is supposed to get deported..They explain what they would have done if they were to find themselves in such a situation..I also had the opportunity of meeting with some resource persons, e.g. a retired judge who heads the Asyl Cafè in Reutlingen.

Asyl-Cafè, Betzingen

RESEARCH FINDING

My experience as an asylum seeker for 6½ years gave me much exposure to the several strategies and social trajectories of asylum seekers. I realize that many of these asylum seekers came through the land and sea. Therefore, they do not have international passport. The proximity of asylum seekers' countries to Germany also determine the strategy to be adopted- For example, Non-EU citizens like Serbians do not have much fear as Africans in terms of distance to reach Germany.. From my interactions I discovered most of the children given birth to are unplanned for. I also discovered that many asylum seekers doing their Ausbildung in „Altenpflege“ are under compulsion to because of the fact that much manpower is needed in that area. I was able to find out that most of the ideas that cumulate into strategies were given, either by legal or medical staff in their desire to assist these asylum seekers. A lot of these asylum seekers intentionally go for check-ups, hoping that one or two health complications will be found that can help boost their asylum case. Furthermore, it is pertinent to note that most young men spend their evenings and night at clubs hunting for women. Likewise the young ladies, thinking „who knows, something may come up“. In the course of my research, I came across many asylum seekers in Reutlingen that have absconded from their State immediately they were served notice for deportation.