

Resilience factors supporting return to school after school absenteeism



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Background

- SAP is an increasing problem in many countries
- A lot of research already exists
- This presentation (preliminary results of a systematic review) serves as a theoretical framework for the dissertation "School attendance problems and return to school from youth and parent perspective"



Perspective of this study

We know factors supporting the return to school:

- Psychosocial interventions
- Medical help
- Pedagogical solutions

What we don't know so well...

...The personal experience (resilience, coping)

Resilience= the process and outcome of successfully adapting to difficult or challenging life experiences, especially through mental, emotional, and behavioral flexibility and adjustment to external and internal demands



Systematic review

Search string:

1. "school attend*" OR "school absen" OR "school non-attend*" OR "school absen*" OR "school refusal" OR "school withdrawal" OR truan* OR "school exclusion"
2. reintegration OR return OR resilien* OR coping OR re-engagement

Databases:

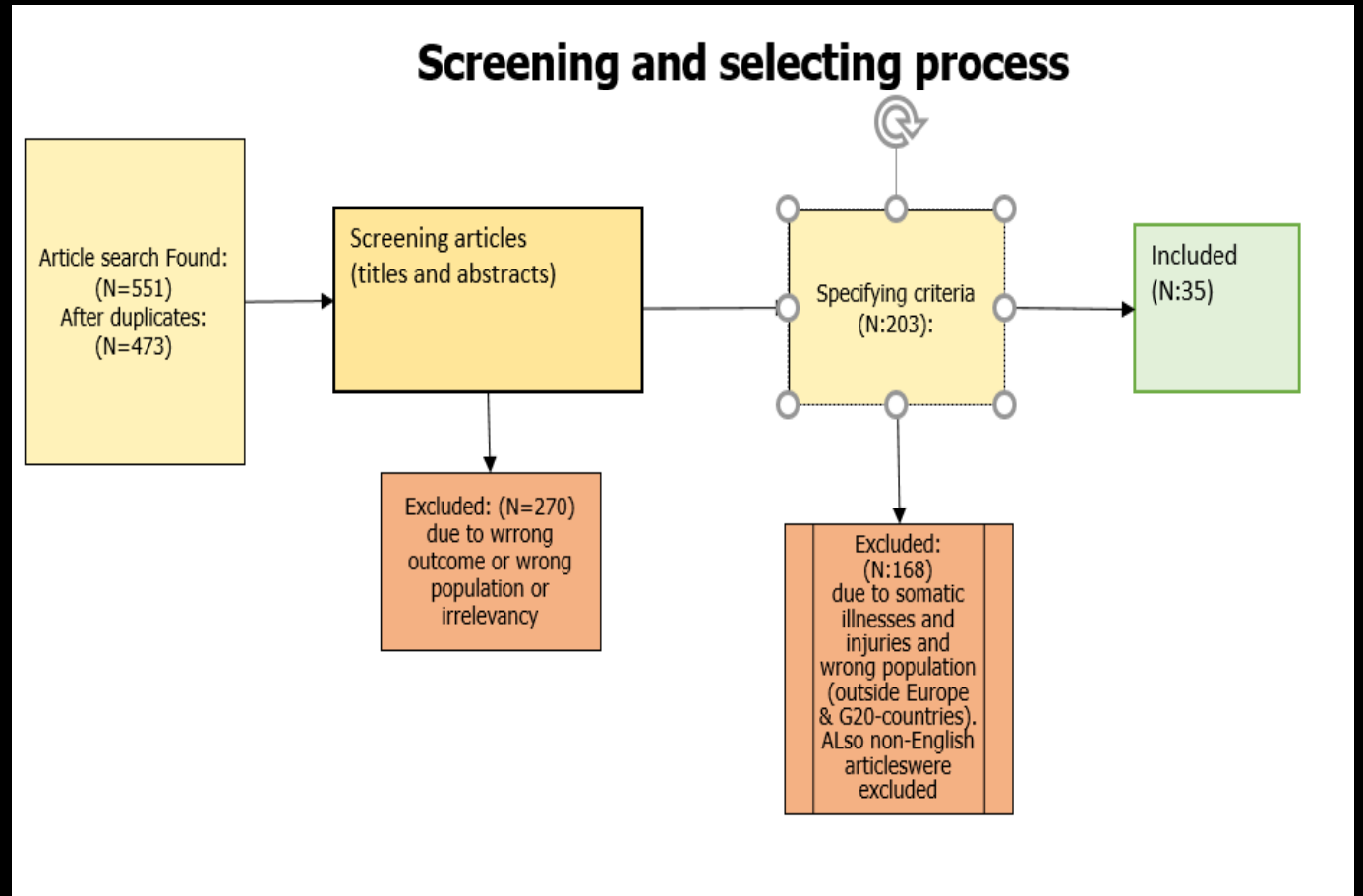
ERIC, CINAHL, APA Psycinfo, APA PsycArticles, Academic Search Complete, Education Research Complete, Teacher Reference Center & Medline

Limitations:

6-17/18yrs, English, peer-reviewed

Hits:551 after duplicates 473

Date: 28.8.2022



Inclusion & exclusion criteria

Included

- Meets criteria 1 & 2
(search words)
- All informants accepted
- All study designs
- Europe & G20-
countries



Excluded

- Wrong outcome
- Wrong population
- Foreign language
(not English)
- Purely somatic illnesses
and physical injuries

Preliminary results

- 35 articles included
- Informants: mostly students (29/35)
- SAP-types: mostly SR (24/35)
- Designs: mostly intervention designs, case studies, semi-structured/in-depth interviews
- Most articles from the UK (12)
- Published
 - 1980's 4
 - 1990's 6
 - 2000's 6
 - 2010's 14
 - 2020's 5



- Supporting factors:
 - early identification
 - good communication –shared understanding
 - warm confidential relations
 - emotional support
 - peer support
 - own motivation and commitment
 - parents' commitment
 - changes in school environment
 - interventions (especially CBT)
 - interprofessional collaboration
 - personal resilience factors and coping skills

Discussion

- SR mostly researched –Do the same supportive factors support TR-, SW-, & SE-types too?
- What supports school engagement? Same factors as those supporting return and re-integration?
- School-engagement theories – resilience theories
- How can we support resilience?
- Do the individuals have to change? Or is it the school & the system?





Thank you

Photos: Johanna Koivavaara