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Relations, Affiliation and Social Networking Results of the SOS Care Leaver Survey

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Data Base

Quantitative Data: Questionnaire Survey

- First survey of the Care Leavers after moving out, n=123
- Care Leavers in total , N=140



Qualitative Data: Interviews

- Interviews with Care Leavers: 2015/2016, n=12



Social Networks as a Topic of the Interviews

Social networks as a central topic across all interviews referring to all discussed life situations:

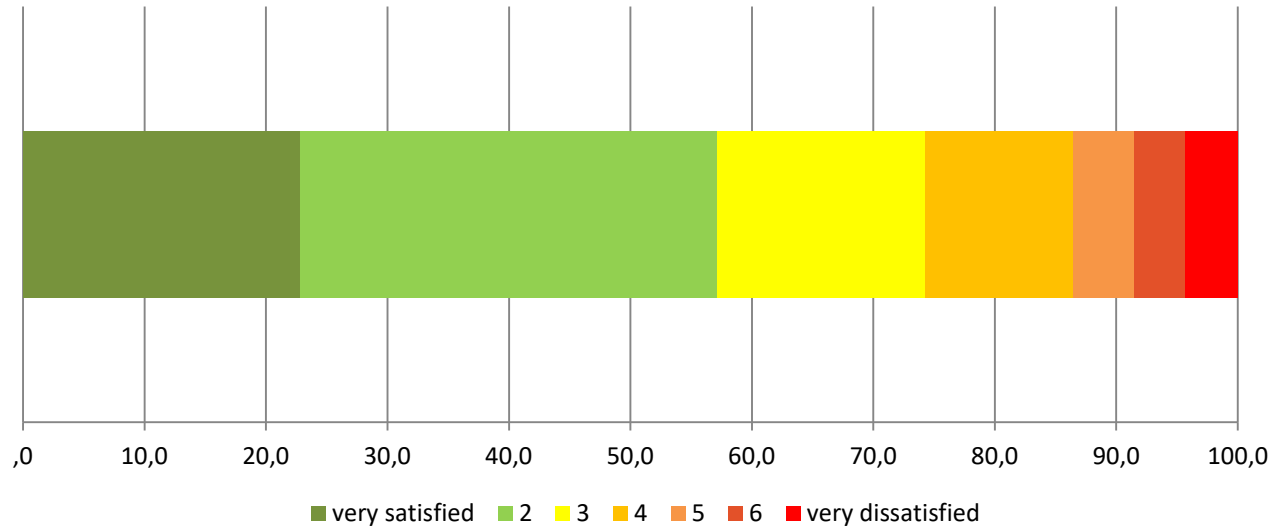
- time spent at SOS Facility
- becoming independent
- independent living



Also Care Leavers **who are feeling isolated** speak of at least one or two persons they can ask for help

The satisfaction with their social networks basically depends on **active shaping** and on having the **fortune** to meet certain persons

How satisfied are you with your social relationships at the moment?



- More than a half is (very) satisfied
- 30 % are partly satisfied
- 14 % are (very) dissatisfied

Affiliation as a Topic of the Interviews

Affiliation to persons who you can trust on and who are there for you in challenging situations:

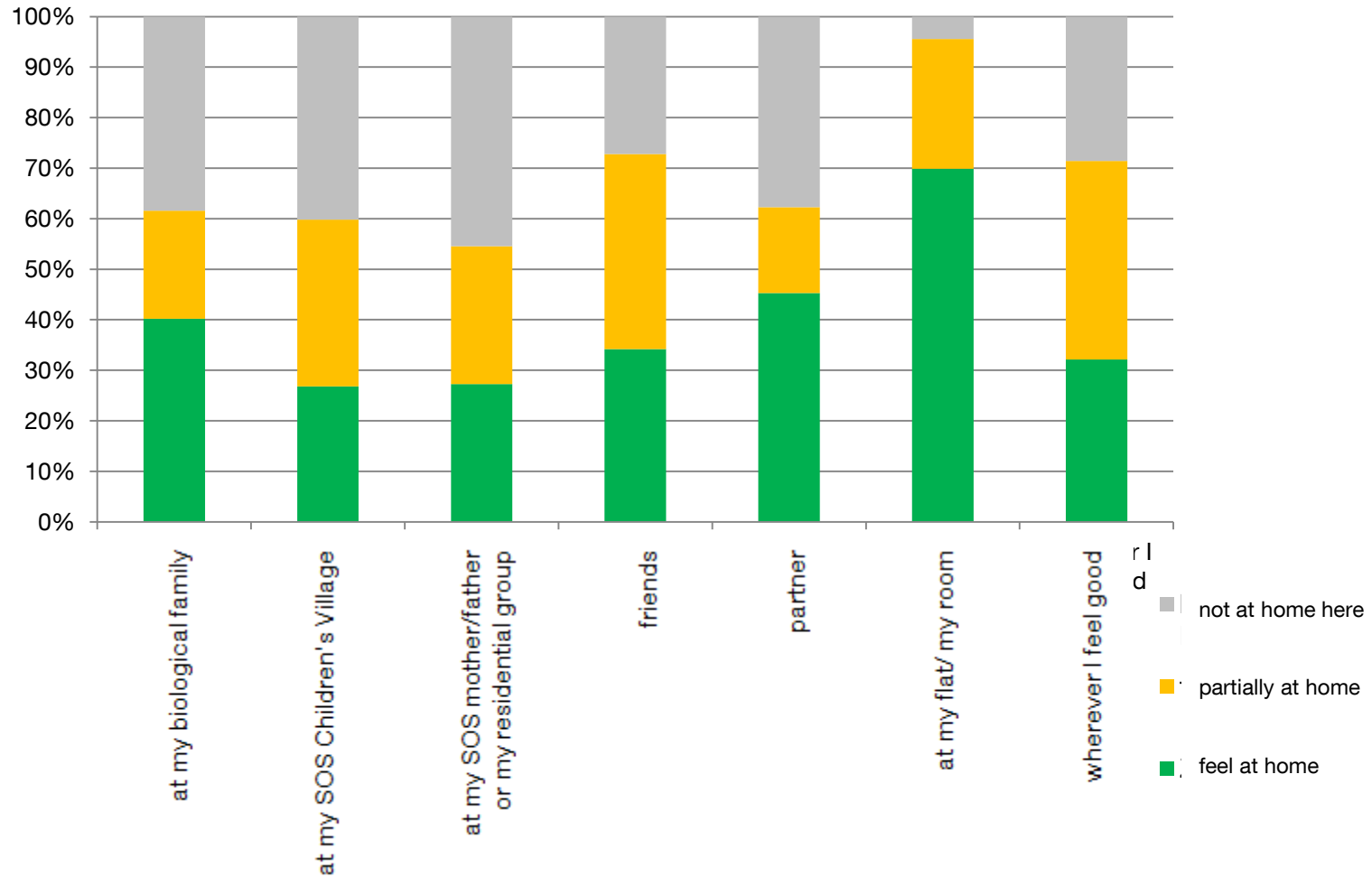
- Care Leavers with a low Agency Value: define affiliation by neediness and communal activities
- Care Leavers with a higher Agency Value: estimate the respective relationship and the emotional feeling they have

Often close affiliation to **siblings** combined with a caring perspective

Common interests create (places for) affiliation by feeling connectedness and identification, e.g. football, music, school or studies

Missing affiliation: described as a lack, loneliness, deprivation experiences, lack of social competence

Affiliation: Where do you feel like home most likely?



Relationships and Social Network in Independent Living

- Care Leavers' **social networks** tend to be small, during the interviews they talk about few active social relationships
- But even if the number of the contacts is rather small, mostly all of the Care Leavers are **satisfied with their relationships**, which are composed of different areas of life (friends, former care giver, aunt and grandmother

- Care Leaver often don't have experiences or ideas concerning **interpersonal aspects**
- That's why they have to learn a lot during independence, especially about
 - _ trusting in persons,
 - _ building friendships
 - _ expanding their social network.



Relationships to Care Givers during the Time at SOS Facility (Review)

- Care Leavers only report about **positive relationships**, mostly to the SOS mother or to the care giver
- Reasons for the good relationships are attributed to the **counterpart** (character and involvement) as well as to the specific way of acting with each other
- Good relationships are formed over a **period of time**, start from **getting involved with** the counterpart, growing and are constantly moving because of **common doings**
- The respondents estimate the **quality of relationships** depending on:
 - _ what kind of support they get and
 - _ how closeness is shown by the care giver
- **Continuity** and **time spent together** as well as **shared private knowledge** helps to build a relationship and strengthen the feeling of trust

Relationships to Care Givers during the Time at SOS Facility (Review)

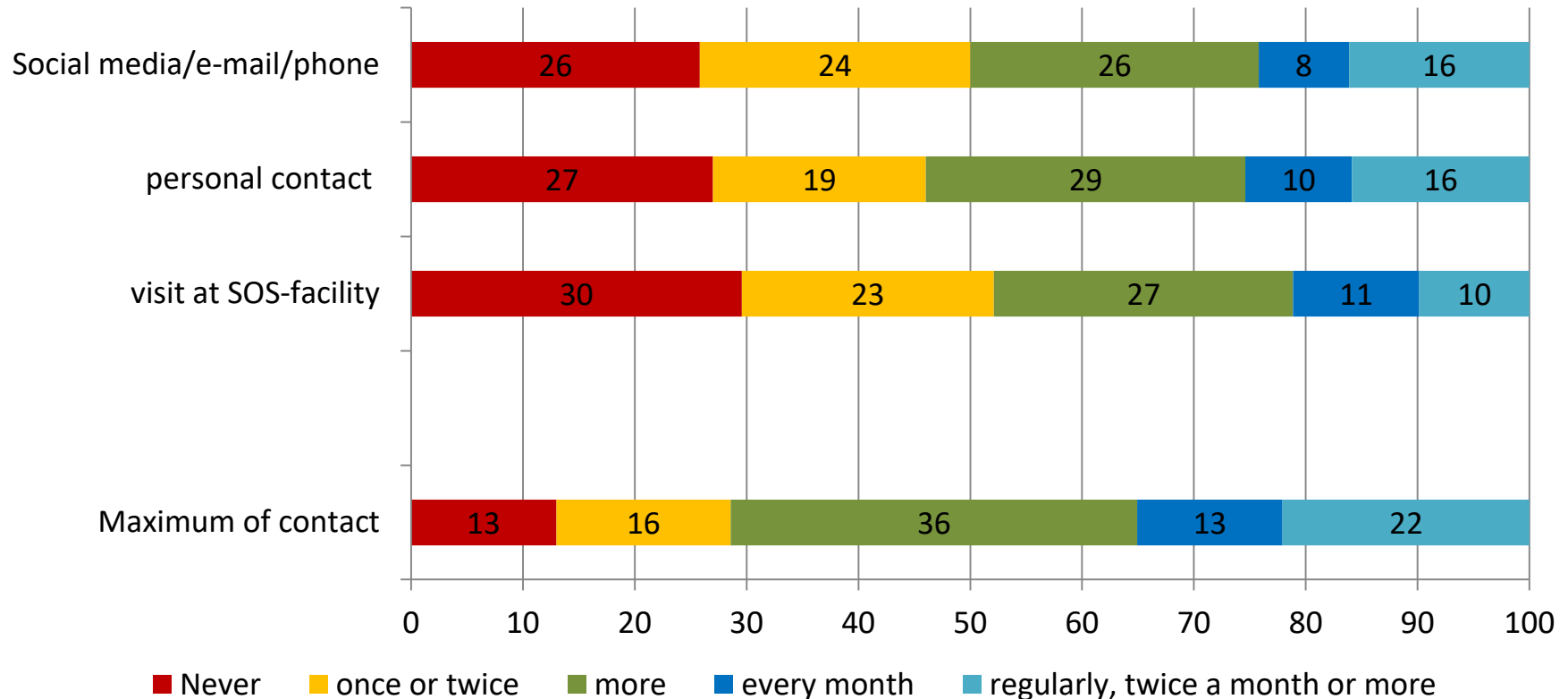
Care Leavers with **high agency values** mention the **recognition of their individuality** as a condition for a good relationship

Care Leavers with **lower agency values** talk more often about concrete **received support** and **shown feelings**

- **Burdensome relationships** emerge when care givers don't fulfill their responsibility
- Difficult relationships exist – if at all – only to single care givers

- **Relationships to care givers** often exist past the time at SOS Facility depending on
 - _ the degree of trust and also
 - _ the insight into the Care Leaver's family care givers have

How often are you in contact with your former SOS Children's Village Facility during the last year?



Care Leavers' Social Contacts: Persons of the SOS Children's Village Facility

How Care Leavers talk about actual relationship to **former care givers** is very different:

- Only for some the SOS mother stays as a reference person. In these cases the young adults **remain being dependent**, especially in organizing everyday life.
- Care Leavers who are able to manage many areas of life talk about **emancipated, amicable and equitable relationships** to their former care givers



Care Leavers and Partnership

- Seven Care Leavers have **committed relationships**, four of them are living together with their partners
- Most of the Care Leavers define their boyfriends as a **central person** within their mostly small social networks, especially in challenging situations. **Partner as a central resource**

Nearly half of the respondents is not having a committed relationship. For some of them this has to deal with **resignation** and **lack of confidence**, for others future **relationship is a tangible goal**.

Care Leavers and Partnership

Two perspectives of understanding a partnership:

Early Committed Partnership

The respondents are young but already having a very established and decided partnership. They moved together directly or shortly after leaving SOS. They also talk about further binding steps like house construction, moving into a bigger flat, children, marriage.

Partnership as a Process and Developmental Task

Partnership means developing together or towards each other. The Care Leavers mostly emphasize their common development of everyday life.

Significant topics are e.g. moving together, family planning and how they agree with plans like these. Moving together is the central indicator of getting involved with the partner.

Functions of Social Networks

Closeness, Confidence, Affiliation

- _ SOS Family as social referring point,
- _ parts of family of origin
- _ siblings
- _ mostly small networks

Recognition and Praise

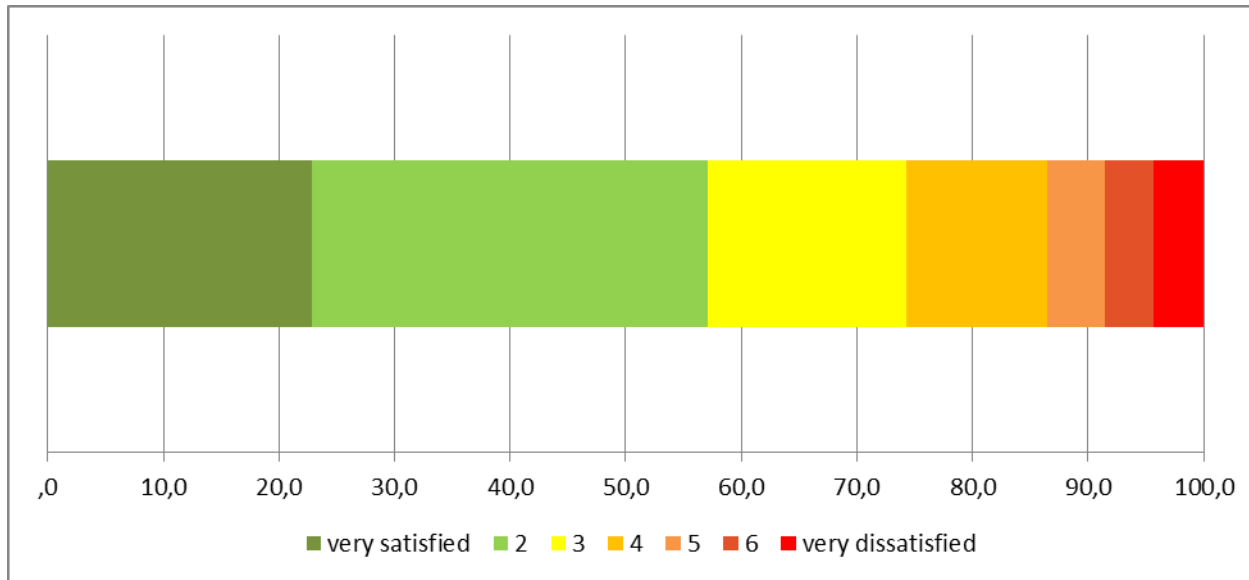
- _ mostly in combination with school career
- _ not enough at all

Practical, Educational and Emotional Support

- _ dealing with authorities and everyday life,
- _ help for decision making
- _ coaching and encouraging for educational path
- _ coping with challenging life situations and crisis

How satisfied are you with the opportunities to receive support?

- more than a half is (very) satisfied
- around 30% are satisfied with reservations
- 13 % are (very) dissatisfied



Thank You for Your Attention!



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