

Review of Book titled:

Roma Minority Youth Across Cultural Contexts: Taking a Positive Approach to Research, Policy, and Practice

Radosveta Dimitrova, David Sam and Laura Ferrer-Wreder (2021). *Roma Minority Youth Across Cultural Contexts Taking a Positive Approach to Research, Policy, and Practice* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press), 2021, 264 pages, ISBN: 9780190654061 <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/roma-minority-youth-across-cultural-contexts-9780190654061?q=dimitrova&lang=en&cc=us#>

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This book is about most disadvantaged and marginalized minority group in Europe from a worldwide contextual perspective. The proposed book is aimed at presenting theoretical perspective and supporting empirical findings in order to endorse a better consideration of positive development and well-being of Roma youth in a cohesive, multinational and multidisciplinary standpoint. The three part book consists of 13 chapters on reflection on Roma Youth development. The key features are to focus on marginalized ethnic minority group and the strength based conceptions of adolescence that perceives all youth have assets (Dimitrova & Waiium, 2021). Positive youth development PYD is a network of Youth organizations that focuses on encouraging positive development of youth (Dimitrova & Ferr-Wreder, 2017).

The book is split into three parts. Part A discusses the cultural context of Roma and their present situation. This part has three key contributions: (a) to present empirical evidence on Roma children and youth by providing a brief historic overview of their social, contextual and cultural characteristics across different countries (b) to provide sufficient literature review on Roma youth in America in order to fill the knowledge gaps of empirical evidences about Roma in the United states (c) Overview of policies, programs, and evidence based initiatives taken for Roma Youth in various countries. Part B provides a theoretical system to study Roma children. These include the theories of well being and adaptation based on current operationalization of PYD in fostering human development. The key point is that it provides illustrations of the PYD approach for non Roma minority groups. Whereas part C, presents empirical conclusions of PYD and well being of Roma youth in several countries. It also includes an overview of personal and contextual assets of Roma youth by featuring outstanding empirical contributions of Roma youth in many countries of settlement.

It is very important to focus on interventions based knowledge that can be applied to diverse group of youth (Abubaker et al., 2021). Main aim of this book is to focus on the family and community resources used by this minority group in the face of adversity, rather than only discussing the risk factors. Second aim was to divert the focus from deficit based perspective to the understanding of contextual mechanisms in order to foster the sensibility among the policy makers, researchers, practitioners and school staff. As a result PYD will be globally promoted. The unique aspect and aim was to embrace a mix method approach to capture Roma youth in a wide perspective. To cover the empirical parts of this book various approaches including standard quantitative method, surveys, histories, field work, participant- observation and in depth interviewing, were used. For example

chapter 7 includes cross-sectional project collected from 354 secondary school students of Bulgarian Roma and Kosovo Roma. This chapter discusses the experience of internal and external assets in association with flourishing among young people. Chapter 8 used two approaches first quantitative exploration among variables then qualitative content analysis in order to explore youth's sense of self across domains including future orientation. Chapter 9 includes a large cross sectional study including 1063 adolescents from Albania from two domains (school and family) in order to seek relation of achievement in minority and majority youth.

Chapter 10 includes detailed study of group context relationship in formal and informal educational settings in order to explore the effects of formal and informal practices on Roma identity. It includes in depth study of a Roma community in Southern Hungary through qualitative study based on ethnographic data collection method. Chapter 11 is an in depth interviews with 80 respondents and empirical analysis of original survey in order to demonstrate participatory evaluation results of a program that used PYD approach to assist Roma youth to enroll in mainstream educational system. The final concluding chapter integrates all contents of the book by proposing major implications and future outlook.

This Volume represents a valuable tool for researchers and practitioners. It greatly contributes to the next generation by increasing our knowledge of link between PYD conditions and best possible outcomes of Roma Youth in various regions. There is a great documentation on how well being of Roma is linked to socio political contexts. So overall it provides insight for the improvement of life conditions of Roma Youth and focuses our attention onto other disadvantaged ethnic minority groups. I highly recommend this book to policy makers, researchers, teachers, students and stakeholders who are determined for improving the life of disadvantaged minority groups in all regions of the world

References

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