

**The Experience of Civilian National Service
for Youth at Risk: A Description of the Participants'
Perspectives Towards the End of their Service**

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The study aims to describe and evaluate the experience of national service from the point of view of youth at risk toward the end of their period of service. Data were collected through structured questionnaires together with open questionnaires which were filled out by 161 participants. In addition, semi-structured telephone interviews were conducted with 37 participants. Content analysis was conducted for the responses to the questionnaires and interviews. The results and discussion focus on five aspects: the participants' motives for doing national service; the job they performed in national service, and the meaning of the job as reflected in their descriptions of the service; processes accompanying the service; the supervisory staff; and perceptions of the future. The results and discussion portray a comprehensive picture of the experience of national service, and examine the contribution of national service to the lives of the young participants.

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