



A short summary of a meeting on March 15th 2014 at Henie-Onstad Art Centre in Bærum just outside Oslo. The topic of the lectures was a comparison between the school systems in Sweden and Norway

The meeting was organised by DKG Norway in cooperation with Delta Chapter.

Thirty members were present, six from Sweden, one from Iceland and twenty-three from Norway.

State President Ingrid Christiansen welcomed the audience, and Bjørg Nakling introduced our guest, ass. Professor Ann-Katrin Swârd, State President of Sweden.

From her lecture, we will point at her emphasis on Sweden's efforts in giving priority to the kinder gardens and the teachers in this part of the school system. The teachers in kinder gardens receive higher salaries than primary schools teachers.

We will mention some key points in her lecture:

- Some kinder gardens are open all through night
- All children are served a free lunch till they leave high school
- Open kinder gardens for children up to 3 years
- Free classes for 6 year old children
- Primary school starts at the age of 7
- There are activities for children between 6 and 13 after regular school hours
- Children with IQ<70 may be included in the ordinary school or go to special schools, the parents decide.

There are different colleges with different curriculums eg vocational colleges

For those who prepare for an university entrance the colleges offer different programmes

- Economy
- Esthetical programmes
- Humanistic subjects
- Science
- Social studies
- Technical programmes

Students can get introduction to different areas such as:

- Vocational guidance and preparation for occupation
- Individual alternatives
- Introduction to languages

Alternatives:

- Special schools for students with mental retardation
- International schools
- International Baccalaureate
- Peoples colleges

Many students, approximate 20%, fail in obtaining their planned goals.

- The level of knowledge has decreased
- Computer technology is heavily emphasised
- 3 trusts own private schools
- Cooperative schools do not give profit
- Many students go back to government schools
- Many private colleges have taken over government schools
- Many private schools close down and the government must take over

A short summary of the lecture given by director Borghild Lindhjem-Godal, Ministry of Education and Research in Norway.

Borghild referred to the National Curriculum for Knowledge Promotion in Primary and Secondary Education and Training. (Kunnskapsløftet). The aims for the students are now on competence and not barely content. In a White Paper which is a report to the Storting (Parliament) St. melding nr. 20 (2012-2013) 'On the Right Track' the National Curriculum is evaluated through research done at universities and colleges. This makes it possible to implement adjustments continuously.

Supplementary programme for general university and college admission certification made for students, who has chosen a programme area for a vocation, got much attention the last years, as it appears that the dropout rate is up to 45%. Some of the students make new attempts, and approximately 15% more will succeed in passing the exams. It seems to be a problem that the students overestimate their capacity and consider this certification easier attainable than it is in reality. In the other programme areas, 70% of the student succeed.

Among the main initiatives for the years to come will be attempts to reduce the rate of dropouts among the students between 16 and 20 years of age. Special attention will be paid to '21.century skills'.

There were questions and an interesting discussion took place until it was time for lunch.

After a good meal, we went on a guided tour in the art centre to watch the exhibition "We live on a Star" which has been inspired by the tragic event in Norway on July 22nd 2011.

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