Implementation of Whole Institution Approach on Education for Sustainable Development

Karlstad, Sweden

Daniel Olsson
A lack of evaluation strategy on the ESD implementation in Swedish schools - Effects on a student level
Certifications & Awards

Grön Flagg

SKOLA FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING
Sustainability consciousness (SC)

- Knowingness of action possibilities (K)
- Attitudes towards sustainability and confidence in own influence (A)
- Behavior; an intent wish to act (B)

Olsson (2014)
Effects of ESD on Students’ SC

Environmental issues

Social issues

(Olsson & Gricke, 2016; Olsson, Gericke & Chang Rundgren, 2016)
Why?

ESD as an approach to content

Holism

- connect environmental, social and economic dimensions
- integrate the past, present and future implications
- focus on their local, regional and global nature

(Rudsberg & Öhman, 2010)
ESD as an approach to teaching and learning

Holism
- connect environmental, social and economic dimensions
- integrate the past, present and future implications
- focus on their local, regional and global nature

Pluralism
- acknowledge and engage different perspectives
- no teaching of predefined solutions, due to complexity of issues and conflicts of interest
- a focus on reflection
- autonomy for the learner

(Rudsberg & Öhman, 2010)
(Sandell, Öhman & Östman, 2005)
How have students experienced their teaching and learning?

- Students experience both Holism and Pluralism – but less pluralism

- Students’ in certified schools do not experience more holism or pluralism
  – actually less pluralism among 9th graders in certified schools

However

- If students’ experience pluralism it has a big effect on their intent and wish to act in issues concerning sustainable development.
  - regardless of a certification or not

(Boeve-de Pauw, Gericke Olsson & Berglund, 2015)
Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP)
What are the preconditions in the school organisation of Karlstad for implementing a whole institution approach on ESD?
Relevant locally relevant

Participatory decision-making

Applicability

Critical thinking and problem solving

Interdisciplinary

Holistic (Values-driven)

Environmental:
- Climate change
- Biodiversity
- Natural resources
- Sustainable urbanisation
- Disaster prevention and mitigation

Economic:
- Poverty reduction
- Fair distribution of resources
- Economic growth
- Sustainable consumption
- Corporate responsibility and accountability

Values-driven

Multimethod
Styrkedjan – The Steering Chain

- Pupils/Students
- Teachers
- School leaders
- Central administration
- Politicians
School leader workshop

How do you do to achieve high quality education at your school?
Quality Education – school leader level

Students in focus

School development focus

Interaction with the surrounding society

Leadership in focus
Things to improve – school leader level

To get the whole school involved in school development processes and have a common pedagogical holistic idea

Facilitate interdisciplinary work for teachers
Teacher level

Holistic teaching

Vi skapar helheter och sammanhang i elevernas/barnens lärande
Interdisciplinary work

Undervisningen bedrivs ofta ämnesintegrierat

![Bar chart showing frequency of interdisciplinary work by grades.](chart.png)
ESD

Relevans
Lokally relevant

Participatory
decision-making

Applicability

Multi-method

Critical thinking
and problem solving

Holistic
(Values-driven)

Interdisciplinary

Environmental:
Climate change
Biodiversity
Natural resources
Sustainable urbanisation
Disaster prevention and mitigation

Social:
Peace & human security
Cultural diversity
Gender equality
Human rights
Health

Economic:
Poverty reduction
Fair distribution of resources
Economic growth
Sustainable consumption
Corporate responsibility and accountability

KARLSTAD.SE
Ways forward?
Five starting schools (including ESD coordinator)

Initiating school processes

ESD improvements and spreading to other schools

ESD improvements and spreading to other schools

TPD-program

- ESD seminars
  - ESD as an approach
  - SD content

ESD seminars
- ESD as an approach
- SD content

Evaluation

- School leaders
- Teachers
- Students

Research

Karlstad University
Start-up at own school

Develop practice and conduct ESD projects – connect to theory

Develop practice and conduct ESD projects – connect to theory

Reflection report – Adjustment of plan

Common activities

Seminar

Seminar

Seminar

Our next step
Thank you!

