

Session 1 – Transforming Education for a Better Tomorrow

Abstract - Peje Emilsson, Chairman, Kunskapsskolan Education Sweden

Every student is unique and learns in different ways. Traditional education systems are based on the assumption that everybody learns in the same way and at the same pace and order – in classrooms with a teacher's desk at the front and corridors outside.

Modern management outside the schools has proven that efficiency can be dramatically increased by managing individuals with clear goals and instructions rather than in groups. This is now being applied in modern schools under the concept of “personalized education”. Old structures, in the shape of “the class”, “the lecturing teacher”, “the blackboard”, are replaced by new structures, individual goals, individual tutoring, personal log books and achievements logged on and available on the Internet.

This is the backdrop against which Kunskapsskolan's Educational Concept has developed. We offer a personalized education which presumes that the single most important task of any school is to fully get to know its students, their needs and prerequisites and with this as a starting point set education goals together with the students and his/her parents. We are convinced that every student can stretch his or her boundaries and learn more than he or she thought possible.

One of the most important tools for achieving successful personalised education is Kunskapsskolan's web portal which contains approximately 50,000 pages comprising syllabi, textbook material, instructions and grade criteria accessible wherever there is internet available. Through the portal, students at Kunskapsskolan are able to individually set their own long-term learning and attainment goals together with their parents and teachers. (All teacher material is available on the Portal to allow for increased productivity and a high and consistent quality.)

Documentation of each student's work and planned activities as well as a means for communication between the school and parents is achieved through a log book. Finally, student goals and results are documented digitally and made accessible through the internet to students, parents and teachers.

Kunskapsskolan set up its first schools in August 2000 and has grown rapidly since. Today we are the largest private provider of Secondary education in Sweden with 32 schools and around 10,000 students aged 12-18.

The results? Compared to both state and independent schools – which all have the same financing through a public voucher – our proven records show merit ratings higher than the national average. Our success in Sweden has met with a keen international interest and Kunskapsskolan is now planning and executing an international expansion.