

Socio-cultural Aspects of Higher Education in Sweden

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Higher education in Sweden is divided into undergraduate and post graduate studies. The medium of instruction is Swedish and English. All university type education as well as non academic colleges for different kinds of vocational education and training has been incorporated into one system.

This paper is based on a study tour to the Gothenburg University in Sweden for a two week period in 2008 with the objective of establishing a link between the Gothenburg University and the Rajarata University and also studying the university education system and culture in Sweden. The program included attending lectures, practical activities and study visits as well as observing student union activities. The individual program for health promotion students was conducted in cooperation with the Nordic school for public health in Gothenburg. It included several aspects related to tobacco and alcohol prevention, HIV and other sexually transmitted disease prevention as well as suicide prevention. Students doing Mathematics, Computer science and Physics followed lectures and practical classes in these subjects. It was a good opportunity to exchange experiences with Swedish students as well as international students in Sweden.

The outcome of our study visit to Sweden was that we were able to build a good relationship between the Gothenburg University and the Rajarata University. We could also study the lifestyle of the Swedish people and the student education system at Gothenburg. The majority of students are female (70%) while most of the teachers are males (70%). The study program is in Swedish whereas postgraduate education is in English. The university education is student based. All library books are computerized. The student union comprises 15 union members who are full time workers. We collected some interesting data on Health Promotion. Nearly 90% of the women in Sweden are smokers and a high number of youth suffer from mental illness. In Sweden, nearly 7500 people are infected with HIV. This study tour helped to widen the scope of our fields of study and inspired us to learn these subjects in greater depth and interest.