



Fostering
Social
Justice



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TOOLS AND METHODS

Community school/
All Activity House AHH

Sweden 2022



IFS FOSTERING SOCIAL JUSTICE

TOOL SUMMARY

Tool/method name	Community school/” All Activity House, (AAH)”
Tool/method summary description	The basic idea is to use the local school as a community centre. As soon as the ordinary school lessons ends, the AAH start activities free of charge, using all school premises.
Country observed	Sweden
Year observed	2022
Programme area	Migrant integration, Active citizenship, social inclusion
Tool type	Methodology
Specific topic	
Beneficiaries of tool	Local residents, main focus on children and youth
Can this tool be applied to other beneficiaries: yes/no	All local communities
What type of beneficiaries: ALL, or specific ones?	All
If specific ones, which?	

Tool full description

All Activity House (AAH) is a concept which contains many tools. The basic idea is to use the local school as a centre for community work. All children and youth in the community are offered activities in direct connection to the school day and in evenings and weekends also families and adults. All activities are free of charge, all activities are demanded by the residents, and all wanted activities will start one week after it has been demanded, at the latest. The staff also work during the whole school day, have activities in breaks and cooperates with the teachers. The activity with the children is a way to make contact with parents and has become a way to create a community center for all residents in the area.

Context

Allaktivitetshusen is part of the municipal organization of the city of Malmö and is part of the cultural department. The first Allaktivitetshus started in year 2011 as a project in the area Lindängen in Malmö and was established in conjunction with an ongoing area-based EU project. The idea was created from the circumstances in the area which where a high experience of insecurity both in the school and in the local area, low employment rate, high crime rate, few local meeting places, a lack of official voluntary and local association and structural barriers that specifically hinder girls and women abilities to participate in cultural and leisure activities. As part of the existing community work the organization has from start relied on cooperation from the educational department, other departments within the city, housing owners, housing companies, local businesses, and the civil society.

Could it be used in other contexts? If yes, which ones?

In Malmö, the AAH is used in socially disadvantaged areas with a very high rate of immigrants with low income and high rate of unemployment. However, the idea of using the school as a community centre, to cooperate closely with the school and culture department and to have a potential oriented approach can most certainly be used in any local community to promote social inclusion, immigrant integration and active citizenship.

Of course, the concept must be modified out of the local context, like prerequisites and needs.

What is innovative about this method or tool?

The innovative part is to be an integrated part of the school and to be able to use the premises for activities for all residents. And to always let the needs and wishes of the residents decide all activities.

Detailed Methodology

The basic idea is to use the school's premises for community work. The staff in AAH is deliberately a mixture of persons with different backgrounds and educations. All new staff persons get an education in how to think and work in a potential oriented way, to focus on possibilities and not on obstacles. They cooperate very closely with the teachers in the school and use children and youth as co-leaders. They offer activities for free to all residents and only start activities that are asked for and start all activities that are asked for. Every week all staff call at least the parents of two children and tell them about good things that their child

has been doing during the week. This is one of the ways to build confidence and make contacts to adult residents.

Except for the good thing to be able to use all premises in school, there are another successful reason to use the school. Most residents are immigrants and the first Swedish authority they get in real contact with and get confidence in is the school. This makes it easier to get good relations to the residents.

Many of the immigrant girls are expected to stay at home after school to help and also for protection. But when there is a possibility to go to the activities directly after school without going home first, it was more like a prolonging of the school day, and this makes it possible for also the girls to take part in the activities.

It is important that all activities are for free since fees is a big obstacle in neighborhoods where the residents have difficult financial situation.

Comments on success factors from IFSJ observers

“The passion, the energy and the commitment of all the participants”

“The motto ‘dare to try new things and rather fail than never try something new.’”

“The hope that things can truly change when we trust and believe in simple, everyday people and give them the value and interest they deserve. What we give back, is more than what we give.”

“The mobilization of a network of volunteers, young people from the neighborhood”

“The relationship of trust and the bond to the children”

“To not seek performance but the pleasure of doing.”

“The involvement of young volunteers to co-facilitate these activities seems essential to the success of these activities. It makes it possible to split the groups and respond to the requests of the children.”

“Well supported program with a political consideration”

“Location in school gives trust from the beginning.”

“Offers program free of charge; no special tools or equipment are required from participants.”

“Flexibility and always ready to make adjustments.”

“Regular and predictable funding”

“Availability of facilities and the placement in the schools”

“They maintain close contact with families; trust in individual leaders extends to the entire program.”

Specific advice for staff/volunteers/adult educators

To get a common approach for all staff, let all new employees do a course in promotion-oriented approach.

For more resources and information

Talina.marcussonjourniette@malmoe.se

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92JD4vQ8o-U>

<https://malmoe.se/Uppleva-och-gora/Fritidsaktiviteter/Motesplatser/Allaktivitetshusen.html>

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