

Organising The Relevance of Science Education (ROSE) survey in Sweden

Researchers and support

The Survey was organised by the following researchers at Mid Sweden University (MH) and Linköping University (LiU). Ph D Helge Strömdahl (LiU), Ph D KG Karlsson (MH), Ph D student, Magnus Oscarsson (MH) and Ph D student Anders Jidesjö (LIU)

The sample

We organised the survey for the age group 15 to 16 (ninth and last year in the Swedish compulsory school) and there were about 110 000 pupils in this population.

30 schools were randomly selected from a sample with nine stratum variables for assuring a correct weight of each type of school. The stratum variables were

1. Very small private schools
2. Very small public schools
3. Other private schools
4. Public schools in big cities
5. Public schools in suburbs
6. Public schools in big towns
7. Public schools in midtowns individual communities and other big communities
8. Public schools in rural, sparse and small communities
9. Other public schools

The schools themselves selected one class at each school. The size of the classes differed between 20 and 35 pupils but in one school there were just 15 pupils in ninth year.

Two schools could not participate due to three other surveys, which were launched the same spring, TIMMS, PISA and a national assessment by the Swedish Board of Education. One new school was picked bringing a total of 29 schools. The material will give a good overview over the Swedish pupils' opinions but the sample is not big enough to compare different kind of schools. However it will be possible to make deeper studies and look for example on rural areas, immigrants and compare this with our material.

The survey

We mailed all schools with both e- and snail mail and presented the ROSE-project and our aims. Later we called them and arranged time and date for the survey. We or students we hired visited all schools during May 2003 and together with the teacher we carried out the questionnaire. That way we got results from all 29 schools with a total of 751 pupils. Two schools were reporting some dissatisfaction from the pupils concerning the length of the questionnaire but 27 schools reported that the pupils worked peacefully for about 30 or 40 minutes.

Translation of the Rose questionnaire

The translation was made carefully with the aim to make as verbatim translation as possible:

1. We translated the questionnaires from the English version but we were also using the Norwegian version.

2. Other researchers read the translation and compared it with the original questionnaire.
3. We then made a revised version.
4. At last we tested the questions on a couple of nine graders for assuring that the questions could be clearly understood.

National items and questions

At the end of the questionnaire we added national items about the pupils choice of occupation and High School Program. We also made some further questions about their Science classes and where they learn Science.

Encoding

Two students encoded the questionnaires in Excel. We made a quality check and examined every tenth questionnaire and copied it into SPSS.

Magnus Oscarsson
Mid Sweden University

Anders Jidesjö
Linköping University