

Contact

The Swedish Deaf Sports Federation

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Thank You all for the Seminar!



"No Women – No Deaf Sports" Equality seminar, 14-15 October 2006, Stockholm, Sweden

Organized by the Swedish Deaf Sports Federation and financial support by the Finnish Athletic Association of the Deaf

Introduction

The Swedish Deaf Sports Federation (SDI) was honoured to arrange the equality seminar for women in NBDSF member countries. 14 participants from 6 countries made many interesting discussions with the lecturers Siv Fosshaug, member of ICSD board, Therese Rollvén and Maria Norberg, employees of SDI and organizers of the Seminar.

The objective of the seminar was to map the physical exercise possibilities and activities for deaf women and girls in the NBDSF member countries. In addition, the seminar's focus was to map the organization of each member country. The seminar also gave an opportunity for the female participants from the NBDSF member countries to create a network for future use.

The program of the Seminar was following:

Friday October 13th		Söndag October 15th	
16.45	Meeting time at T-centralen	08.00	Breakfast
18.30	Arrival to Lillsved	09.00	"Women and leadership" <i>Therese Rollvén and Maria Norberg, SDI</i>
19.00	Dinner		Coffee break
21.00	Information	10.30	Open forum and Evaluation "Why was I here?"
		11.00	Lunch
		12.30	Summary
		13.30	Departure
		14.00	
Saturday October 14th			
08.00	Breakfast		
09.00	Introduction Presentation of participants "Why am I here?"		
10.30	Coffee break		
11.00	SDI:s equality project <i>Therese Rollvén, SDI</i>		
12.00	Lunch		
13.00	Lecture, Deaflympics <i>Siv Fosshaug, ICSD</i>		
15.00	Coffee Break		
15.30	Prepared questions		
18.00	Dinner		
20.00	Socializing		

What did we do?

At first

At first, all participants got time to reflect why they were in Stockholm. We learned that they wanted to create a network for future contacts. They also wanted to learn about the organization of each country and the situation for women. The participants were looking forward to share experiences with each other and to listen to the Swedish Project of Equality. Someone said that this Seminar may be the seed-bed for the future development for women in Deaf Sports.

A line of argument

As a line of argument, the participants wrote their thoughts of the headline of the Seminar on a paper and got the same question in the end of the Seminar. The idea was to let them see if they still had the same thoughts when they left on Sunday. The last thoughts were written as a "letter" to themselves, which Therese will send in one year to each participant as a reminder.



Lecture about the Equality project of SDI



With the goal that all trainers, leaders, coaches, boardmembers and employees should be trained in the equality field, Therese now work as a leader of the project "Education- and recruitment of women to leaders and administrators". This goal applies for all the Specialized Sport Federations in Sweden and not only for the Swedish Deaf Sports Federation. Swedish Sports Confederation's goal and decision which was made in 2005 at the General Assembly decided that every Specialized Sports Federation in Sweden should work for equality.

Therese told us that the project lasts for two years and have until today, among other things, arranged a leadership course for woman and this Nordic-Baltic Seminar. The project will arrange a course for both men and women in December 2006. Before that, Therese will do a "tour" in Sweden and inform the clubs and districts about the project and its possibilities.

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Evaluation

To sum up the evaluations of the participants, all of them liked the Seminar weekend a lot. Some of them wanted more lecturers and some of them praised the lecture of Siv Fosshaug. All the three lecturers held a good level of language and had a calm and good articulation. The fact that the lecturers were all deaf had a great distinction for the result.

The place and the food were satisfying but the coffee brakes could have been shorter and instead some motion and activities could be presented before the lunch. Information about the place was given before, but not about its location. For example there were no possibilities of make a trip to some kiosk.



Therese makes the participants to think

One wish of making this Seminar permanent is to have seminars once a year came up and all of the participants were very positive of that wish. Themes of those seminars can differ, depending to the needs. Many of the participants wanted to have more information about for example; NBDSF and EDSO organisations.

Lecture about ICSD



Siv Fosshaug (Board Member of ICSD 2005-2009) took place at the stage and let us all be aware of the history of ICSD. We also got information about the differences between the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the Special Olympics International (SOI) and the International Committee of Sports of Deaf (ICSD). She had three parts in her presentation. ICSD History, Deaf Women in Deaf Sports and Equality.

During Siv's lecture, the word "empowerment" worked as a reminder of our possibilities as women. Empowerment means experiencing control over decisions in one's life and works for individuals, for groups and for societies. From the discussion of the participants, we learned that we need information and to inform the clubs in our own countries about women and equality in Deaf Sports. We also need to encourage the youths to be members of different boards. The youths often have a newer perspective of equality.

The prepared questions

Before the Seminar, each participant country got some prepared questions to answer at the Seminar. The questions were about the structure of organization, the numbers of members, the work for women and equality. **Sweden** was first on the stage and had their recital. They showed us through a presentation in power point that the organization of the Swedish Deaf Sports Federation is structured in a lot of committees with different job assignments. Under the committees are the clubs. There are three employees working for the Federation and one Project Leader. In the board of nine members, two are women.



Recital by Mona and Nanette from Sweden

Second on the list of recitals, **Latvia** took place. They told us that they represented the committee of chess and had no full insight in the Latvian Federation of Deafsports. They drew a plan of organization on the whiteboard and let us know that they don't have some committees but only clubs and special sports. As a total, they have eight clubs. In the board of five members, all are men.



Marina and Nadezda from Latvia

Lithuania made us conscious that their Federation was created in 1990! The federation has 1112 members in five clubs, and also has contact with the Federation of Chess. Of these members, 354 are women. In the five clubs under the Federation, every club have women represented in the boards. In the Federation Board, three of eleven members are women.



Ona in action

One year after the Lithuanian Deaf Sports Federations creation, the **Estonian** Deaf Sport Union was created. They have 263 members, of whom 38,4% are women. Three clubs and one high school are connected to the Union. In the board, two of seven members are women including the president.

The **Finnish** Deaf Sports Federation has about 1200 members and 14 clubs. The oldest club is located in Helsinki, and has 200 members. Finland also has three employees. Under the Federation, there are three categories; Individual sports, Team sports and Committees. Today the committees are "youth", "women" and "multimedia". In the respective committee there are representatives from the board who are presidents of the committees. In the Federation Board of seven members, two are women.



Emmi and Heli, the two Finnish participants

At last, **Norway** presented their organization, which is placed under the Norwegian Federation of the Disabled. They expressed their displeasure with that structure, but told us that there will be changes in a short time. In the board of the "Deaf Sports Committee" under the Norwegian Disabled Federation, two out of five members are women.



Irene tells us about the Norwegian organization

Lecture about women and leadership



Maria held a lecture about women and leadership. She let the participants think about their favourite leader and type the attributes of that leader. Maria wrote the attributes on the whiteboard and all the participants could together make the attributes of a good leader. After that, Maria explained that there are four styles of a leader; Authoritarian, "whatever", Democratic and "Due to the situation". Discussion about the goodness and badness of each style came out. Further, some language expositions of men and women were demonstrated and the participants could learn that men and women sometimes expose different in their way to nod and in their way to ask questions. Then all participants got some words that they shall be careful to use because of their exposition.



Maria speaks about some words

When we talked about the object of the Seminar, a following statement was presented by Therese and Maria; "No Men – No Deafsports?". The point of this Seminar is not to make women dominant, but to make them equal to men in all perspectives.