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| <b>Author(s)</b><br>Marie Nordström  | <b>Sponsoring organization</b>                       |

**Title and subtitle** Pojkskola Flickskola Samskola. Samundervisningens utveckling i Sverige 1866 - 1962. Boys' School Girls' School Mixed School. The development of co-education in Sweden 1866 - 1962.

**Abstract** The aim of the thesis is to describe and analyze the debate on co-education and its gradual introduction into Swedish secondary educational system. The subject has been discussed in Parliamentary Commissions, in parliament, psychological and educational research into differences between the sexes and in articles. The discussion on co-education during the last century reveals essential differences of opinion regarding boys' and girls' upbringing and education. The historical perspective gives an impression of the development of opinion regarding mens' and womens' aptitude to varying professions. The State's responsibility for girls' secondary education was discussed in the nineteenth century and reawaked the co-education question; girls at this time being educated in private girls schools. The issue was whether girls possessed an "individuality" that influenced their aims in life so greatly, as to warrant two separate educational and examination systems. The argument used against the introduction of co-educational schools included the risk that a loosening of morals would occur, that girls could suffer from over-exertion, that intellectual differences would cause teaching problems, that a girls role as wife and mother was endangered. In the 1930's the dual role of having both career and being a housewife was maintained. Girls' school, it was argued, were needed to prepare their pupils for both aspects. When girls' school were again threatened in the 1940's it was mainly the girls parents who asserted the need for a form of education that combined being housewife with a career. The most frequent choice of career for girls was nursing, teaching, service occupations. During the period studied Sweden, compared to other industrial countries, has the largest segregated labour-market. Modern educational reaserch has started to question, whether co-education has had the poitive effect on the equality of the sexes that was intended.

**Key words** co-education, mixed school, girls' school, sex difference, girls "individuality", women's two roles, girls education, segregated laour-market, sex-differentiated socialisation process, separate educational and examination systems.

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