

Technology Education

- is it available equally for girls and boys in future?

Dr. Eila Lindfors
Department of Educational Sciences and Teacher Education
Oulu University
Eila.Lindfors@oulu.fi

Technology education at school is commonly considered narrowly as information technology education. This paper considers technology education more widely as relating to innovative craft, design and technology. A world-wide concept of technology education usually refers in educational settings to problem solving related to the environment's systems and products. A goal is to educate students to understand, use, manage and assess technology and its effects critically including actual work with products and systems

As the curriculum divides the substance of the subject craft, design and technology into textile work and technical work. in Northern countries and the system of teaching allows students to choose between them, it is not self-evident that every student receives technology education. Textile work is not seen as a part of technology education. Technical work is taught usually by male teachers and textile work by female teachers. Choices by the students are usually very traditional. This means that boys take technical work and girls textile work. On the basis of the curriculum, the system of teaching and the choices made by students, we can ask if technology education is only for male teachers and for boys.

Finnish dissertations (N=9) present interesting perspectives on today's technology education and also to its future. The new national curriculum (2004) offers different opportunities to organise teaching. This presentation examines: *What kind of possibilities there are in the perspective of Finnish dissertations to implement technology education in general education in the future?* The focus is on how it would be possible for both sexes, and especially for girls to gain a broad technology education. A special question is how girls would gain the education they are interested in.