

A “Norwegian model” of gender equality research

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This presentation gave an overview of Norwegian gender equality (GE) research development and potentials for GEQ development. GE indexes like *The Gender Gap Index* (with Norway at a .84 score, Poland at .70 in 2013) have been important for research development, yet they remain limited and narrow. There have few variables, mainly from professional life, lack informal and private life measures, and have been focus mainly on women. The Norway model is a more extensive approach with many variables and subdimensions including informal life measures, a specific focus on men as well as women, and a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods.

Steps in this development were outlined, including the first ‘role of men in gender equality’ type of survey, *Men in Norway 1988*; the *Men’s Life Connections* qualitative follow-up 1993; the *Equal Worth* survey 1994; the *Nordic Innovation* project 2007, and others. The research contributed to reforms like paternal leave (1993) and had public debate and media effects e g through publication of surprising findings (examples were presented).

The new ideas of the *Gender equality and quality of life 2007* survey were summarized. The survey used a long questionnaire designed with gender in/equality as the key issue (not as an add-on to other issues). It had a fairly large sample (N 2805), equal focus on men and women, and a biographical questionnaire design. It had a multidimensional approach to GE including distinction between norms and practices, material contexts, different discrimination forms, health and quality of life. Some parts of the new design were later further developed in the international project *Images*. Some main results from the survey were presented, including GE effects on quality of life and reduced violence.

The last part of the presentation concerned implications for GEQ, and further input to the kickoff discussions. Issues of survey quality, response rate, mapping “silent zones”, culture and beliefs were briefly outlined.