



THE BIRDS

THE BEES

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF PLEASURE IN SWEDISH SEX EDUCATION

& THE SWEDES

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How do Swedish sex educators present the meaning of pleasure?

What forms of pleasure are acknowledged and what forms are left out?

pleasure |'ple-zhr|
noun

- a positive view of the physical and emotional aspects of sex
- inviting adolescents to explore what feels good and bad, desirable and undesirable, grounded in experiences, needs and limits from Michelle Fine, 1988)

METHODOLOGY:
15 IN-DEPTH
SEMI-STRUCTURED
INTERVIEWS WITH
SWEDISH STUDENTS

"[My instructors] were quite positive. I think it was positive because we learned: be respectful, and protect yourself, but it's normal. Everyone does it, and you should like it, but you should also feel comfortable."

"Our teacher said [of masturbation]: 'It's good, and you should try it. you should know your own body before you have sex so you know what feels good.'"

"I think they said that orgasm was the best part of the sexual experience, and it feels the best. This is the extent of what they told us. But no one really understood what orgasm actually was."

SEX POSITIVITY * SELF PLEASURE * ORGASM
RELATIONSHIPS * CONSENT * NORMALIZATION

"In a relationship, you should love each other, protect and respect each other, and have a good time."

"There was this idea that if you want to do something, then you do it, but just because you say yes to one thing doesn't mean you're saying yes to everything."

"That is such a Swedish thing: anything you want to do [sexually] is normal. It's normal, it's normal, it's normal."