

## **Edite Sarva: Project Method in Contemporary Education**

### **Change in the education system**

For a while, we have been prizing diversity and stressing its importance. In education, however, we seem to be looking for the one recipe that would fit all. I believe that it's crucial to shift from trying to standardise education towards letting it be diverse and offering different choices that fit the needs of different people.

For this to happen we need teachers and school leaders who are ready to take responsibility and find diverse approaches to teaching. These empowered individuals will need support rather than control to do their work well. Last but not least, I believe it is time to stop trying to reform education and focus on transforming it instead. Mark Prensky (2014) stresses the need to focus on teaching skills rather than subjects which has been the traditional aim for education. I strongly believe in his message.

### **Teacher→Student**

Even though for more than 100 years education specialists have been calling for a focus on students' learning rather than teachers' teaching, there are many educational institutions where this change has not yet happened. If we want our children to become proactive, competitive and self-sufficient, we need to let them be the ones who explore, plan their learning process, solve problems and evaluate themselves rather than having teachers do it for them.

### **Project method in education**

Project method has been successfully used in many schools. With this method, teachers can help students learn to plan how they can reach goals as well as improve their performance. Teachers from different countries and in different student age groups show great enthusiasm for teaching with this method and come up with diverse ideas for projects with their students. However, they also admit that there are many obstacles that prevent them from using this tool in everyday lessons. I believe it is important to find ways to help teachers use this and other methods to make learning process more diverse and meaningful for students.

### **Questions to think about concerning project method**

1. How to create an environment where teachers feel they can apply project method?
2. How to involve society in helping teachers with carrying out the projects?
3. How to best educate and support teachers to help them use project method with students more and choose ambitious and meaningful outcomes for projects?

### **Sources of information**

1. Sir Ken Robinson “School Kills Creativity”
2. Pasi Sahlberg “How GERM is infecting schools around the world?”
3. Mark Prensky “The World Needs a New Curriculum”