



RIKSFÖRBUNDET FÖR SOCIAL OCH MENTAL HÄLSA



seciso
Supported Education in Civil Society



The Swedish National Association for Social and Mental Health, (RSMH) was founded in 1967 as an non-profit national federation (with no affiliation to political parties or religious organisations) by a number of local democratic associations ***of and for*** people with experience of mental and social health issues.



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The goal of the advocacy work of RSMH is to influence, enlighten and inspire society and its decision makers to give people with mental and social health issues an enhanced influence in general and real power over their own lives as well as access to equal opportunities in society.



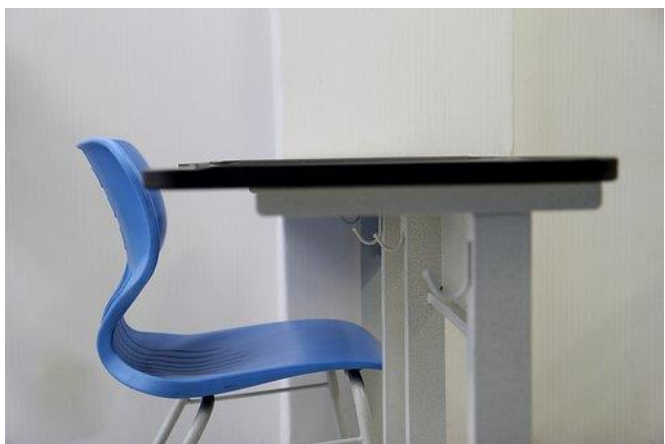
Mental ill-health has become one of the biggest drivers of inactivity with up to 60% of all new claims into disability benefit due to mental disorders. This increase is particularly large for young persons aged 16 to 24; this is a universal trend in many OECD countries but it is more pronounced in Sweden.

OECD (2013), *Mental Health and Work: Sweden*, OECD Publishing. p. 39

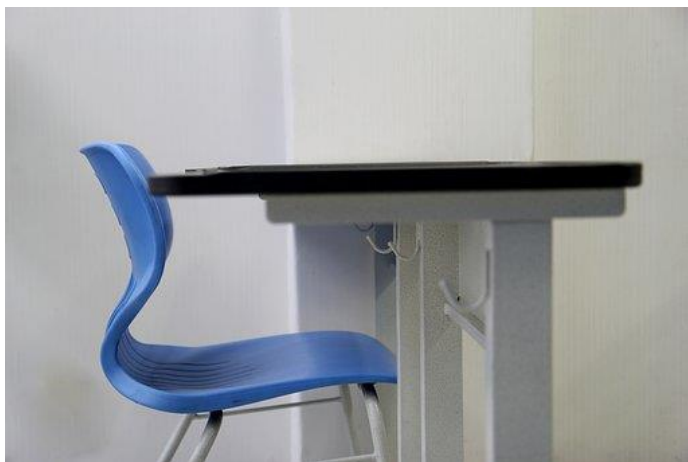
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In Sweden it's mandatory to attend *Grundskolan* (from 7 through to 15 years of age). By choice and on merits one may thereafter apply for admittance to *Gymnasieskolan*, an exam from which is a general prerequisite to attend Vocational Training (*Yrkes-högskolan*) or University (*Högskolan*) later on in life.



In the Swedish Labour Market a diminishing few gain employment without higher education of some sort. A bare minimum is to have graduated from Gymnasieskolan. A great many of the uncomplicated jobs of yesterday has simply been made redundant. And as for the rest a majority today go to applicants with an higher education than the work in itself may actually merit.



Up to 50% of mental disorders have their onset during adolescence. Consequently, childhood and adolescence are critical periods for developing the foundations of mental health and tackling mental ill-health.

Mental disorders during childhood are disruptive in attaining good education and considerably weaken the chance of labour market participation later in life.

OECD (2012a), *Sick on the Job? Myths and Realities about Mental Health and Work*, OECD Publishing.

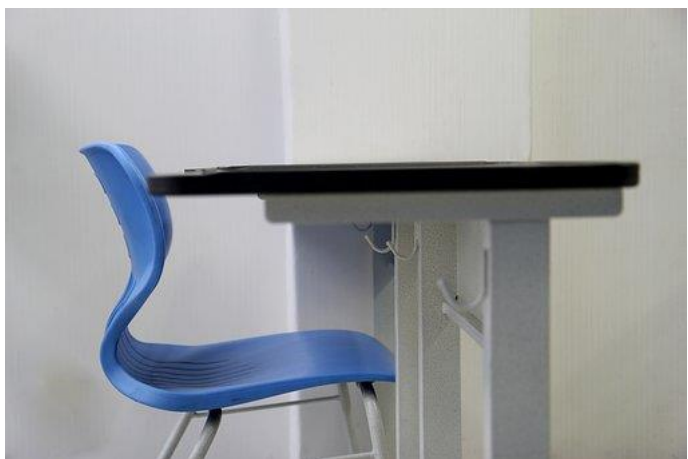
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264124523-en>



Another Brick in the Wall ?

School health and welfare services are responsible for early intervention in mental health problems. According to the Education Act in Sweden, all students are entitled to school health and welfare services. **The primary role of** school health and welfare services is to promote the mental and physical development of all students by mitigating individual and other risk factors (e.g. abusive treatment, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, etc.) and by providing a positive, friendly and open social environment at school. **Services are usually** delivered by school doctors, nurses, psychologists, school social workers and a special education teacher. The extent to which school health staff is involved in mental health issues is highly heterogeneous.

Civil Society is in this context is a resource quite untapped



Several studies in Sweden and internationally show that youth with low or incomplete grades from compulsory schools are at significantly higher risk of future psychosocial problems.

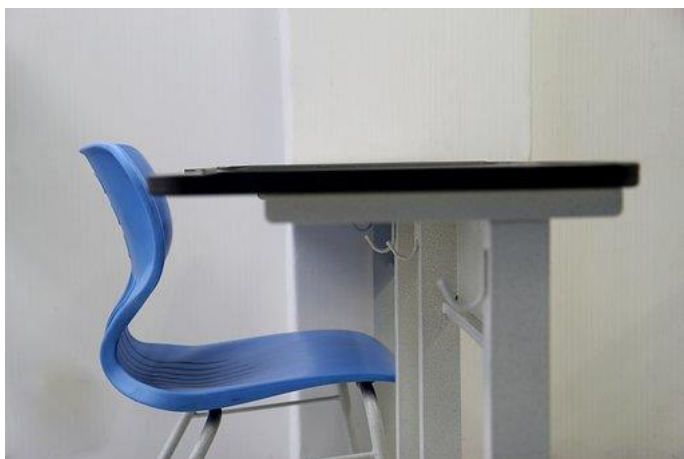
At the same time, youth who do not enter upper-secondary school, or who drop out early on, already have more difficulties than others in establishing themselves on the labour market. They are more likely to need financial assistance (social security benefit) and have a higher chance of moving onto disability benefits



Supported Education is a psychiatric rehabilitation method aimed at providing support to people with difficulties in school with a desire to overcome these issues and successfully finish their education.

The method was developed and initially intended for people with psychiatric disabilities, but it may also provide help for people without pronounced psychosocial issues or psychiatric disabilities.

RSMH is committed to promote the use of Supported Education as well as the practical support of it from Civil Society





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