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On the Trail of Learning in Working Communities

ABSTRACT

Production schools challenge the perception of learning as an individual pursuit of skills or knowledge by placing it in social relationships - in situations of co-participation. Learning therefore takes place in a social practice, in a binding working community, involving and developing the young people both professionally, socially and personally.

At a production school, the production itself is not an end but a pedagogical tool forming the basis of a different way of learning. Therefore, it is i. a. important to maintain the production as an end in order for it to function as a means.

When the participants face a workshop practice where things must be done because it is necessary, they will be challenged on their responsibility and ability to cooperate to finish a task. The work must therefore be organized to include the participant in a working community founded on genuine cooperation and joint responsibility, which at the same time makes sense to the individual participant.

The interactions involved, and the ability to undertake larger or more complex activities and projects through cooperation, bind people together and help to facilitate relationship and trust. Hereby we see an ongoing construction of *identities* in relation to these communities.