

# Creativity Changes the World

## SINGLE-SEX CLASSROOMS IN KINDERGARTENS AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS; A WAY TOWARDS EQUALITY WHICH PAVES THE WAY TO CREATIVE THINKING

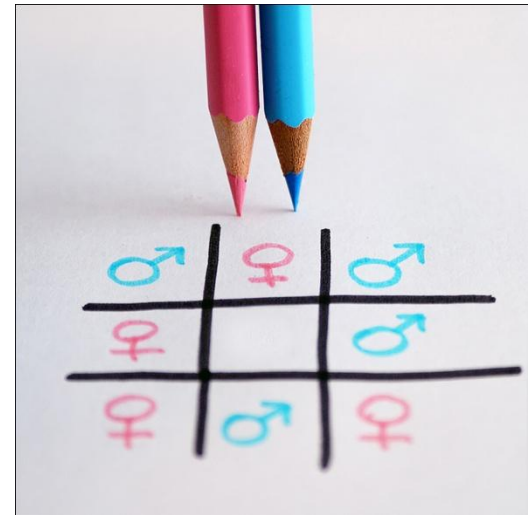
**Synopsis:** “The Hjalli Pedagogy” is an ideology developed in Iceland where both girls and boys in segregated groups practise skills and challenges that usually are monopolized by the other sex and thereby both sexes gain a more holistic self images and thus more freedom to express themselves in a creative way. When given equal share of resources and opportunities, both girls and boys become creative and innovative.

**Presenter:** Matthías Matthíasson from Hjallastefnan in Iceland

# The Hjalli pedagogy is an attempt to liberate children from traditional sex-roles and gender-stereotypic behavior.

The culture of the coeducational schools is dominated by:

1. **Direct discrimination - on basis of sex.**  
Boys get attention, time, space – and critique. Girls get praise for being quiet, hard-working and well behaving.
2. **Monopoly - of traditional gender roles.**  
The other sex never gets the opportunity of trying out new skills.
3. **The mirror tendency – “a reverse effect”**  
where girls do not learn from boys and vice versa.
4. **Differences** - girls and boys have different presumptions in many ways and mature differently.



## The Hjalli s way of making use of the single-sex settings

Boys and girls meet every day to train respect and make friends ...



1. The sex-segregation is a way towards a goal, not the goal itself.
2. In single-sex classes each sex can enjoy themselves as they are without bothering or being bothered by the other sex.
3. Single sex classrooms give the opportunity to make up for what the children have been deprived of on grounds of their sex, they can train new skills and exercise all human qualities.
4. Girls and boys meet every day to practice good communication, train respect for each other and make friends.

**... Gender-based education that includes all human qualities ...**

## **Individual skills**

**“Me”-thinking, active behavior, external effect, masculine or boyish connection.**

- 1. Independence, self-confidence, self-awareness, expression.
- 2. Positive attitudes, joy, assertiveness, honesty.
- 3. Courage, energy, activity, initiative.











## Girls taking space in an unconventional way, training courage ...



**... where every child should have all the possibilities in the world regardless of their sex.**

## **Social skills**

**“We”-thinking, passive behavior, internal reaction, feminine or girlish connection.**

- 1. Respect, behavior, courtesy, manners.
- 2. Tolerance, helpfulness, broadmindedness, unity.
- 3. Friendship, caring, closeness, love.













## Boys training closeness and helpfulness ...







# Open ended play and learning materials



























**For more information; [www.hjalli.is](http://www.hjalli.is)**

