ABSTRACT

GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN STRATEGIC PLANNING - SOME EXPERIENCES FROM SWEDEN

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In the development of Swedish government policies “equal opportunities” has been a key concept since the 7Oies. Most policy areas today include more or less successful recommendation on means to achieve equality between women and men as well as ways of mainstreaming gender into everyday political work. However, it was not until the mid 9Oies that government paid any attention to develop equal opportunities in the field of spatial planning. Spatial planning has been and largely still is an important part in the development of welfare policies of Sweden. In the planning system of Sweden strategic planning is a tool for creating a holistic approach of various development fields related to the use of land.

My presentation will be based on research carried out to find out what a gender perspective in planning praxis is, or what is could be. Empirical data were collected through in-depth interviews with planners and through reading planning documents. To be able to analyse collected data attempts to merge planning theory and feminist theory have been developed.

An important conclusions is that the concept equal opportunity is not a useful one in spatial planning. Further I will discuss the consequences of a view, common among practitioners, that strategic planning is gender neutral while detailed planning is the area where women can be identified due to their concern about home, care and the like. An alternative feminist approach will be outlined. It is based on looking at both reproduction and production as necessary in society and to be treated on a par in planning and by using the concept of everyday-life a link between the two can be created.