

# The Swedish women, Today

I'm proud, but not satisfied

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Photo1 Rebecca (Rebecka Edgren Alden)



Photo 2 M- magazine Ms. Rebecca edited



Photo 3 Double income couple, Ida& BankerWessel and children

At the publishing company in Stockholm ,I talked to a journalist, Rebecca(37), Her husband works for a computer company, and they have three children. She is the editor of M-magazine. She has been concerned with the problem of gender equality , and is in the middle of movement promoting equality for women in their 70s to 80s. Although in Sweden now, equal education, equal opportunity is received and is growing up in Sweden, but if they don't make all possible efforts, they face actually losing the rights they have gained.

## Realization of Equality

Recently she published a book, in March, 2009.

It's title is "A Shout from a Nuclear Family"

With this book, she claimed, that domestic roles should be shared fifty-fifty.

In order to realize gender equality, it is most important to make raising children equal, and men and women should share responsibility, 50/50.

If a husband took parental leave (insurance), he was admired by his neighbors as doing a brave deed, even if it was two months of 13 months. In addition, a wife suffered from remorse, although the woman acquired 80% parental leave in fact.

The woman was burdened with a guilt feeling and in order to compensate her guilt, she dared do some special thing, for example, making bread, and sweets.

That it is not equal.

Ms. Rebecca said I and my husband each took 50/50 paternal Leave. She said that the system of taking a leave equally must be established.

## Height of Birthrate

In Sweden, woman's birthrate is at a high level. A corporate woman who works in high position is well balanced with child rearing and work, This is because child care and nursery school is plentiful, and not so high in cost.

(in the case of Rebecca, childcare fee are 3,000 kroner per month about 45,000 yen for three children). Furthermore we get an 80% payroll guarantee for child-care leave, and parental leave (insurance).

## Many Part-timers among Government Officials.

It encouraged woman to work in their 60 and 70s. Women advanced in the labor market. Many housewives began to work in government fields, such as aged care workers. But the budget of the country decreased, it changed to part-time workers. However, the woman who work in part-time jobs have to accept it as a unavoidable. In general, women(government workers) receive low wages, and private companies have many males receiving high wage.

## Problem of Woman Advance

Although, female doctors are more than 50 percent of the total, it happened as a result of falling salaries. A teacher is also the same. If the female rate becomes high, the salary will fall. It is a big problem. It is very good that the number of woman has increased even to half. But it is a problem, that in a company, a woman does not occupy a high status.

"Yo-ran" is a male dominated group

Many "Yo-ran" groups still exist". "Yo-ran" is common name in Sweden(in America, John or Mike), and it means that there are many high portions, but a woman cannot enter the Yo-ran.

It is said as a jobs , that it is easy to get into a company, if you change name your name to "Yo-ran"

## Support for Entrepreneur

About 80% of the salary of previous occupation is granted as a subsidy to a person who becomes an entrepreneur for six months (both for man and woman ).

The third sector supply aids also. The two-third of entrepreneurs are women. Rebecca is employed at a publishing company, but at the same time she has her own company also .

## Political Party Called “Feminist Initiative”

The feminist initiative was started three years ago. Rebecca also participated In starting the movement . There was a motion to form this party about ten years ago. It was so influential to the extent that almost every political party proposed the policy of using men-and-women fifty—fifty.

Rebecca thinks that the “Social Labor Party” got results, such as maintenance of nursery schools, progress in the position of women, but she wants to vote for a political party which asserts a radical woman's rights now surely.