

# 32<sup>th</sup>

EECERA annual conference

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Brighton, UK



Svavarsson, Hörður (2024). **An Impact of Fee Adjustments in Icelandic Preschools on Gender Equality: A Preliminary Investigation.** Paper presented on the 32nd Annual EECERA Conference, Brighton/United Kingdom, 4.9.2024.

This study aims to explore the effects of recent fee adjustments for preschoolers in Kopavogur, municipality on gender equality. Decision was made to offer free six hours of daily preschool and increase fees for the last hours. Icelandic studies have shown that men tend to participate more in household chores after changes in employment, which is contrary to foreign studies (Gislasan, 2017). This is believed to be due to the long-standing policy of paternity leave that encourages fathers to take on more household responsibilities. Icelandic parents have among the longest working hours in OECD. The theoretical foundation for the study is Pierre Bourdieu's Social Capital and Michel Foucault's Theories on Power. Quantitative (McMillan, 2008), the study collected data by observing 13 preschools, which parents brought and picked up their children. One preschool was closely scrutinized to analyse socioeconomic standing. The author's attitudes and knowledge of the field have undoubtedly influenced the selection of this research topic, but the same attitudes could also influence his research work. It is important to consider that particularly. The research will be reported to the Icelandic Research Ethics Committee. The study is still in early stages, and more data needed. However, our results challenge the one-sided opposition to the changes in political discourse and the media. This study provides a foundation for further research on the impact of fee changes on gender equality in other municipalities. This study provides a foundation for further research on the impact of gender equality in other municipalities.

### **Keywords**

*gender equality, preschool policy, social sustainability, preschool, Iceland*

### **Presenter:**

Hörður Svavarsson, Adalthing / Kenning, Iceland