

Francisca Fehser Arriaga

Klaus Möller

Sozialwissenschaft/ Erziehungswissenschaft

DNS - The Necessary Teacher Training College

“DNS” is an abbreviation for “Det Nødvendige Seminarium” which is Danish for “The Necessary Teacher Training College” It offers a 4-year Bachelor programme in Pedagogy. In the program, the students learn to become teachers in a more alternative method than the one in traditional teacher studies.

The programme focuses the learning based on experience more than on theory and it is funded partly by the Danish government in cooperation and recognised by the Ministry of Education of Mozambique under Instituto Superior de Educação e Tecnologia – ISET One World in Changanane, Mozambique.

The DNS fundamental principles are 7:

- Student-driven learning
- Integration of theories and praxis
- A high degree of reality encounter
- Focuses on collectivity
- The school is run by the students
- Open for initiatives
- The role of the teachers is that of a facilitator

The whole academic studies program is divided into 4 years:

- **First year: The global reality**

At the beginning of this year, the students organise, prepare and get everything ready for a 4-month journey on a bus in which they will investigate the political, eco-

conomic and social aspects of a certain country or region of their choice. Afterwards, back in Europe, they will spread the knowledge to the public for 3 months, which could be at a radio station, TV show, podcast... etc.

- **Second year: The European reality**

The students will be living in a community for 6 months in a European city and there they will host weekly evenings with the locals. It is also important that they take part in the cultural and social life of that city.

After these 6 months, the students return to the college in Denmark and have a 3-month study period and second-year exams.

- **Third year: The School Reality**

During their third year, the students will go their separate ways and do a 10-month internship in Danish schools or other educational settings. Afterwards, they come back to the campus and have a 2-month study period.

- **Fourth year: The Specialisation year**

In the last year, the focus is put on the students' own projects, around the world they will study specialisation subjects in theory and practice for 6 months. In this way, they refine and practice old and new techniques. Their last 6 months are spent studying on campus and writing their bachelor thesis.

The graduates of DNS have a variety of directions to follow after finishing their studies, some of the alumni go back to their home countries and work as teachers at international or traditional schools; others work as educators in care homes, or are co-ordinators and facilitators for international aid organisations, some go work as pedagogues at outreach programmes, and become project leaders at development projects.

