

In 2010, Statistics Sweden (Statistiska Centralbyrån) published a report called “*Könsstruktur per utbildning, 1990-2030*”. This report presents recent statistics, a current view as well as the forecasted development of the gender structure in Swedish educations until 2030.

According to the report, 4 out of 5 Swedish engineers with a degree are men. They especially dominate in the oldest age category (50-64 years) where only 8% are women. In recent years, the figure has grown to 28% in the youngest age category (20-34 years). Men over 50 represent nearly half of all managerial positions. In 2030, it is expected that 25% of the entire group of Swedish engineers will be women.

At Womengineer we believe that, in order for a society to prosper and develop in a sustainable direction, the entire population’s knowledge and skills need to be taken into account. Given this general view point, we regard it as a misfortune that there are so few women in the enormously broad field of engineering. Despite the positive trend, we believe that great things would generate if there was to be an increased balance in terms of gender in this section.

We claim that the underlying rationale for these figures is above all due to the fact that few people know what an engineer does. If the actual remarkable diversity could be presented, both among those who study engineering as well as the opportunities that exist after graduation, the chances of affecting this trend will increase. Womengineer is therefore a website that emphasizes female role models in the form of engineering students and practicing engineers which may inspire other women to approach technical educations.

The ambition of this idea is, consequently, to increase the proportion of women among the applicants for technical educations. The aim is not to guide or advice, but merely to provide information on already existing opportunities in order to attract more women.

The target group is female high school students who are unsure of what they want to study after graduation. The purpose is to communicate an image of the engineering profession as it is – diverse and challenging, and thereby inspire this demographic group and to increase their interest to become engineers. Womengineer is a source of information and inspiration.

Background

Womengineer was founded in 2008 by two MSc students, within the School of Industrial Engineering and Management, at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, Sweden. The idea was born when they one day realized that they were the only women in a classroom full of men at their mechanics of material class. They came to the conclusion that one of the main reasons for this was the lack of good role models that could inspire women to approach technical educations. Few know what it means, or has a false image of what it means, to be an engineer.

Today, the founders have left the university and the site is therefore also run by an active engineering student of Engineering Physics at KTH.

Vision

Womengineer’s vision is to act as an eye opener for people in general, and women in particular, by presenting a new perspective of the engineering profession. We want to change the perception of the typical engineer by providing a new image in the form of a gender neutral solution provider and one of the world’s most significant sources of creative enablers.