

Support systems at the „Oberstufen-Kolleg“: Equality of opportunity through developing the potential of all students

Review of research: The capability approach is based on a theory of justice and focuses on human well-being. It emphasises the importance of freedom of choice when it comes to deciding about the good life. The approach differentiates between ‘functionings’ that refer to what people actually do, and ‘capabilities’ that refer to what opportunities or options people have to fulfil these functionings.

Research questions:

1. Which support systems are feasible for developing the potential of all students?
2. What constitutes a good use of this potential? Can the model of the experimental school „Oberstufen-Kolleg“ be transferred to other institutions?

Methods of investigation:

Standardised questionnaire

Guided and informal interviews

Sample:

Students of the „Oberstufen-Kolleg“, ca. 1800 students from schools in Bielefeld (grade 13)