

# **Paper: Reading and writing in Vocational Educational Training – a literature review**

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## **Abstract:**

### **Background and aim**

Students in in Danish Vocational Educational Training (VET) have poorer literacy skills (Rosdahl et. al. 2013) and do not improve their literacy skills on VET (Rasmusson et al., 2019). Teachers compensate students for poor reading skills (Buch, Busch & Emtoft, 2023).

The study is the first part of a larger study investigating literacies in VET and improving literacy teaching in the workshop subjects.

### **Methods**

This is a Rapid Review based on the RQ:

What do we know about literacy, reading and writing (in workshop subjects) in vocational education and how is it investigated and implemented?

### **Results**

Studies has been done in Europe (9), Scandinavia (4), Australia (3) and New Zealand (3). Studies focus on students (14), teachers/literacy tutors (7) or learning materials (LM) (6), some have two focuses.

### **Focus on students shows:**

- 1: A focus on genres that students meet in both their studies as well as in their future workplace is useful. It is important to focus on all aspects of the genre from the higher levels like context, use and purpose of the text as well as text structure and linguistic features.
- 2: Scaffolding students reading and writing is important.
- 3: Use of model texts improves students' attention to text and support literacy learning.

Focus on teachers/literacy tutors shows that they should work together with subject teachers to improve students' literacy skills.

Focus on LM show that texts and genres in VET are more difficult than genres on other secondary levels and teaching should focus on genres used in the professions, present exemplary texts and teach genre context and structure.

We must change our view from seeing VET students as having literacy deficits to see learners who needs to be enculturated into a new discourse community. This could also be implemented at other educational levels.

**Keywords:** Literacy, Vocational Educational Training, Literature Study

**References:**

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