

The Experience of the Sami People in Norway following the Chernobyl Accident



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Reindeer husbandry as industry

- Meat production is the main income source.
- The only industry that are defined as Sami.
- Year round pasture, greater vulnerability to natural disasters



Reindeer husbandry as a cultural heritage

Definition of culture as term:

A term without objective criteria, but can be translated to thoughts, knowledge and skills people acquires as members of a society.

(Eriksen and Sørheim, 1994).



“Reindeer herding...”

It is..

- Not a job, but a life ...
- Involves the whole family.
- Traditional-based learning “*Learning through participation and own experiences*”.

Practical solutions...



” Being affected by a disaster...”

- Lack of control over the situation.
- You have to trust that the information you receive is correct.
- New solutions enforced, that is **not** based on traditional knowledge and past experience.



” A new day...”

- The slaughter must be scheduled after the level of Bq. in reindeer.
- Products of reindeer fed with industry produced animal feed, is useless.
- The food that is located out in the wild is no longer "available".
- Basic foods must be obtained from the store..



25 years after Chernobyl disaster

The cost of such a disaster has economic and human aspects as in the current situation is carried by the reindeer owners and their family's...



Some examples...

- Change of diet.
- Additional work in the form of feeding with industry produced animal food.
- Buy reindeer meat for consumption from less contaminated areas.
- The fear of consequences for future generations.
- The loss of traditional knowledge.

This is our earth and the ground that give us the food



”Reindeer farming as cultural tradition in southern Sapmi - also in the future?”

