

WHAT ARE THE FACTORS FOR SUCCESS IN PISA? THE ESTONIA CASE

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Abstract

As known, 65 countries including 34 OECD countries participated into the PISA 2012 (Program for International Student Assessment) whose results had already been announced. One of these countries is Estonia. In PISA exams, it is evaluated the acquired knowledge of 15 years old students attending to the formal education on mathematics, science and reading skills and how they reflect their acquisitions to their daily life. When the results of the PISA 2012 held every three years examined; Estonia succeeded above the average of the OECD countries especially on science, mathematics and reading skills and when these results compared to the previous exam, it was observed that they succeeded high above the average score. The PISA 2012 results should be examined in detail by the universities and the researchers and it is crucial to realize researches that contribute to the education policies to rise our country up to level of the successful countries. Therefore, in this research, it is aimed to figure out the factors on the success of Estonia in PISA 2012. In this context, the research was carried out by special case study and document analysis and interview methods were used. Related to the objective of the research, after the bilateral relations with the head of the department of MoER, Estonian Education and Research Ministry, two groups came together to perform the interviews in Estonia. The semi structured interview memorandum was prepared depending on the expert opinions and the data obtained after the document analysis. After the interview that lasted nearly three hours; it was expressed by the Estonian authorities that their achievement in PISA depends on the same quality of the education carried out at all school levels, Life Long Learning program, and starting of the science education from the first grade of the primary school. At the end of the research, necessary suggestions were offered to the authorities and our country related to the obtained data.

Keywords: PISA, International exams, Estonia.