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On December 3, 2013 the OECD revealed the results of the international study concerning educational achievements of 15-year old PISA-2012 students. I focus on the fact that PISA test measures not academic knowledge of students but their abilities to apply it in different life situations, so called «Life Skills». The international test includes clear and simple life tasks. At the same time to solve them it is not enough to have basic subject knowledge and to remember but it is important to understand the core of the material.

Kazakhstan compared to PISA-2009 have improved its results on students functional competence in Math and Science. The increase of the performance indicator on the mathematical literacy made up 27 points (*in 2009 - 405 points, in 2012 - 432 points*) and 25 points in Science (*in 2009 - 400 points, in 2012 - 425 points*). It is the highest growth of the average national score against 1000 point international scale and good enough dynamics of improvement.

At the same time 5808 Kazakhstan 15-year old students from 218 educational organizations according to the sample of the PISA-2012 project showed disappointing results on reading literacy. In total the result of the country - 393 points. It is indeed a very low result.

Reading literacy is estimated through completed tasks that determine the ability of students not just to identify the dominant idea of the text but to critically analyze its content, to interpret information and to make up a detailed answer to a certain question. Unfortunately, our school children show a low level of skills with «broken» texts containing graphs and tables.

The reason for a low level of reading literacy of Kazakhstan school children can be a low level

of reading culture in family. For instance, Kazakhstan participants of the PISA-2012 project indicated that at average they have no more than 150 books. While this indicator in leading countries of the project such as China, Singapore, Korea is more than 250 books. Therefore, creation of the necessary conditions to increase interest in reading not only in the educational process, but also in the family is very important.

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Links

[1] http://iac.kz/sites/default/files/styles/img_800/public/rabochiy_stol_statistika.jpg?itok=vqdp58A_

[2]
<http://iac.kz/en/flag/flag/bookmarks/2874?destination=printpdf/2874&token=a2c0e3874918b2f4618c4f8e9173ca09>