**Bad quality of education in Kazakhstan**

Kozhina A.

Nazarbaev Intellectual School

Global Perspective Project Work

Zhaulbaev A. Z.

March 1, 2021

**Abstract**

This article examines the problem of underfunding of schools and its main task is to create possible solutions to this problem. Almost all public schools in the CIS countries have this problem. The information was collected through interviews. Based on the information received, it can be said that education has suffered greatly due to a lack of resources. The article answers the question: The governments need to devote more time to solving economic and political problems and to update the education system by adding new technologies.

**Абстракт**

Данная статья изучает проблему недофинансирования школ и главной ее задачей является создание возможных решений этой проблемы. Почти во всех государственных школ стран СНГ есть данная проблема. Информация была собрана благодаря интервью. Основываясь на полученной информации, можно сказать, что образование сильно пострадало из-за нехватки ресурсов. Статья отвечает на вопрос: Государству нужно больше уделять время на решение экономических и политических проблем и обновить систему образования, добавив новые технологии.

**Абстракт**

Бұл мақала мектептерді жеткіліксіз қаржыландыру мәселесін зерттейді және оның басты міндеті-бұл мәселенің мүмкін шешімдерін құру. ТМД елдерінің барлық дерлік мемлекеттік мектептерінде бұл мәселе бар. Ақпарат сұхбаттың арқасында жиналды. Алынған ақпаратқа сүйене отырып, ресурстардың жетіспеушілігінен білім қатты зардап шекті деп айтуға болады. Мақала сұраққа жауап береді: мемлекет экономикалық және саяси мәселелерді шешуге көбірек уақыт бөліп, жаңа технологияларды қосу арқылы білім беру жүйесін жаңартуы қажет.

**Acknowledgement**

I want to thank my global perspectives teacher for helping me correct my mistakes and giving me the right direction in this project. I also want to thank everyone who agreed to the interview, as thanks to them I was able to gather the information I needed.

**Key Words**

Underfunding, the quality of education, schools, lack of resources, bribes, political and economic issues/problems.

**Introduction**

The quality of education is an important issue that affects not only the intellectual potential of the young generation but also the overall future of the country. The Kazakh educational institutions of all levels are faced with constant underfunding. Schools need computers, modern equipment, and textbooks that meet the latest scientific achievements. Many schools require not only textbooks, desks, boards or seats, but they need total renovation and reconstruction.

This problem is relevant for everyone because everyone is studying, their children are studying in schools. For the government, this is an urgent problem, because training affects the future, and its quality determines the level and quality of a qualified employee. For the average resident of the country, education also affects the future, in terms of the standard of living of the population, the level of wages and other aspects of ordinary life, because of bad quality of education, students are not ready for practical work, which is why they are considered incompetent, and they need more time to get used to the profession.

Based on statistics from 2009, in Kazakhstan, the annual underfunding of schools was approximately 100-110 billion tenge. The situation has not improved much, because schools still need books, technology, and so on. In schools, equipment is rarely repaired or updated, starting with regular balls and ending with desks and chairs. This issue is particularly acute in old schools.

The problem of underfunding schools is affected by many factors. These are bribes, incorrect allocation of resources, outdated, Soviet education system, not using the opportunities of new technologies and the Internet. despite the general trend of reducing the level of corruption in the country, the education system is subject to significant corruption risks, because of this, we can say that the main reason for the lack of resources is the problem of corruption.

The purpose of the research project was to inform about the existence of one of the problems of schools throughout Kazakhstan, lack of resources. The aim was to how to solve this problem in different ways. This can be political and economic issues, the bad and outdated education system.

In this research the main research questions were:

* Why does the problem of lack of resources appear in educational institutions in Kazakhstan?
* How do political and economic issues affect school funding?
* How new technologies help to increase or decrease the need for money?

These questions help to answer why Kazakh institutions faced with constant underfunding and based on it you can find the answer to how to solve the problem of lack of resources, linking this problem with other problems in other areas of the country or life.

**Context**

Nazarbayev (2018) states issues of quality and accessibility of education, health care, housing, comfortable and safe living concern every Kazakh family. Every child has the right to free high-quality education. The quality of education is an important issue that affects the intellectual potential of the young generation and the overall future of the country. The Kazakh educational institutions of all levels are faced with constant underfunding. Schools need computers, modern equipment, and textbooks that meet the latest scientific achievements. Many schools require textbooks, desks, boards, or seats, but they need total renovation and reconstruction. To improve the quality of education, ensure its accessibility to all segments of the population, and provide educational institutions with the necessary resources, it is necessary to develop a system of effective financing of education. Lack of financial resources in the educational sphere can lead to both a decline in the level of education itself and a decline in economic growth.

For Russia, underfunding is also a big problem. Problems related to the financing of education in the Russian Federation are related to the budget deficit. As practice shows, sometimes the problem is not a lack of funds but their rational use. Achieving a good education is important for Russia from the economic side because education directly affects gross domestic product growth.

Corruption in the education system is one of the main reasons for the lack of resources in schools. Shpekbayev (2018), case despite the General trend of reducing corruption in the country, the education system is subject to significant corruption risks. This can be attributed to monetary requisitions from parents of students and the plunder of budgetary funds and bribery. A high level of corruption reduces the possibility of quality education for children from low-income families. Reducing corruption or eliminating it will increase funds and help reduce unnecessary spending. Open and accessible information about budget projects and where certain funds go in general can significantly reduce corruption risks.

Nassimova, Smagulov, and Buzurtanova, (2018), case students are most often concerned about the educational process, transfer to another Department or University, and financial issues. Students also say that they are concerned about corruption in the administration, but no one reports it. Less bureaucracy will help reduce the ability to take a bribe. The problem of corruption should be solved by unity and explaining to people what corruption entails. Increased control and stricter measures against corruption can reduce the risk of giving or taking a bribe. All these methods can help stop corruption in the education field and life at all.

**Methods**

To collect data for this work I will use interviews for primary data collection and the internet for secondary data collection. I got the main information thanks to the secondary material, but the primary research confirmed the information I found on the secondary data collection, which is why we can say that both searches were of high quality.

A very large amount of information on the Internet about this topic. Underfunding of schools is common in many CIS countries and is a big problem in our country. Despite this, the information might not be enough, because most of the information was outdated, not credible, so, these could cause different inaccuracies. To avoid these problems all the information was taken from reliable and trustworthy sites and books. For example, the official government sites like “Akorda”. Also, to avoid this problem of the information taken, it was taken from the address of the president and the article that talks about the work on the problem of corruption in the field of education. These sources are reliable and accurate because they are officially confirmed, based on statistics (the president's address) and they are official. Also, these sources are neutral and have experience and a good reputation. Besides, the research works of Universities was used to be confident in the reliability of the information. For example, in “Context” part was used Nazarbaev University student work.

To confirm the received data, conducting an interview was chosen. For the interview, was selected one teacher, four students from different schools, so this can show that the problem is not in one school, that this problem is in most schools of Aktobe. The interview is more suitable for this work because it gives more specific and more detailed answers to my questions, which helps to see and confirm other information.

The survey was not conducted because there are enough surveys on this issue on the Internet with open data conducted among several age groups with the same results and there was no point in spending time on conducting the same survey. Also, a survey could not have been able to give the same and disclose information through the survey. Moreover, a survey needed to confirm the existing information to prove the reliability and correctness of the information that had already received.

During the interview, the problem of lack of time was faced, as my schedule had to be adjusted so that it was convenient for the interviewee and the person who was interviewed. Another problem was how the interview would be conducted and because of the pandemic, it was needed to conduct it online through the Microsoft Teams platform and the social network Instagram and WhatsApp. Another problem is when collecting primary data was that one interviewed person answered some questions very vaguely, which made it difficult to understand the person's position and understand his words in general. Therefore, was used additionally specific questions and asked examples.

The interview was taken from them because lack of money affects the quality of education, the salaries of teachers, the state of the school, and it was important to know the opinion of the two groups and what their attitude to this problem is and how strong the impact of this problem on teachers and students individually. Also, 87% of the education budget is a teachers’ salary (Development of strategic directions for education reforms in Kazakhstan for 2015-2020, Diagnostic report, (2014). Therefore, school students and teachers are very much affected by underfunding, which also affects the quality of education. When collecting primary data, all participants of the interview noted that education should develop over time, schools should have a different system, new subjects and the method of teaching should be different.

**Results**

To sum up, the main conclusions were that public awareness of the problem of underfunding of educational institutions is growing, but still, the public does not know the best ways to deal with the problem. Past studies have shown that people are far from politics and economics, but still clearly understand the relationship between these areas and the field of education and its quality. Also, they know about bribes in the educational sphere. according to the data, it can be said that people mention that technologies must be included in the education system and the system must develop with time.

The full typescript of all interviews is set out in the Appendix. There are some key moments from the taken interviews:

* On the first question about knowledge about underfunding of schools, all of the participants responded that they had encountered this problem in the past or felt this problem right now. The interviewee could give a clear example, so I can conclude that people are aware of the relevance of this problem and know how this problem can manifest itself.
* When asked about the impact of the lack of resources on the quality of education, people noted the lack of technology and noted that this problem affects the personal qualities of students and naturally note the appearance of the school.
* On the question about the effect of economic and political issues on the financing of schools, everyone points out that political and economic disadvantages directly affect school funding. Some of the interviewees mention corruption, the state of the country, election campaigns, and the current active problem-the pandemic.
* On the fourth question about how to solve this problem, many people talk about increasing public funding. They also talked about solving the problem of corruption and noted that the school administration or the state should learn how to properly plan the budget.
* The last question about using technology in education, each of them replied that it is necessary, as it helps the time changes and the use of technology is for the current generation of normal, well as in the online lot of useful and accessible information. New technologies make the process of acquiring knowledge easy. But also, one participant in the interview notes that to use newer technologies in schools, you need to master the existing ones, that is, to come to this smoothly for the convenience of teachers.

Overall, from the data obtained through interviews, we can conclude that people understand the scale and urgency of the problem of underfunding in schools, as they can see some of the consequences of this problem live. They see a certain connection between different spheres and the sphere of education, and they can also give illustrative examples of this connection. We can conclude that our education system is not being updated, that it needs to include more new technologies and this problem urgently needs to be paid attention to and solved. Most people know only superficial solutions, which can be a problem, too.

**Conclusion**

By considering all the answers from interviews that were conducted with students and teacher it is possible to make relevant conclusions and answer the questions that appeared at the beginning of the research.

* Why does the problem of lack of resources appear on the quality of educational institutions in Kazakhstan?

School funding affects not only the physical composition of the school, such as the appearance, desks, and most importantly equipment and books, but also the salaries of teachers. The consequences of a lack of funds to improve the school environment affect the condition of students and can change the desire to acquire knowledge. Due to the lack of funding, schools have problems such as the lack of computers and laptops, at moment this is felt very acutely because due to the pandemic, learning takes place remotely and schools can find it difficult to provide students and allow them to gain knowledge.

* How do political and economic issues affect school funding?

Political and economic issues have a direct impact. The main task of the state educational policy at this moment is to ensure the modern quality of education based on the old system, considering modern needs. They achieve this through laws, government regulations, national and international programs, and international acts. The overall political situation in the country and the world also affects the financing of the education sector, as some areas may currently require additional funds, which may lead to a reduction in the amount, of resources in this area.

One of the main economic problems in the field of education is corruption. This can be corruption between parents and the principal or teachers, as well as extortion in schools and other manifestations of it. Due to the small number of private schools, the public economic environment has a huge impact on school funding. Also, one of the economic problems that have a big impact on education is the wrong distribution.

* How new technologies help to increase or decrease the need for money?

New technologies allow you to save on such expenses as chalk, marker, paper and books. New technologies help students in learning, facilitating and speeding up this process as they can replace several things. This is important for the school administration to pay attention to technologies.

In conclusion, I would like to say that education is an important part of the state and society. Thanks to education, other areas are developing as new professionals come in. Problems in the field of education can add many other problems in all areas, which has a strong impact on the future of the country and our society.

My conclusion is credible because the sample of people who were interviewed was correct, that is, people from different schools and the teacher. Also, my conclusion is credible since all my conclusions are based on the answers of the interviewee. For this project, the opinion of the students ' parents was also important, as they are interested in the fact that their child receives a good education. Also, it was necessary to take an interview with students at rural schools.