

PISA 2012: HOW IS THE ALBANIAN STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN THIS ASSESSMENT?

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Abstract

School is an important part of a person's life. Learning and teaching follow us during all our existence. School gives the bases, starts in early ages of a person and it continues depending on people interest. Why do we use the knowledge that we take in school? Is this knowledge useful? How can we define usefulness of the knowledge? It is very important that students are taught the knowledge of tomorrow, which means that students do not need to know things like parrots but to use them in everyday life. This defines the aim of PISA assessment. PISA is an assessment that has started since 2000 and it is repeated every three years. It assesses three domains, one every each year: reading literacy, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy. This assessment is organized by OECD organization and its aim is to evaluate the similarities and differences between educational systems of different countries. Albania is a country that has taken part in this assessment since the first one (PISA 2000), but it did not take part at PISA 2003 and PISA 2006. It started again in PISA 2009 and continues. The performance of Albanian students during the years has been good if it seen the ranking list. They are placed in the last places in the ranking list even if it is seen a slightly improvement through the years. This article is about Albanian students' performance in PISA 2012. How is their performance in comparison with other countries, especially the neighbor countries? Which are the characteristics that PISA 2012 assesses in the educational system? The data are taken from PISA 2012 results published by OECD. There are compared the result of students' performances in their answers in the tests and also in the questionnaire that is posed after the test. Students' questionnaire, parents' questionnaire and principal of schools' questionnaire make a full picture of educational system in a country. It is treated also the gender ratio between the performances, and it is seen that Albanian females are very good at school. Based on PISA 2012 results we have a long way to compare with the results of Balkan's countries and especially OECD countries results.

Keywords: *Pisa 2012, students' performance, educational system, assessment.*