

 Research Article

EXPERIENCE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM (BY THE EXAMPLE OF SINGAPORE)

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ABSTRACT

The article describes the educational reforms of Singapore after gaining independence. It is also said that Singapore has invested heavily in the education system and human capital and is achieving high results. Based on PISA (Program for International Student Assessment), Singapore has the highest reading, math and science literacy rates in the world.

KEYWORDS

Education, human capital, investment, PISA, research, education cluster, information technology, TIMSS, natural resources, growth, educational strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Singapore is one of the fastest growing countries on the Asian continent in a historically short period of time. From this point of view, we think about the education system of this country. It is known that every three years the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) conducts the

International Student Assessment (PISA) program, which assesses student achievement through the study and comparison of various indicators.

According to him, according to the results of monitoring in 2018 on the effectiveness of training 15-

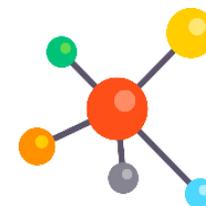


year-olds in different countries, Singapore ranked second among 77 countries in the world in terms of reading literacy, mathematics and science [1]. According to the study, Singapore's achievements in the field of education are of interest to scholars around the world. In this regard, it is important for us to learn the secret of Singapore's success in education, which has played an important role in the development of human capital.

Singapore is one of the countries that has made great strides in investing in the education system and human capital. At the time when Singapore was a British colony, its industry was mainly specialized in the processing of mineral fuels and agricultural products. Nevertheless, much attention was paid to the development of the education system at that time. In recent years, the training of specialists in the most modern areas of science and advanced technologies in the country and abroad has become one of the priorities. As a result of these measures, Singapore has become one of the world's leading countries in the field of scientific and technological development. Currently, the country is among the top five countries in the world with a population of 10,000 scientists (47). Singapore is ahead of its former colony, the United Kingdom, in terms of research and development spending on GDP.

It is known that the state of Singapore gained its full independence only in 1965. In the early years of its independence, Singapore experienced a process of inter-ethnic military conflict due to the difficult economic situation, lack of natural resources and drinking water, internal political crises and lack of jobs. Singapore has always been dependent on the state of Malaysia for all the natural resources it needs for food, drinking water and other livelihoods. Due to the small size of the domestic market, it was not possible to

implement an import-substituting product production strategy. Therefore, in the early years of Singapore's independence, it also tried to unite with the state of Malaysia in order to reach its own stage of development. But attempts to unite failed. The reason for this is the ethnic composition of the state of Singapore. The country's ethnic composition was 70% Chinese, 15% Indian, and only 10% Malay. In Singapore, getting a quality higher education to work in government was a priority. That's why Singaporeans are starting to see education as the only way to salvation for a happy future. In addition, the development of human capital was assessed by the government as the only measure for the country's development in the context of the country's lack of natural resources. Many researchers acknowledge that in the early days of Singapore's struggle to survive and thrive in difficult conditions, much attention was paid to the development of the education system and the focus was on training professionals in the field of technology. Thanks to the formation of a new government in the country and its prudent policies, the country has been transformed into a port city state that is attractive to investors. Year by year, the increase in financial capacity in the country, in turn, has created an opportunity to implement positive reforms in the education system and for the development of human capital and resources. By the end of the seventies of the last century, all efforts were focused on the production of commodities in the country, industry and information technology, and the development of professional qualifications of the population. As a result, by the early 1990s, Singapore's transformation into the second largest financial center in the region after Tokyo was considered an absolutely fair, natural state of affairs. According to many researchers, Singapore's economic miracle would not have happened if the country's government had not pursued a policy of developing the education system



and human capital, as well as intellectual growth. The education sector has been tasked with training competitive, high-quality professionals for the country, training them and adapting them to life in different socio-cultural conditions. As it turns out, in the past, there was no single requirement and approach to education in Singapore. It was necessary to introduce a single national education system in this country, as the population of different nationalities and religions is the majority. In this regard, in 1970 the country implemented a policy of optimizing schools and introducing uniform educational standards.

In the teaching of subjects in schools, priority was given to teaching mainly in English, while preserving the state language. The formation of high-quality education and communication competencies in schools has helped graduates to become more competitive in the labor market. In addition, the excellent teaching of English in schools has allowed graduates to study at universities in developed countries and become competitive. Today, the Ministry of Education of Singapore is the main authority in the management of school education. All public schools in the country are subordinate to this ministry and all teachers working in these schools are civil servants. There are currently 359 educational institutions in Singapore. Of these, 185 are primary and 143 are secondary schools.

Most of the schools are state-owned or co-operated with the state. As of 2017, there are a total of 33-44 students per class.

When talking about Singapore's general education system, the following key points should be noted. Singapore's general education system consists of three phases. The country is administratively divided into 4 educational regions and 7 school clusters have been established in each region.

Each cluster has an average of 12-14 primary and secondary schools [5]. According to the results of the international PIRLS study

(An international study that measures the level of reading and comprehension of a text.) Singapore's literacy rate is one of the highest in the world.

Students in Singapore schools have been studying mathematics since 1995 and the exact sciences show the best results in the world in the international knowledge exams on TIMSS (International Research on the Quality of Mathematics and Exact Sciences in School.). At the same time, it must be acknowledged that the role of the reforms carried out by the state since the early years of independence in the development of the Singaporean education system is unique. For many years, the Singaporean government has also implemented a number of reforms aimed at increasing the independence and flexibility of school education, developing the creative abilities of young people, creating the necessary conditions for education policy to enhance the country's socio-economic development.

Another goal of the reforms was to not only provide students with quality teaching of various sciences, but also to develop skills to prepare young people for real life, a responsible approach to work, a sense of mutual support, love for the profession, curiosity, courage and flexibility. In Singapore since June 1997

The Smart School Literate Nation program has been launched. With the help of this program, new innovative teaching methods have been introduced into school education. The result is the literacy rate of the population today 99.9% [6]. In Singapore, the enrollment process for students starts at the age of 6. In elementary school, students acquire basic knowledge in subjects such as math, ethics, music,



English, and physical education. At the end of the 6th grade school year, they are required to pass the final state exam of PSLE, which allows them to continue their education in high school. It should be noted that the PSLE exams are national exams. In these exams, students' knowledge of natural sciences, native language, English and mathematics is checked. The duration of secondary general education is 4 years. At this stage, students will be able to choose one of the majors focused on the field of engineering, accounting, or the study of state and foreign languages.

After this stage, graduates of secondary schools (3 years) are admitted to technical schools or technical institutes with a duration of study - 2 years. Students can study biotechnology and accounting engineering, communication, digital technologies at such educational institutions.

Successful graduates will be awarded a diploma that will allow them to get a job. In addition, graduates of this stage can continue their studies in higher education institutions. Information and communication technology (ICT) plays a very important role in the Singapore education system. It helps to develop innovative ideas among students, and strengthen collaboration between them. The average level of computer equipment in schools in the country is 5 computers per student. The fact that 95% of schools are connected to the Internet allows for the exchange of experiences between teachers and students. In Singapore, government funding for school education and tuition fees paid by parents are formed in the school fund. Cluster leaders regularly announce the funds and all expenditures to the school fund through the media.

In Singapore, there is an active partnership with parents of students as well as school administration and community, and effective communication with

parents is established through a special program "Parents and School Partnership". Through this program, parents are regularly provided with information about their children's level of learning. Parents are constantly informed about important projects and programs implemented at the school. Parents are also involved in school management processes and important strategic decision-making processes. The National Institute of Education has been established in Singapore and works in the field of teacher training. The institute has three areas: professional teaching; a specialist working in the Ministry of Education; retraining programs for school administration positions will be implemented. In the country, the budget of the Ministry of Education is second only to the Ministry of Defense. (5% of GDP) The government spends about \$ 12.9 billion annually from the state budget on education. This is 18.7% of the total state budget (\$ 68.6 billion).

In conclusion, Singapore is a small city-state in Southeast Asia with a total land area of only 719.9 km². It is the second most populous country in the world after Monaco. There are almost no natural resources in this country. There is not even a source of drinking water. For this reason, Singapore has previously imported drinking water from Malaysia. Today, with the help of innovative technologies, seawater is desalinated and stored in large reservoirs. Nevertheless, the Singapore education system is recognized as one of the most powerful and effective education systems in the world. In the 70s of the last century, the state of Singapore, which was in the throes of various socio-political problems, difficult economic situation, lack of drinking water and natural resources, military conflicts, has joined the ranks of developed countries. In the early stages of development, of course, we can say that investments in education and human capital development have



played an important role in making Singapore the largest financial center in the region. Singapore's miracle has taken place as a result of the high return on investment in human capital development, and Singapore is today one of the most developed countries in Asia.

takes fourth place. The state of Singapore is one of the countries known to the world as the Asian Tigers. That's why

Given the important role of the education system in the training of personnel for the development of any country, it is important to modernize the education system in our country, study the experience of foreign countries in improving the quality of education and create a system that meets international standards.

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