

Report
Round table discussion on Well-Being
Project “Examining students’ well-being and engagement”
11th of December, 9:30 am

In December 11th, 2015 from 9:30am to 12:30pm, at Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education round table discussion was organized in the framework of a collaborative research project between colleagues from Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education and Cambridge University, Faculty of Education, which is funded by the Newton Al-Farabi Institutional Links Programme. This event provided an opportunity to share and reflect on the different initiatives and approaches used to enhance students’ wellbeing and engagement in Kazakhstan.

The research team convened a diverse set of Roundtable participants drawn from the key stakeholders. We have invited 12 experts from various organizations, half of them could attend. Generally, the participants expressed significant interest to meet one another since they work in similar topics. The members of the Roundtable included persons drawn from UNICEF- *Zhanar Sagimbayeva*-Monitoring and Evaluation Officer; Eurasian National University-*Aikumis Omarbekova* - Associate Professor at, psychologists; Department of Education Astana- *Sadvokasova Ayman Altievna*- supervisor of psychological help services from; Family Center- *Ainur Oralbekovna*- Psychologists at, provides training for school psychologists; pilot Russian school # 75- *Ualikhanova Aigerim Botanbekovna*- School psychologists; pilot Kazakh school # 73- *Almas Meiramkhanovich* - Vice principal for upbringing. The list of participants from Nazarbayev University: Daniel Torrano, Carole Faucher, Anna CohenMiller, Kairat Kurakbayev. Also Assel Kambatyrova, Xeniya Tursunbayeva, Moldir Kamzina, Assel Batyrova were involved in the round table. Roundtable members were asked to participate as knowledgeable individuals, rather than as representatives of their organizations, and to maintain confidentiality of their deliberations to promote open and candid exchange.

The meeting brought together experts, representatives from different organizations related to the well-being term. Roundtable began its work from welcoming and introductory words. Then each participant had time for presentation. Finally two main points were discussed:

- 1) What are the main indicators of wellbeing of secondary school students in Kazakhstan?
- 2) Which problem(s) related to wellbeing and engagement of secondary school students in Kazakhstan deserve the greatest attention at this moment?

More detailed agenda is presented in the table below:

The 1 st Roundtable of Wellbeing and Engagement for School Children in Kazakhstan	
Date and time	Friday, December 11, 2015 9:30am-12:30pm
Location	Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education 53 Kabanbay Batyr, Block 3, Rm 3302, Astana, 010000
Agenda	
9:30 – 9:45	Welcoming words -Aida Sagintayeva, Chief Executive Director, Nazarbayev University

9:45-10:00	Graduate School of Education -Loretta O'Donnell, Vice-Provost, Nazarbayev University Introduction of the project "School Student WellBeing and Engagement in Kazakhstan" Daniel Torrano (NUGSE) Carole Faucher (NUGSE) Kairat Kurakbayev (NUGSE) Anna CohenMiller (NUGSE)
10:00 – 10:45	Presentation by each participant on the role or/and contribution of her/his institution or organization in issues pertaining to wellbeing and school engagement of secondary school students
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:20	Discussion: 1) What are the main indicators of wellbeing of secondary school students in Kazakhstan? 2) Which problem(s) related to wellbeing and engagement of secondary school students in Kazakhstan deserve the greatest attention at this moment?
12:20-12:30	Concluding remarks

Roundtable participants' shared commitment to topic that has led to the following consensus recommendations. Based on the agenda experts discussed recommendations for the project. One of the suggestions was to include parental involvement in school students' well-being as the role of the family and the issue of wellbeing is close related topics. The next point of discussion was suicide as a national priority; unfortunately experts feel shortage of trainings and knowledge to react to this problem. Meeting concludes with a series of recommendations for further collaboration with participants. One of the recommendation is creating a community in the area of well-being, for instance creating data base and instrument web portal and establishing national psychological association or coordination center; and for building a more cohesive field of research and practice (developing ethical guidelines for educational research; organize training for parents). The meeting identifies knowledge needs for school psychologists.

Overall, the round table discussion demonstrated valuable role of the Project "Examining students' well-being and engagement", as the research aims to examine the psychological and educational wellbeing of school children in Kazakhstan in order to improve retention, outcomes and psychological health. The Roundtable's recommendations seek to balance work of international experts and locals in order to build collaboration. As a result, round table provided a platform for strengthening relationships between key stakeholders.

Annex - Images.