



BILIMKANA: CULTIVATING GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE STUDENTS FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



I. Facts about The Kyrgyz Republic:

- **Geography:** A landlocked country in Central Asia bordered by China, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- **History:** A former Soviet Union country, independent since 1991.
- **Current population:** 6.2 million people.
- **Exports:** Gold and electricity
- **GDP per capita:** 1,000 USD
- **Poverty rate:** 31.7% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- **Political situation:** Two revolutions since 2005.

II. Problems in Education:

- Outdated Soviet curriculum and approach to teaching
- Outdated educational facilities
- Low-qualified teachers and low teacher salaries
- Bribery and corruption throughout the education system

Outcome: very few globally-competitive students. For example, according to the 2006 and 2009 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) results, Kyrgyzstan placed last among 65 countries.



III. Bilimkana Foundation:

The mission of Bilimkana is the formation of a new generation of young people for the development of the Kyrgyz Republic in the age of globalization. The foundation was founded in 2011. Currently, Bilimkana runs 13 schools with 4000 students throughout the country. Its goal is to expand its network to 35 schools by 2030.

Bilimkana strives to cultivate **locally-rooted global citizens** by promoting the following characteristics and skills among its students:

- open-mindedness
- critical thinking
- interest in culture and art
- sociability and collaborativeness
- respect for their motherland and understanding of their national identity
- ability to express their own opinion and respect someone else's perspective
- ability to speak at least three languages

IV. Challenges:

- Lack of qualified teachers
- Limited financial resources

V. Solutions to these challenges:

- Open departments, in cooperation with local and international universities, that teach modern pedagogical techniques
- Co-payment from parents
- Investments from banks and private individuals

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