

User Interview 2

1. Do you have children who attend or will attend to a primary school?

Yes. My daughter is in second grade and my son is going to primary school next year.

2. Do you think it is important to choose a school for primary school education level?

Of course, it is very important. I think primary school is one of the most important stages for a student's school life. The experiences in primary school form the most important foundations for the upcoming education stages.

3. Which criteria do you give importance to when choosing a primary school for your children?

In my opinion, the most important factors in the development of children at primary school level are teacher quality and school environment. In addition to these, the quality of the students at the school (the family environment in which the students are raised and the level of family education).

What about the neighborhood?

It's really good that you mentioned about this. The neighborhood where the primary school is located and those who live here are very important. Especially the neighborhood where primary schools are located must be safe. From what I've observed, good schools are usually in good neighborhoods. In neighborhoods where people with a high level of education live.

4. How did you choose the primary school your children go to? What were the difficulties you had in choosing a primary school? Can you tell me about your experience on this subject?

We really had trouble when choosing a primary school for our daughter. First of all, we consulted with three of my friends who have children at primary school level. After some research, we found a school with very good teachers and school quality. It was a well-known private school, but we could not enroll due to the limited number of students. What made this school attractive to us was that the education curriculum was prepared not by the ministry but by the school itself. Later, we found another school with a similar quality, but we didn't decide to enroll in this school because the number of students per teacher was too high. Demand was high because it was a good school. Finally, we found a school that is close to the house where we live with the lowest number of students per teacher, and we registered here.

5. Do you have an idea about the organizations that rank universities around the world and the parameters that these organizations take as a basis for university ranking?

I know about university rankings. But I don't have much information about the private organizations that make the rankings. In my opinion, the quality of the faculty members in these schools, the articles published by these faculty members, achievements in international competitions, the quality of the course curriculum, budgets and donations, the number of professors and the number of assistants to these professors are important factors in the ranking of schools at the university level.

6. If there were an organization that offers such a ranking criterion throughout the country for the primary school level, would this ranking be important for you in choosing a primary school?

Of course, I would take these rankings into consideration to give an idea, but what is important to me is the logic behind this ranking criterion. According to which factors were the rankings made and how were the weights calculated in these rankings? The answer to this question is very important to me.

Could you elaborate on this a little more?

Let's say the criteria used in the ranking are the student-per-teacher ratio, the exam scores in the past years, the ethnic origin of the students and the student gender distribution. At this point, the ranking algorithm should not give equal weight to these criteria. For me, the gender distribution of students is not a ranking criterion.

7. What kind of criteria should be included in the ranking of primary schools?

As I mentioned above, the most important criterion to be used in the ranking of a primary schools is the number of students per teacher. A primary school teacher should be able to devote enough time to all his/her students. This is very important for children in this age group. The second criterion is school cleanliness (toilets and public areas). Because children touch everywhere, cleaning is a very sensitive issue for schools. A third factor is security at school. Especially considering the age of primary school students, the security personnel at the school should be in sufficient number.

8. Although it is not as comprehensive as the university ranking, are you aware of the current organizations that rank primary schools? If yes did the rankings in this organizations give you an idea when choosing a primary school?

I had no idea about this subject. Only thing I know there are some school rankings available for certain districts in king counties. Maybe I could take it into consideration to give an idea. But how these data are prepared and how they are obtained is very important. I guess I wouldn't have decided by looking at these data only.

9. What kind of functionalities should primary school ranking organizations offer?

Like I said I know there are some school rankings available for certain districts in king counties. It would be great if this data could be viewed through an application. especially being able to display them on the map. It would be nice to be able to compare schools and see the distances of the schools to my current location through this application.

10. Finally, is there anything you would like to add that was not covered?

No.