



# Volume 7, Issue 1

## Summer 2024

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## Dear NUGSERiE community,

Welcome to the Summer Issue of our Education Journal, a dedicated platform for supporting emerging scholars in Kazakhstan. In this edition, we focus on narration, reflection, and storytelling, offering an array of insights into personal and academic experiences.

Our first article, authored by Anzhela Aitbayeva, examines the perceptions of stigma among parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Astana. Utilizing a qualitative approach, this study reveals the ongoing challenges related to acceptance, inclusion, and support within educational institutions and the broader community. Aitbayeva underscores the lingering exclusionary practices reminiscent of the Soviet era, wherein disabilities were primarily perceived through a medical lens. Her research sheds light on the profound struggles faced by parents and their narratives of fear, adversity, and the barriers they confront. The stigma surrounding parents of children with SEN merits further exploration, particularly in relation to how these issues were addressed during the Kazakh Khanate, where communal Islamic support may have lessened stigma.

Lydia Bemah and Gullala Jumamuratova present a compelling autoethnographic papers on international student experiences in Kazakhstan. Their study and critical reflection offer a profound narrative of personal and academic adaptation in a foreign milieu, highlighting the unique challenges and cultural interactions that international students encounter as they navigate their educational journeys.

This issue also features valuable insights into the process of writing a master's thesis, shared by Zhanerke Kamilat and Malike Zharmukhambetova. They illuminate the academic challenges and perseverance that characterized their journeys. Additionally, Gulnara Alexandrova reflects on the management of educational organizations, providing further insights into the learning experiences of graduate students. These reflections offer guidance and encouragement to fellow scholars navigating similar challenges.

We hope that the articles in this issue provide a reflective space for readers to engage with these diverse narratives. As we look ahead to future contributions, we invite emerging scholars to share their stories and research, fostering a rich, inclusive academic community in Kazakhstan.

Thank you to all our contributors, reviewers, and readers for making this issue possible. We encourage you to dive into these narratives, share them widely, and consider submitting your own work for upcoming issues. Together, let's continue to support one another in our shared pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

**Zhadyra Makhmetova**

**Chief Editor**