

Attitude towards Bilingual Education at Primary Level – An Experiential Survey among Parents

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Bilingual Education and CLIL

Differences in terminology

Bilingual education

vs.

CLIL

→ education system

→ educational concept

Bilingual Education on Primary Level in Hungary

State schools

- Theresian Hungarian–English, Hungarian–German Bilingual Primary School
Budapest, 01.09.1990
- Budapest: 17 primary schools
- Outside of Budapest: 28 primary schools
 - Miskolc: 4
 - Székesfehérvár: 2

Church schools

- Roman catholic: 2
- Calvinistic: 5
- Others: 7
 - Lutheran (2), Greek catholic (2), Baptiste (2), Christian (1, Budapest)

Regulations of Bilingual Education in Hungary

- At least 3 subjects
- Available subjects:
 - 1-2. grade: P. E., Art, Music
 - 3-4. grade: P. E., Art, Science
 - 5-6. grade: P. E., History, Math, Science (Complex, Geography, Biology), IT, Civilization
 - 7-8. grade: P. E., History, Math, Science (Geography, Biology, Chemistry), IT, Civilization
- Regular language tests

	4. grade	6. grade	8. grade
Level (CER)	A1	A2	B1

- Language exam

Effects and Benefits of Bilingual Education

- Literature vs. public opinion
- Effects and benefits
 - Selective attention (executive functions of the brain)
 - focusing on relevant task information, screening out irrelevant information
 - Ability to manage 2 languages
 - persists into adulthood (F. Genesee, 2009)
- Promotes linguistic competence
- Stimulates cognitive flexibility
- Enriches the understanding of concepts
- Broadens conceptual mapping resources (Coyle et al. 2010)
- Attention
- Reading
- School performance (A. Kamenetz 2016)

Questionnaire-based Survey on the Parents' Attitude

1. Which class is your child in?
2. What is your level of education?
3. Why did you chose a bilingual school for your child?
4. Why do you think your child will be more successful studying in a bilingual school?
5. Do you expect any improvments in different skills? If so, which?
6. Do you plan for your child to continue their studies in a bilingual high school?
7. What is the reason behind your decision?

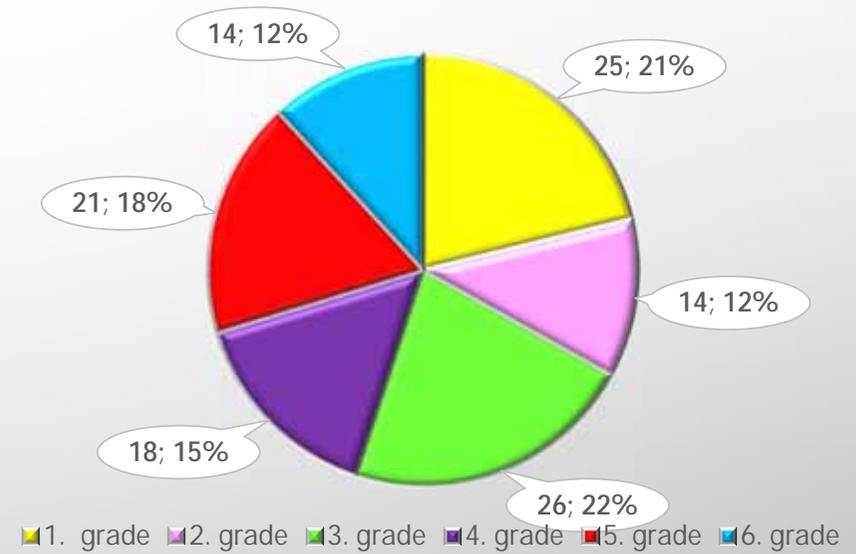


Questions of the research

- Is this form of education in Kaposvár only for privileged children?
 - Is there any pattern in parents' decision for choosing bilingual education for their children?
 - Is there any pattern in parents' opinion about the advantage of bilingual education?
 - Do the parents plan to continue bilingual education for their children?
- 

1. Question: Participants

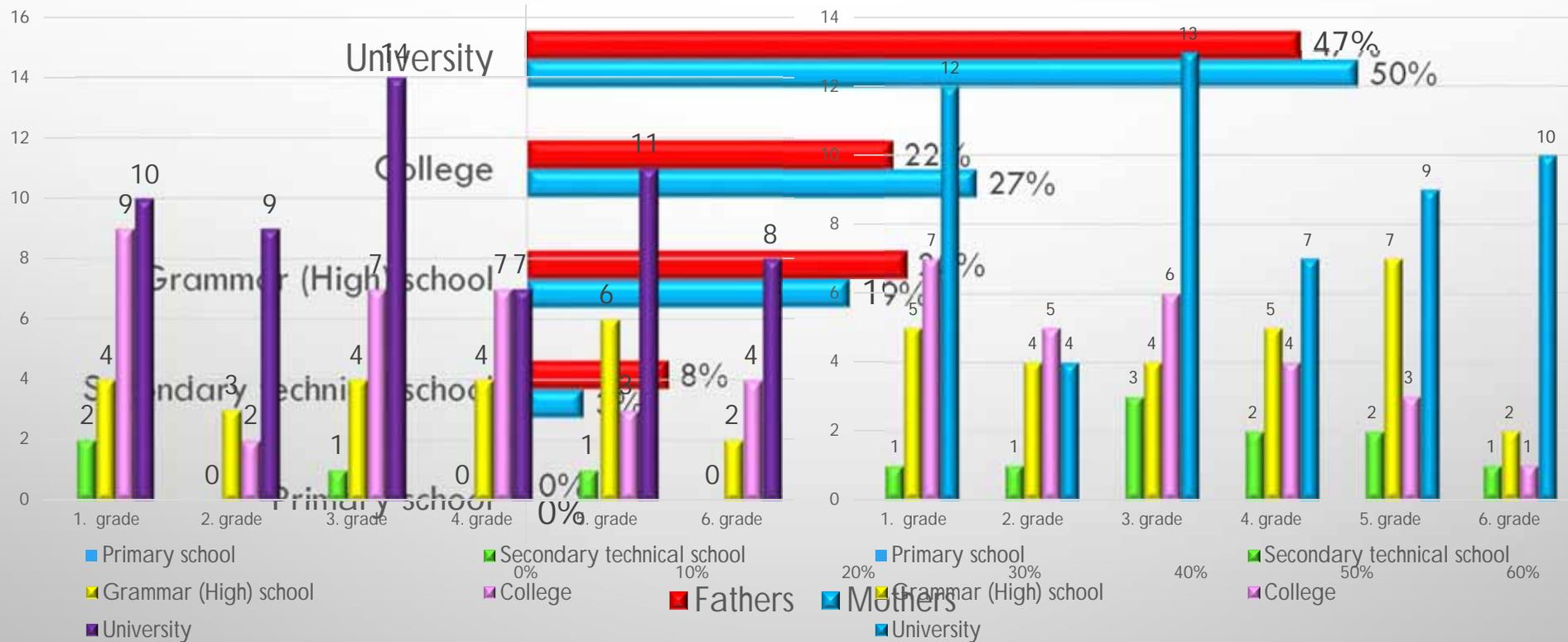
118 parents in 6 grades



2. Question: Level of Education of Parents

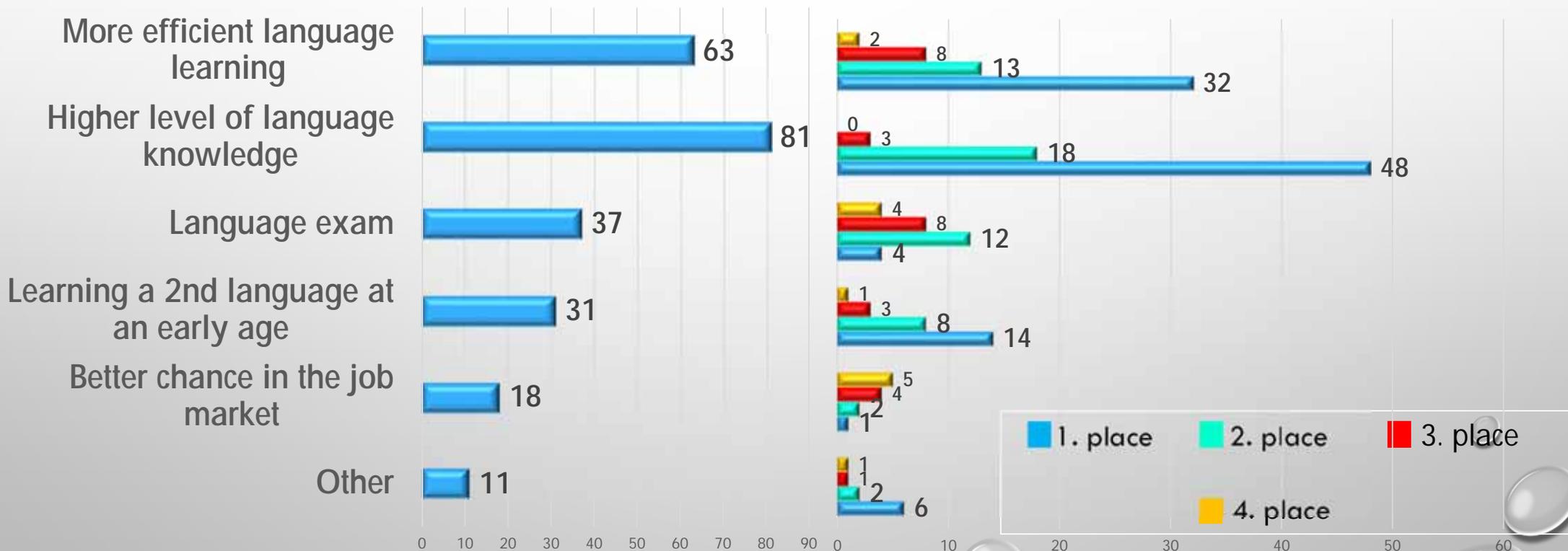
Level of Education of Mothers

Level of Education of Fathers



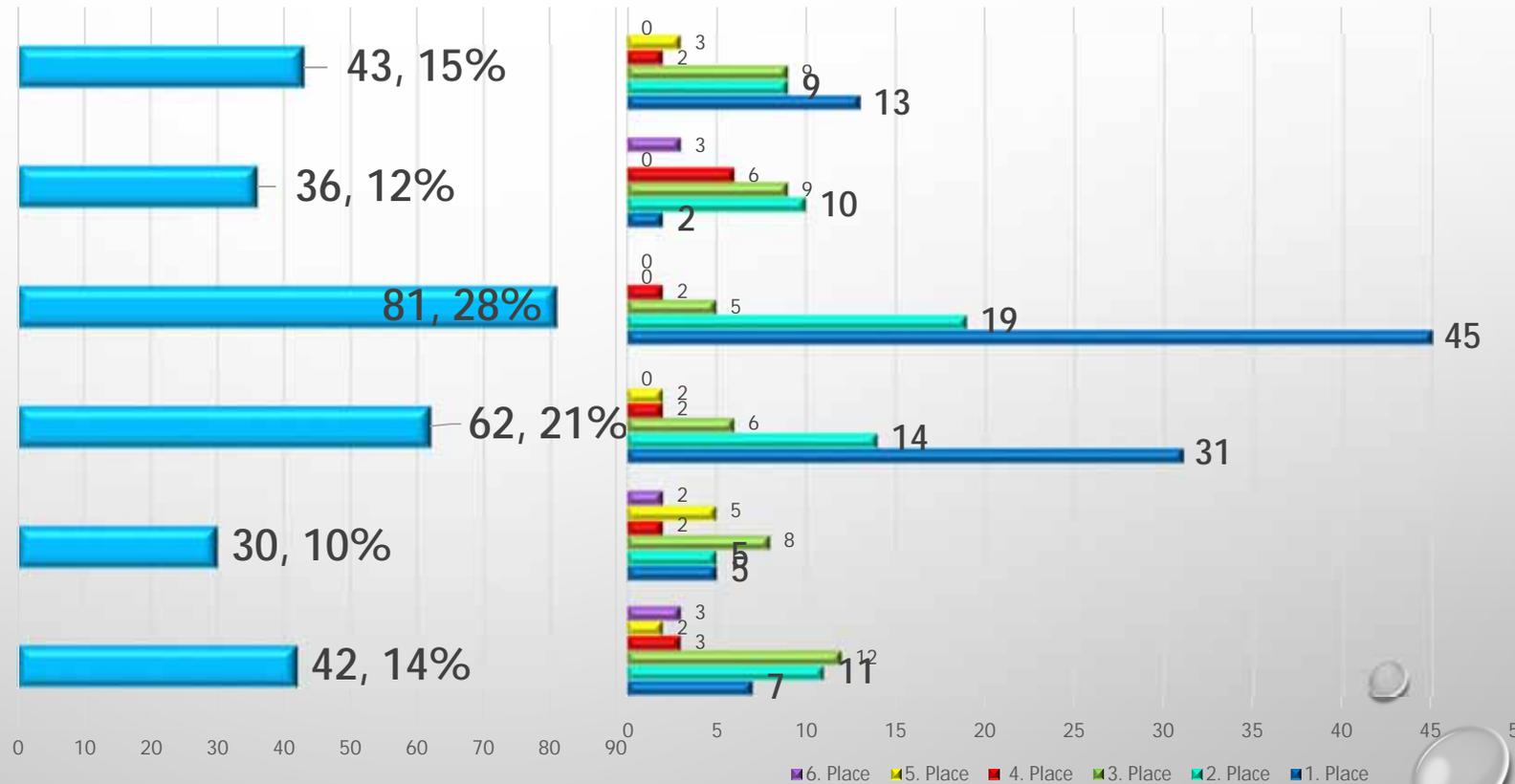
3. Question: Reasons for Choosing a Bilingual School

n=241



4. Question: Benefits of Bilingual Education

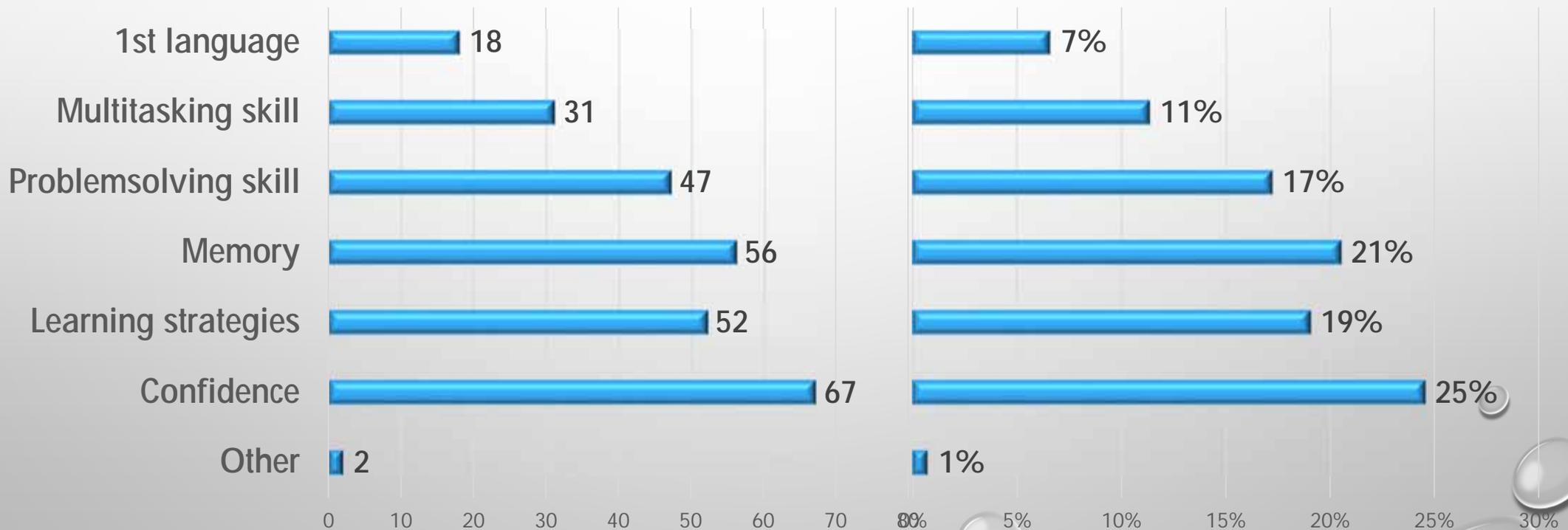
- Provides a base for further language learning
- Makes studying further foreign languages easier
- Confidence in using foreign language
- Improves communication skill in both 1st and 2nd languages
- Better chances in career and salary
- More opportunities in life



n= 294

5. Question: Expectation of Improvement in Other Skills

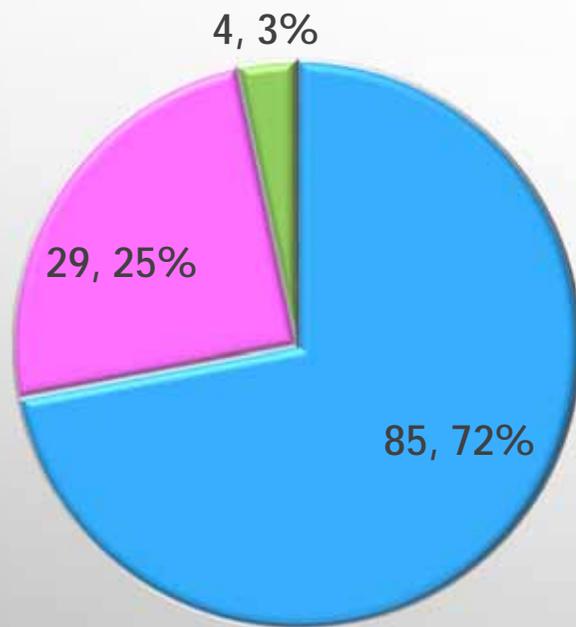
n=273



Expectation of Improvement in Different Skills



6. Question: Further Studies



■ Yes ■ No ■ No answer



■ Yes ■ No ■ No answer

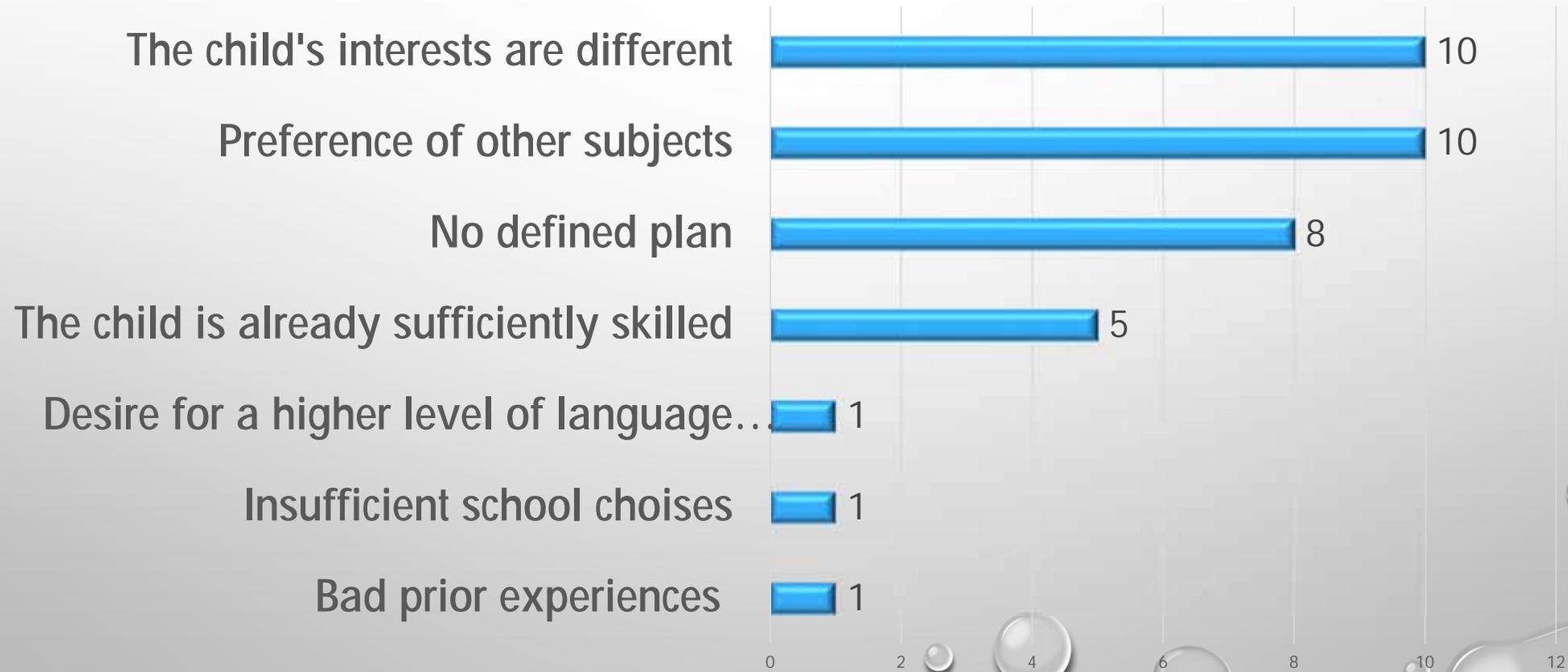
7. Question: Explanations

YES: 85 ANSWERS



7. Question: Explanations

NO: 36 ANSWERS



Reading between the lines

Explanations of the most involved parents



Reading between the lines

Parents with no further plans



Conclusion – Facts behind the survey

- Bilingual education is the popular school system for privileged families
 - 68% of fathers and 77% of mothers have a college or university diploma
- Parents' choice for school was determined by confidence and communication skill
- Parents expect improvement of others skill such as
 - Confidence
 - Memory
 - Learning strategies
- Parents plan for their children to continue their studies in a bilingual school (72%)
- Parents stress the factor of higher level of language knowledge in their decision

Thank you for your attention!

