

OPINION

regarding a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program Theory of education and didactics

Prepared the opinion : Assoc. Prof. Snezhana Atanasova Popova, Ph.D.
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Author:

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Subject:

The student team in project-based learning

Supervisor:

Assoc. Dr. Albena Alexandrova Ovcharova - Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

1. General presentation of the procedure and the Ph.D. student

By order No. PD-21-131 of January 22, 2024. of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic "The student team in project-based learning" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program: "Theory of education and didactics".

The author of the dissertation is Nikolina Georgieva Tureva - a full-time Ph.D. student at the Department of "Pedagogy and Education Management", supervised by Assoc. Prof. Albena Alexandrova Ovcharova, Ph.D. from Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The Ph.D. student has submitted the necessary documents related to the procedure for the defense of the dissertation work. Attached are:

- dissertation work on the topic: "The student team in project-based learning", which consists of 246 pages, of which 205 pages are the main text, 16 pages of bibliography (including 21 primary sources, 191 literary sources, of which 79 are in Cyrillic and 112 in Latin and 11 Internet resources) and 25 pages of appendices;

- abstract of a dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor";

- European CV format.

The candidate for the educational and scientific degree "doctor" Nikolina Georgieva Tureva was born on 14.10.1968. In 1989, he graduated from the "Elementary School Pedagogy" major at IDNU "Hristo Botev", Burgas, and in 1992 he graduated from the same major at the VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius".

From September 1, 1999, he currently works as a primary teacher at "Aleko Konstantinov" Primary School, Plovdiv. Nikolina Tureva received the 2nd Professional qualification degree at the Thrace University - DIPKU in 2019.

Nikolina Tureva's career development as a primary teacher impresses with her aspiration to continuously increase her professional competence and helps her to be adequately oriented in a problem area significant for the improvement of pedagogical theory and practice.

2. Relevance of the topic

The dissertation is focused on researching a current and significant problem. The relevance is determined by the fact that the issue of the possibilities of project-based learning to stimulate and promote the development of teamwork skills, social competence and empathy of students in the initial stage of education is insufficiently studied in Bulgarian pedagogical theory.

The rich professional experience of Nikolina Tureva as a primary teacher helps to confirm her personal motivation and the direction of her scientific and research searches in the targeted issues and the achievement of the relevant results.

The significance of the development is related to the fact that the problems of developing alternative approaches to achieve efficiency in the implementation of the learning process and focusing on modern educational practices aimed at overcoming formal education and stimulating children's imagination and interest have not yet found their adequate solution, despite the various initiatives and activities in this direction. It is for this reason that the presented dissertation research represents a contribution to pedagogical theory and practice, as it offers for discussion key components determining the effective implementation of the learning process.

The topic is dissertable and presents a unique view on the question of the relationship between the use of project-based learning, the development of teamwork skills and the promotion of the formation of social competence of students in the initial stage of education.

3. Knowing the problem

The candidate for the educational and scientific degree "doctor" Nikolina Tureva demonstrates excellent knowledge of the specific practical dimensions of the state of the problem in modern Bulgarian society and a high degree of scientific awareness of the way in which the problem in question has been developed in the scientific literature. The dissertation contains both traditional concepts and a number of innovative ideas. There is a rich analysis of author's approaches and theoretical positions.

The personal position of Ph.D. student Nikolina Tureva and her ability to creatively interpret significant scientific and applied issues related to the specific topic of the dissertation make an extremely good impression.

4. Research methodology

The dissertation has a clear paradigmatic determination. The main parameters of the research (subject, goal, tasks, hypotheses) are formulated precisely and testify to a high level of research competence of the doctoral student and a strong personal attitude to the issue under consideration.

The used research methodology corresponds to the set research tasks.

5. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and contributions

The dissertation submitted for review is structured in three chapters and the corresponding paragraphs and sub-paragraphs to them. The dissertation work also contains introduction, conclusions, conclusion, list of used literature and appendices. The total volume of the dissertation is 246 pages, of which 205 pages are the main text, 16 pages of bibliography (including 21 primary sources, 191 literary sources, of

which 79 in Cyrillic and 112 in Latin and 11 Internet resources) and 25 pages of appendices.

The structure of the dissertation work is logically related to the topic and makes it possible to more significantly highlight the scientific and scientific-applied aspects of the research. The structure of the dissertation thus used contributes to the consistent and scientifically based interpretation of the problem of clarifying the role of project-based learning in stimulating the development of teamwork skills of students in the initial stage of education. .

In the introduction, the Ph.D. student skillfully substantiates the topicality of the topic and emphasizes that the main goal of the dissertation research is aimed at researching and analyzing empirically obtained results on the influence of project-based learning on the specifics of the student team in the initial stage of education.

The introduction successfully fulfills its purpose - to prove that the chosen topic deserves the specific research focus, to outline the main unresolved aspects of the problem, as well as to establish the starting points for conducting the empirical study.

The first chapter of the dissertation presents the theoretical formulation of the problem for the student team in project-based learning. Quite rightly, in accordance with the topic of the dissertation, Nikolina Tureva has devoted considerable space to clarifying the nature and specificity of project-based learning and the characteristic features of the student team.

The second chapter of the dissertation is devoted to the design of the empirical study. The purpose, tasks and hypotheses of the research are clearly formulated. Appropriate methods have been selected to objectify the relevant scientific information and data.

In the third chapter of the dissertation, a thorough and scientifically based analysis of the results of the empirical research is made. The results of the empirical research are presented very precisely and correctly by the Ph.D. student. The scientific analysis of the obtained empirical data is highly professional and reflects the main components of the researched problem. The conclusions and generalizations made are relevant to the proposed analyses. The specific theoretical aspects of the research and practical conclusions give completeness and completeness to the research, which has a theoretical-applied character.

In general, in terms of content, the individual aspects of the dissertation topic have been developed by the author competently, thoroughly and in detail. The analysis of the existing scientific literature on the subject is of a high level and is followed by the strong author position of the PhD student. In the development of the dissertation, Nikolina Tureva demonstrates scientific competence and conscientiousness, thoroughness and precision, criticality, practical sense and compliance with new trends in pedagogical theory and practice.

In summary, I would like to emphasize that the research process was carried out in its entirety, which is particularly convincing in the achieved unity - between the set tasks and the structure of the dissertation work; between the formulated criteria for evaluating the results and the consistency in the description and analysis of the processed empirical data; between the formulated hypotheses and the specificity of the conducted empirical study.

The contributions of the dissertation are of a scientific and applied nature:

- A comprehensive study of the historical and contemporary scientific and practical-applied theories related to the student team in project-based learning was made;

- A diagnostic tool designed for children of primary school age was designed and implemented, which aims to establish the levels of indicators of social competence for teamwork: cooperation, activity, initiative, responsibility;
- An original empirical study was conducted on the possibilities of project-based learning to influence the development of teamwork skills and empathy levels of elementary school students, as well as class cohesion;
- Recommendations for working with the student team in a project-based environment at the initial stage of education are proposed.

6. Evaluation of the publications and personal contribution of the Ph.D. student

On the topic of the dissertation, Nikolina Tureva presents 5 independent publications, published in 2021 and 2022. The topic of the scientific developments is related to the dissertation work.

7. Abstract

The abstract fully and accurately reflects the content, main results and scientific contributions of the dissertation work.

8. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results

I strongly recommend the author to offer the dissertation work for printing, so that the results of the serious scientific research activity carried out can become known to a wide range of specialists.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisiy Hilendarski". The presented materials and dissertation results fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of ZRASRB.

The dissertation shows that the Ph.D. student Nikolina Georgieva Tareva possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty Theory of education and didactics, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed dissertation work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Nikolina Georgieva Tureva in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program Theory of education and didactics.

22.02.2024

Prepared the opinion:
(Assoc. Prof. Snezhana Popova, Ph.D.)