

PLOVDIV UNIVERSITY "PAISII HILENDARSKI"

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

REVIEW

by Prof. Mayiana Milcheva Mitevska

Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "PhD"

in: field of higher education 3. DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND
LEGAL SCIENCES

professional field 3.2. PSYCHOLOGY

Doctoral Programme in Educational and Adult Psychology

Author: TANYA STEFANOVA ILIEVA

Subject: 'Strengths development in childhood and adolescence'

Scientific supervisor:

PROF. DR. K. T. TAGAREVA, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

1. General description of the submitted materials

By the order № ПД-21-10 from 14.06.2022 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for providing a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic "Development of strengths in childhood and adolescence" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL SCIENCES, PROFESSIONAL FIELD 3.2. The author of the dissertation work is TANYA STEFANOVA ILIEVA - PhD student in full-time study at the DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY with scientific supervisor PHD. DR. KIRILKA SIMEONOVA TAGAREVA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PLOVDIV "PAISII HILENDARSKI".

The set of paper materials submitted by TANYA STEFANOVA ILIEVA is in accordance with Article 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU and includes the following documents:

- Application to the Rector of PU for the disclosure of the procedure for the defense of a dissertation;
- CV in European format;
- protocol of the departmental council related to reporting the readiness for the opening of the procedure and the preliminary discussion of the dissertation;
- dissertation;
- abstract;
- list of scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation;
- copies of the scientific publications;
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;

The doctoral candidate has attached 7 publications.

2. Short biographical data about the PhD student

Tanya Ilieva has many years of experience as a lecturer in a number of national and international programs, teacher in the disciplines of Research Methods in Positive Psychology, Human Behavior, General Psychology at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", school psychologist. The acquired knowledge and skills as a Master Engineer in Computer Engineering, Master in Public Administration, Master in Positive Psychology Tanya Ilieva applied in her expert activity initially as an evaluator in the Expert Committee for Project Evaluation and later as a manager of international projects including Erasmus + Project in Support of People with Disabilities, Interreg V-A Programme, Human Resources Development Operational Programme. The problem of using different strategies for effective interaction with school, family and other institutions is one of the main problems in Tanya Ilieva's project work. The doctoral student's interest in researching and supporting the mental development and health of children and adolescents logically grew into the development of her dissertation on "Strengths Development in Childhood and Adolescence".

3. Relevancy of the topic and appropriateness of the objectives and tasks

The problem investigated in this dissertation, strengths development in the context of child and adolescent psychology, is extremely relevant to society. Its actuality stems from the fact of the growing number of measurement instruments and projects on the topic, fruit of partnerships in the educational system and human resource development. It is obvious that this partnership is "bearing fruit", but it is also becoming apparent that, due to imperfections in the regulatory framework or for possible other reasons, there is a need to deepen research on the issue and find effective ways of applying it. From this point of view, the emergence and realisation of a dissertation in this field deserves support, insofar as the efforts of its author are aimed at supporting the process described above, and the results could optimise it to a high degree at the present time.

4. Knowledge of the problem

Going into the content of the dissertation, it is clear that the PhD student has an excellent knowledge of the state of the developed problem. Her in-depth and critical assessment of the state of the processes accompanying the personal growth and development of strengths at the specific age, as well as the obstacles appearing in its realisation, creates an excellent impression.

Tanya Ilieva has applied a methodology and has developed a methodology adequate to the problems studied and to the hypotheses put forward. An experiment has also been applied. A set of approaches and analytical tools for evaluation, analysis and forecasting have been used.

5. Methodology of the study

The chosen research methodology allows to achieve the set goal of the dissertation and to obtain adequate answers to the questions and tasks, it is relevant to the object of the study and the hypotheses. The research design includes a survey to diagnose character strengths among children and adolescents aged 11-17 in Bulgaria and character strengths development through a formative quasi-experiment.

6. Characteristics and evaluation of the thesis

Tanya Ilieva has developed her reflections in an introduction, three chapters, each with specific conclusions, and a conclusion. The comprehensive content of her dissertation has enabled her not only to cover the issues in the widest possible degree of their manifestation, but also in their depth. This has led to the extraction of latent factors that hinder, respectively, alleviate the analyzed processes. The chapters of the dissertation have a relatively complete character, the transitions between them are smooth and logically assumed. The conclusions at the end make sense of the doctoral student's efforts and form a sense of completeness and of the existence of conditions enabling the solution of the problem set out in the aim of the research.

The conclusion is a kind of quintessence of the author's reflections in the whole dissertation - it gives it a complete form and in a synthesized version the key points in it are highlighted, again tracing the creative path of the analysis.

The analysis of more than 200 sources, the vast majority of them from the last decade, proves that the doctoral candidate is familiar with the current state of the problem under study, as well as the latest trends in scholarly efforts to explain it, and in the search for mechanisms to overcome it. Thus, the dissertation research is very well situated in the scientific context of the research of our and foreign authors.

7. Contributions and Significance of the Development for Science and Practice

The contributions of Tanya Ilieva's dissertation can be broadly characterised as:

- Revealing and proving new essential aspects and characteristics of current and significant for developmental psychology practices and their application in school environment;
- formulating new ideas and approaches;

- obtaining new knowledge on the scientific problems treated.

The scientific contributions of Tanya Ilieva's dissertation are in the professional field of Psychology. They are obtained as a result of summarizing the research conducted by the doctoral candidate and can be found in the scientific publications submitted for review. Important contributions to the understanding of the nature and content of psychology have been made. They can be formulated as follows:

1. A scientific problem in the field of child and adolescent development is formulated and justified.
2. New knowledge and significant generalisations about child-adolescent strengths development have been obtained.
3. Some aspects of health and psychological regulation of behavior in the school environment have been studied.
4. New knowledge and analysis of the self-image-mental well-being relationship have been obtained.
5. A programme of practical remedial classes for children with problem behaviour has been developed.

8. Assessment of publications on the thesis

Of the publications listed for review, one part is co-authored, but the specific style of presentation and the specific scientific interests of the candidate make it possible to highlight his original contribution. The articles have been published in refereed scientific journals. The results achieved in the dissertation have found application in the secondary education system and have been used in projects. The PhD student's scientific production is characterized by methodological soundness and precision. The manner of development and presentation of results, style, language and external form meet the requirements and standards for academic scientific publications.

These works have not been submitted to other competitions for the award of scientific degrees and academic positions and have not been peer-reviewed so far.

9. Personal participation of the PhD student(s)

The doctoral student's participation in the dissertation research, the formulated contributions and the obtained results are fully her personal merit.

10. Abstract

The submitted abstract complies with the requirements and reflects the main theses, conclusions and scientific achievements of the dissertation.

11. Critical comments and recommendations

I have no significant comments regarding the candidate's scientific and publication activity, as well as the stated contributions.

12. Personal impressions

The overall acquaintance with the teaching and scientific-applied activity of Tanya Ilieva gives grounds to make the following conclusions about her qualities, namely:

- Organizes and effectively carries out its assigned teaching and project activities.
- Successfully implements scientific and applied research in the field of child and adolescent psychology.

13. Recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results

It is clear that the wider research field feeds into the PhD student's performances as a scholar and I recommend that she maintains and improves her expertise in this regard.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, research and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LADASB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LADASB and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University.

The dissertation work shows that the PhD student Tanya Stefanova Ilieva possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty "Psychology", demonstrating qualities and skills for independent scientific research.

Due to the reasons stated above, I confidently give my positive evaluation for the conducted research, presented by the above reviewed dissertation, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Tanya Stefanova Ilieva in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology, doctoral programme PEDAGOGICAL AND AGE PSYCHOLOGY

23.08. 2022

Reviewer:

(signature)

Prof. Dr. Mayiana Mitevska