

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, PhD, D.Sc., South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad
of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**"

in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

professional direction 3.2. Psychology

doctoral program Pedagogical and age psychology.

Author : Lazar Stefanov Atmadzhov

Topic : "Risk behavior in adolescence"

Research supervisor : Assoc. Prof. Irena Levkova, Ph.D., Paisii Hilendarski University of
Plovdiv

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

The set of paper materials presented by Lazar Atmadzhov is in accordance with Art. 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv and includes a dissertation, abstract, resume, etc. The procedure is legal.

2. Relevance of the topic

With good reason, the period of adolescence is seen as crucial for mental development. In this period, as the doctoral student well notes, adolescents demonstrate different forms of behavior – from adaptive, healthy and assertive to deficient and unhealthy behavior. One of the main factors that can have an adverse influence on the experiences and formation of problem behavior is the family. This is what the dissertation is dedicated to. In an indisputable way, Lazar Atmadzhov proves that the disintegration of the family for various reasons can reverse the natural course of maturation and adolescents can assume parental functions, which in turn is a prerequisite for compensatory forms of behavior, which are studied and analyzed in the present work.

All this gives me reason to evaluate the topic of the dissertation work as current, meaningful and significant for psychological science and practice. Moreover, such research has not been carried out in our country so far.

3. Knowing the problem

Lazar Atmadzhov demonstrates excellent knowledge of the subject of the scientific work and shows high competences in its development. The subject of the research is interdisciplinary and connects several psychological sciences, including - developmental psychology. The author was able to show how unhealthy parental relationships before and after separation can change the normal development of adolescents and lead to maladaptive and unhealthy behavior patterns, including -

behavior deviating from social norms, which is an unconscious or conscious protest on the part of adolescents that they are forced to perform a "parental function" in relation to their parents.

4. Research methodology

The empirical research design reveals an original research approach.

The doctoral student sets several goals. In addition to clarifying the essence of parentification in the family system and clarifying the influence on adolescents, Lazar Atmadzhov sets himself the goal of creating a theoretical model through which the processes of parentification can be identified. The model can be applied as prevention for risk management in adolescents in a situation of parentification.

Adequate tools for empirical research were used, consistent with the set goals and objectives.

5. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation has a classic structure and is spread over a total volume of 234 pages. In the first chapter, the aspects of attachment in the period of adolescence are presented. The phenomenology of risky behavior and its specific forms among adolescents is outlined. An important emphasis of the paper is the consideration of explanatory models for the genesis of risk behavior through different theoretical perspectives. Linked to parentification. Risk factors that are predictors of risky behavior are well understood.

6 hypotheses have been raised that are relevant to the goal and the set tasks.

The relevant statistical procedures were correctly applied in the analysis of the empirical data. Based on these, an in-depth qualitative interpretation and discussion of the results was made.

The conclusion and summary are correct regarding the results.

Contributions:

I accept the self-assessment of the contributions formulated by the PhD student. They enrich the existing knowledge and set new angles of research.

6. Evaluation of the publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student

The number of publications on the topic of the dissertation is impressive - 8. They were published in collections and scientific journals.

The dissertation is the work of the doctoral student. The work is monotonous, the contributions and the results obtained are his personal merit. No plagiarism data detected.

7. Abstract

Structurally, the abstract correctly reflects the content of the dissertation. The main theoretical statements, the design and the results of the own study are presented.

8. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results

I recommend the author to publish the present study in the form of a monograph.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation is realized at a high scientific level and meets the established requirements for a similar scientific work; the same contains original scientific and scientific-applied results.

Lazar Atmadzhov has very good psychological training and research competences.

Given the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research, and I will vote FOR the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Lazar Stefanov Atmadzhov in the field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.2. Psychology; doctoral program in Educational and Age Psychology.

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Prepared the opinion:

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