

## **OPINION**

by Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, Ph.D., D.Sc., South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad

on the dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree  
"Doctor"

in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences  
professional field 3.2. Psychology

Doctoral Programme in Educational and Age Psychology

Author: TEODORA ZAPRYANOVA PAMPULOVA

Subject: "Self-esteem, subjective well-being and flourishing in adolescents  
studying in traditional and innovative education systems"

Scientific supervisor: Associate Professor Irena Levkova, Ph.D.

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student**

The set of materials on paper presented by Teodora Pampulova is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Application and the normative base of PU P. Hilendarski", includes all the necessary documents, in t.c. abstract and publications on the subject. The procedure is legal.

### **2. Relevance of the topic**

The modern education system is faced with a number of challenges of a different nature, and one of them is related to the introduction of modern electronic technologies in education, as well as education in a virtual environment. As the PhD student notes, the Covid-pandemic has also contributed to rethinking teaching strategies and technologies.

In this regard, psychology and pedagogy face a number of questions that must be answered. The dissertation work of T. Pampulova is dedicated precisely to these important problems, which gives me reason to define the topic of the dissertation and the research approach as current and significant for psychological science and practice. I emphasize the fact that such research has not been carried out in our country.

### **3. Knowledge of the problem**

Teodora Pampulova has excellent expertise and awareness of the dissertation issues related to her work at the first Google-reference school in the Balkan Peninsula. This has allowed her to observe and research the adaptation of the educational system to technological innovation.

#### **4. Research methodology**

Psychological research methods are in line with the general concept. Statistical procedures are in line with the set objectives.

#### **5. Characteristics and evaluation of the thesis and contributions**

The dissertation has a classical structure. In the first chapter, the leading theories of the main constructs "self-esteem", "subjective well-being" and "flourishing" are competently presented. The same are placed in the field of adolescence and their specificity is outlined. The interrelation between the phenomena under consideration is emphasized.

Emphasis in the theoretical analysis is the paragraph dealing with innovative systems of learning (the "one-student-one-device" model), which creates prerequisites for continuous learning.

The comparison of traditional with innovative learning systems has made it possible to highlight the benefits and drawbacks of both approaches.

The research design reveals an original concept of the scientific work. The formulated aim and objectives are logically connected. The five hypotheses and sub-hypotheses are relevant to the concept of the work. As noted above, the three methodologies are well chosen.

The subjects were divided into the experimental and control groups.

The analysis of the study results includes psychometric process measures such as reliability, t-test, etc., which allows for subsequent interpretations. It makes a good impression that the PhD student has made a thorough statistical analysis of the methodologies, which in turn also allows for the search for relevant correlations.

The established interdependencies between the individual scales reveal interesting trends, which are presented in detail in the thesis.

A comparative analysis by methodologies is made for the experimental and counter-roles groups.

Hypothesis tests provide a clear picture of the presence of statistically significant differences, and it is noted which of these are confirmed and which are not.

The discussions, conclusions and generalizations made are correct with respect to the empirical data. The PhD student demonstrates high analytical abilities. The scientific novelty of the research is shown.

Self-assessed contributions formulated by T. Pampulova; the same have theoretical and practical dimensions and significance.

#### **6. Assessment of publications and personal contribution of the PhD student**

The presented 5 publications are directly related to the topic of the dissertation.

I have no doubt that the dissertation is the personal work of the doctoral candidate. The contributions and results obtained are her personal merit. There is no evidence of plagiarism.

#### **7. Abstract**

In terms of structure and content, the abstract correctly reflects the main points of the thesis. The main theoretical premises, the design and the results of the own study are presented.

#### **8. Recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results**

I recommend that the PhD student continue her research in this area and publish the current results.

### **CONCLUSION**

The dissertation work of Teodora Pam Pulova is realized at a very good scientific level. It contains original contributions.

The doctoral candidate possesses thorough psychological training and research competences.

In view of the above, I confidently give my positive evaluation and will vote FOR the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Teodora Zapryanova Pampulova in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Doctoral programme "Educational and Age Psychology".

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Prepared by: .....

Assoc. Prof. S. Mavrodiev, Ph.D., D.Sc.