

# OPINION

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Stoycheva Mitova**

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On the dissertation thesis for the award of the educational and scientific degree of "**Doctor**"  
in the Field of Higher Education: Pedagogical Sciences Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of  
Education in... Doctoral Program: Methodology of Teaching Technologies and  
Entrepreneurship

**Author: Diana Stankova Sevdalinova**

– Independent doctoral student at the Department of Aesthetic Education

**Topic: Formation of Work Readiness in the Teaching of Technologies and  
Entrepreneurship for Primary School Students**

**Scientific Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Marina Spasova Ivanova** – Paisii Hilendarski University  
of Plovdiv

## **1. General presentation of the procedure and the Doctor degree candidate**

By order No. RD-21-2351 of 17.12.2024, issued by the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury to conduct the defense procedure for the dissertation thesis titled "**Formation of Work Readiness in the Teaching of Technologies and Entrepreneurship for Primary School Students**" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the field of higher education Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in..., doctoral program Methodology of Teaching Technologies and Entrepreneurship.

The author of the dissertation is Diana Stankova Sevdalinova – an independent PhD student at the Department of Aesthetic Education under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Marina Spasova Ivanova – Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The set of materials presented by Diana Sevdalinova in printed form complies with Article 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the university and includes all the required documents.

## **2. Relevance of the Topic**

The topic presented for our consideration is relevant as it addresses one of the important societal issues – the formation of skills and readiness for independent life and work, the

development of social competencies, and high motivation as part of the essential life skills. The author aims to determine to what extent, through increasing the effectiveness of the educational process in household labor for primary school children, it is possible to develop initial work skills and habits, desire, and readiness for work.

### **3. Knowledge of the Problem**

The “Doctor” degree candidate demonstrates a good theoretical understanding of the role of labor education for children in both family and school environments, motivation, and the mechanism for developing initial work skills and work readiness. Emphasis is placed on the importance of personal technical and technological culture in mastering, understanding, and applying techniques and technology in daily household activities.

### **4. Research Methodology**

The research methodology includes designing and experimenting with a series of educational tasks within the subject "Technologies and Entrepreneurship" to achieve maximum work readiness among primary school children.

By applying effective techniques and methods, the study tracks changes in students' attitudes towards household labor and the development of qualities such as independence and striving for self-improvement. Through students' participation in practical and productive activities, the study identifies the development of personal skills related to everyday life.

The chosen research methodology allows for the realization of the set goals and objectives of the dissertation thesis.

### **5. Characteristics and Evaluation of the Dissertation and Its Contributions**

The presented dissertation is developed in accordance with the requirements stipulated by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and its implementation regulations.

The dissertation consists of **234 standard pages**, structured into an introduction, three chapters, conclusions, recommendations, conclusion, **four appendices**, and a bibliography. The main text is well-illustrated with **65 tables and 43 graphical representations**. The bibliography **contains a total of 53 references, 43 of which are in Cyrillic, and 10 are web-based** sources. The dissertation concludes with a summary of scientific contributions and a list of scientific publications related to the research topic.

**The introduction** provides a justification for the topic and its relevance. The content analysis of the scientific literature on the problem demonstrates the author's ability to interpret scientific information.

**The three chapters** forming the structure of the dissertation include:

- A theoretical analysis of labor and its socialization functions;
- A review and analysis of normative documents for the education of children in the subject "Technologies and Entrepreneurship";
- The design of the pedagogical research, conclusions, and recommendations for practice.

In the three chapters, the theoretical, methodological, and applied aspects of the research problem are sequentially and scientifically substantiated. The parameters and content of the research (goals, objectives, hypothesis, and research methodology) are defined. The goals, objectives, object, and subject of the research correspond to the content of the research process and its implementation. Logical reasoning is provided for specific activities aimed at achieving the set goals.

In the concluding part of the dissertation, findings and recommendations are formulated, and the PhD candidate's scientific contributions are highlighted.

The used structure logically connects the separate chapters of the dissertation, and its volume and content comply with the requirements for obtaining the degree of "Doctor."

## **6. Evaluation of Publications and the PhD Candidate's Personal Contribution**

The PhD candidate has provided **nine publications** related to the dissertation topic, of which **eight are individual, and one is co-authored with the scientific supervisor**. They undoubtedly possess scientific value and include parts of the dissertation research. **Five contributions of scientific-theoretical and practical nature** have been identified. The cited literature is correctly referenced, and **no plagiarism has been detected**.

The scientometric requirements for obtaining the doctoral degree are met.

## **7. Contributions and Significance of the Dissertation for Science and Practice**

The contributions of the dissertation can be summarized as follows:

- ⇒ A thorough theoretical analysis of the regulatory framework, educational documentation, and content of "Technologies and Entrepreneurship" for primary school students (old and new curricula) has been conducted;
- ⇒ The author has developed diagnostic tools and a criterion-based assessment system for tracking progress in forming work readiness;
- ⇒ A survey was conducted to examine students' opinions on the importance and necessity of studying household labor in fourth-grade educational practice;
- ⇒ The author has designed a model for developing work readiness in primary school students in "Technologies and Entrepreneurship" (specifically household labor), whose effectiveness has been proven through pedagogical research;

⇒ A tested curriculum that includes household activities and practical tasks with an innovative creative approach has been developed, enhancing the educational content of "Technologies and Entrepreneurship" in the fourth grade.

The dissertation **demonstrates significant contributions to both scientific research and practical application.**

## **8. Author's Abstract**

The author's abstract is developed in compliance with the LDASRB and internal university regulations. It concisely presents the research problem, methodology, structure, and key findings.

## **9. Critical Remarks and Recommendations**

- The research model would benefit from graphical visualization, structured in separate steps with a more detailed description of the developed methodological tasks.
- The theoretical analysis could be enriched with more contemporary sources and own interpretations of the problem.
- The comparative analysis of old curricula should emphasize improvements with new interactive content rather than detailed descriptions of outdated material.
- The main text should focus on the analysis and summary of research results, while survey questions and extensive tables should be placed in the appendices.
- Citation formatting needs to align with accepted academic standards.
- The stated scientific contributions could be refined in terms of their formulation.

### **Questions for the Doctoral Candidate:**

1. Why does the study focus solely on service-oriented domestic labor without including other competency areas such as model construction, design, and entrepreneurial initiative?
2. Why were only fourth-grade students studied, given that the development of a positive attitude towards technology begins in the first grade?

## **CONCLUSION**

The dissertation *contains scientific, applied scientific, and practical results that represent an original contribution to science.* The dissertation **meets** the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), its implementing regulations, and the Internal Rules for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The dissertation demonstrates that the doctoral candidate, Diana Sevdalinova, **possesses** the necessary theoretical knowledge and exhibits the qualities and skills required for conducting independent scientific research.

**I support the presented dissertation with a positive evaluation**, convinced that **it contains contributions of scientific and applied scientific significance**.

Based on the achieved positive results of the research, **I propose to the esteemed members of the academic jury to decide on awarding the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor"** to Diana Stankova Sevdalinova in the field of higher education: Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching..., doctoral program Methodology of Teaching Technology and Entrepreneurship.

**12.02.2025**

**Prepared by:.....**

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Mitova)