

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Daniela Todorova Markova

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

scientific field: 1. Pedagogical sciences

professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of education in...

scientific specialty: Methodology of teaching technology and entrepreneurship

dissertation title: "FORMATION OF READINESS FOR WORK IN TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION OF STUDENTS AT THE INITIAL STAGE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL"

name of the dissertationist: Diana Stankova Sevdalinova

Scientific adviser: Prof. Dr. Marina Ivanova

1. General description of the submitted materials

By Order No. RD-21-2351 of 17.12. 2024 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the procedure for the defense of a dissertation thesis entitled "Formation of readiness for work in the teaching of technology and entrepreneurship of students in the primary stage of the SU" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in..., doctoral programme Methodology of teaching technology and entrepreneurship.

The author of the dissertation is Diana Stankova Sevdalinova, PhD student at the Department of Aesthetic Education with scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Marina Spasova Ivanova, Paisii Hilendarski University, Faculty of Education.

The submission by D. Sevdalinova set of materials on electronic media is in accordance with Article 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff of PU, includes the following documents:

- Application to the Rector of PU for the disclosure of the procedure for dissertation defence;
- CV in European format;
- the minutes of the departmental council related to the reporting of the readiness for the opening of the procedure and the preliminary discussion of the dissertation;
- dissertation;
- abstract in Bulgarian;
- abstract in a foreign language (English)

- list of scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation;
- copies of scientific publications;
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents.

The doctoral candidate has attached 9 publications.

The set of materials is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU and the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria /ZPASRB/ and the Regulations for its implementation.

2. Brief biographical data about the PhD student

Biography of Ph. Sevdalinova is related to teaching, her work experience is 20 years. She held the position of senior teacher in the primary school "Hr. Smirnenki" in the village of Rogozhe, and since 2024 she has been the director of the kindergarten "Happy Childhood" in the village of. She is also a teacher at the school of "Happy Childhood" in Dzhebel, Kardzhali district. Her main activities and responsibilities are related to teaching and trade union activities. Her educational background is impressive - she completed her secondary education at a technical school of economics, graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in the specialty of ESL, and received diplomas in two Master's Degree programmes in Psychology of Social Activities and National and Regional Security. Д. Sevdalinova has acquired professional qualifications and conducted a one-year specialization. She is engaged in socially useful activities as a coordinator for providing general and additional support for the personal development of students; as chairperson of a committee for a mechanism of joint work of institutions on the inclusion and inclusion in the educational system of children and adolescents. It is not a coincidence that her achievements have been recognized - honorary award of the Ministry of Education "Neofit Rilski", 2017; national award "Stoyan Mikhailovski" for the best teacher in 2021.

The conclusion that I can draw from the biographical data is that the PhD student has extensive experience in various activities - teaching, organizational, team, volunteer, project work. The versatile experience could be useful for the PhD student's work, so that the problem in the dissertation could be addressed comprehensively, from different aspects.

3. Relevance of the topic and appropriateness of the aims and objectives

The problem developed in the dissertation is relevant in scientific and applied terms. With his experience as a teacher and administrator in educational institutions, the doctoral candidate has focused on a topic that is interesting and relevant.

4. Knowledge of the problem

Diana Sevdalinova has the advantage of analysing the issues from the inside and not from the outside as a bystander. In this way the problems of education are experienced. This is particularly important for the real contributions of the dissertation research. From the position of a person inside the education system, the problems awaiting their solution become visible. The dissertation has merit and the research has been conducted with understanding.

Undoubtedly, the doctoral student knows the state of the problem and evaluates the theoretical material on the topic critically and appropriately.

5. Research methodology

The chosen research methodology allows achieving the set goal and obtaining an adequate answer to the tasks formulated in the dissertation. A test method is applied in order to monitor the child's attitude towards learning tasks in Technology and Entrepreneurship to maximize the work readiness of Grade 4 students. Besides test and questionnaire, other auxiliary diagnostic methods are also applied.

6. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation work

Diana Sevdalinova's dissertation meets the necessary regulatory requirements, and in its structural plan consists of three chapters, introduction, conclusions and recommendations for practice, conclusion, contributions, list of references, appendix. The total length of the text is 236 pages. The literature sources are 48 in Cyrillic, 10 internet sources are also mentioned. The text includes diagrams and tables. The volume of the appendix is 37 pages and photographs of the products of the experimental work are presented separately on electronic media. The appendix consists of 4 parts - a questionnaire, an entrance and an exit test, results of practical tasks with photographs. In the introduction, the doctoral student logically justifies the relevance and necessity of the selected research topic; the aim and objectives of the study are stated, the research thesis is derived.

In the first chapter "Labour and its socializing function", following a certain logic of exposition that justifies the chosen topic and the pedagogical experiment. An analysis of labour as a concept and semantics in historical perspective is made. Essential characteristics are outlined; it is illuminated in the light of educational policies and goals. The mechanism of attention that matters in the study of the effectiveness of the educational process is examined. The patterns in the formation of work culture are traced. The doctoral student reviews concepts of different authors to make a classification of work skills.

A review is made of the presence of domestic service work in some Bulgarian curricula.

The teaching tasks of labour education at primary school age are studied, as well as the change of these tasks in accordance with socio-pedagogical and economic changes.

A comparative analysis of the different curricula is made, their main priorities and emphases are highlighted, which reveals their possibilities, potential, as well as the horizon for development and improvement.

The curriculum topics included in three recent curricula, which regulate primary labour education in grades 1-4 and in which knowledge about service-domestic work is present as content nuclei, are presented in a visual tabular form.

In Chapter 2, an in-depth review and analysis of the normative documents for school-based education of students in technology and entrepreneurship is presented.

The third chapter "Design of pedagogical research" presents the basic parameters of the research - object, subject, goal, objectives, hypothesis. It presents the analysis of the research results illustrated in tables and graphs. The criteria and indicators are well chosen.

The conclusions and recommendations present the conclusions of the theory and practice and the results of the experimental work conducted. Starting from her own experience, the PhD student gives her recommendations on the methods of diagnosis; the application of a number of interactive methods, multimedia presentations as part of the learning process; the inclusion of more natural materials.

She argues for the methodological relevance and presence of service learning in the teaching practice for grade 4. The qualities of the dissertation are evident in the eloquent results and achievements of the students illustrated with photographs.

I have no reason to doubt the authorship of the text on which the dissertation's contributions are built.

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

The dissertation has theoretical-methodological as well as practical-applied contributions:

1. An analysis of labour activity and its socializing function is made;
2. The essential characteristics of the main mechanisms related to the readiness for work, general-work and special skills and habits in view of the new concept of the formation of professional competencies through the training in Technology and Entrepreneurship are brought out.
3. A comparative theoretical analysis and review of the programmed methodological literature and documentation is made, on the basis of which a new system of learning practical tasks for fourth graders that form professional competencies is applied.

8. Assessment of the publications on the dissertation

Diana Sevdalinova presents nine publications on the topic of the dissertation, which meet the legal requirements of the procedure and even exceed the required number of publications for obtaining the PhD. The publications reflect the results of the dissertation, are related to the issues discussed in the thesis and at the same time address different aspects of them. The publications have been presented: 1 at an international scientific symposium in Turkey, in. 2 at an international scientific conference; 2 - in the Yearbook of the School of Economics; 2 - in the publication of the School of Economics; 1 - in the journal of the School of Economics. 1 - Preschool and School Education.

9. Personal participation of the PhD student

Considering the professional qualifications, experience and current work of the PhD candidate, I have no doubt about her personal involvement in the dissertation research, as well as personal merit in terms of the contributions formulated.

10. Abstract

The abstract is 30 pages long. It is prepared in accordance with the technical requirements for the formatting of an abstract for a dissertation and reflects the overall content, conclusions, contributions to the dissertation, as well as the main results achieved in the dissertation.

11. Critical comments and recommendations

I should note that many of the comments made at the internal defence have been corrected by the PhD student. She has taken into account and complied with the comments and suggestions made. Although editorial corrections have been made, it is likely that time has not been sufficient to thoroughly review the work, e.g. in the abstract the literature is accurately presented, unlike the thesis.

Some of the normative documents presented in chapter two could have been presented in an appendix and only their analysis left in chapter two. The literature should precede the appendix in the structure of the dissertation; it could be enriched with more sources corresponding to a dissertation.

12. Personal impressions

My impression, based on participation in Diana Sevdalinova's PhD examinations, internal defence and familiarisation with her professional experience, is of a purposeful person who is willing to learn, to build on the knowledge gained and to develop, and who clearly possesses the qualities and energy necessary for this.

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

The dissertation contributions and results could be shared in scientific forums, shared with the teaching community and applied in practice.

CONCLUSION

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

The dissertation work shows that doctoral student Diana Stankova Sevdalinova possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty of Methodology of Education in Technology and Entrepreneurship, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent scientific research.

Because of the above, **I confidently give my positive assessment** of the research conducted, presented by the above reviewed dissertation, abstract, post-printed results and contributions, and **I propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Diana Stankova Sevdalinova** in the field of higher education:
1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. 1.1 Pedagogy of education in..., doctoral programme Methodology of teaching technology and entrepreneurship.

3. 02. 2025.

(signature)

Prof. Dr. Daniela Markova