OFFICIAL STATEMENT

On the dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific doctoral degree in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, professional direction 3.2. Psychology

Dissertation topic: Personal Development of Students in the Context of School Practices

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General Impression of the Dissertation. The rich and multifaceted professional experience of Anet Marinova undoubtedly contributes both to the selection of this timely and significant contemporary topic and to its successful and in-depth realization. Several elements can be highlighted as key strengths of the content of this work. One such element is the chosen theoretical framework (Bronfenbrenner's ecological approach to child development), which broadens and enriches the perspective of classical child development theories. The indicators for personal development are derived through a systematic, detailed, and extensive analysis of personal development theories from different paradigms. The systematic analysis (initially for the last 20 years, and subsequently for the period 2020-2024) represents a significant theoretical contribution, though it would be beneficial to comment on the methodological characteristics of the analyzed empirical studies, as is customary in such analyses, by evaluating their methodological value.

Significance and Persuasiveness of the Results and Contributions. The conducted empirical research is closely tied to the theoretical analysis, which ensures its reliability and persuasiveness even at the planning stage. Key indicators of personal development are identified, synthesized from six distinct theoretical perspectives. Theoretical analysis narrows and focuses on the empirical research, which examines personal characteristics as both stable and dynamic aspects of personality – a valuable approach when considering personality formation. The theoretical analysis is linked to practical realities in our country, with a discussion of the legally regulated forms of personal support for student development according to the national legal framework, including a critical analysis of the guidelines for personal support.

Undoubtedly, the contributions of this dissertation, which deserve to be emphasized, are related to: the innovative and comprehensive nature of the conducted research on a relevant contemporary topic of both theoretical and applied significance; the systematization of categories of personal characteristics significant in the context of dynamic personality formation during the school years; the development of an original methodology for research, with the necessary statistical evidence provided for its effectiveness; and the acquisition of information regarding the forms of support for students' personal development as regulated by the law on pre-school and school education.

Quality of the Scientific Work. From a methodological point of view, the planned and conducted research is comprehensive, innovative, and combinative. The results obtained include numerous comparisons and correlations with important conclusions substantiated by appropriate statistical methods and evidence. The summarized description of significant results emphasizes their practical applicability. A possible shortcoming is the lack of an attempt to compare the results of the empirical study with empirical data from research on personal development in other countries. Despite the innovative nature of the methodology used and the specifics of the Bulgarian context, such a comparison would likely further enrich the conclusions.

Conclusion. The dissertation of Anet Marinova-Miteva stands out with its unquestionable merits in both theoretical and empirical-applied aspects. The dissertation has an authentic authorial style, characterized by innovation and high professional competence. The presented work meets both the content and structural requirements for such scientific research. I can confidently and without hesitation propose the awarding of the educational and scientific doctoral degree to Anet Marinova-Miteva.

Sofia

12.09.2024

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