

REVIEW

For the dissertation on the topic: "Formation of ecological culture through the teaching of the subject "Man and Nature" at the primary stage of the basic educational level", in the professional field 1.2 Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics), developed by

Galina Petrova Vassileva

Biographical data:

Galina Petrova Vasileva has a degree in higher education – a master's degree, majoring in Primary School Pedagogy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She has been working as a senior teacher at the capital's 119th school "Academician Mihail Arnaudov" for 38 years. She holds a certificate for the 1st PKS (professional qualification degree).

Certificates for completed qualification forms of work:

The doctoral student is active in her professional and creative activities. She has completed a postgraduate specialization on the topic: "Organization of extracurricular forms of TT (technical creativity)" and actively participates in various qualification forms of work related to the enrichment of her professional skills: "Methodology of teaching BDP (road safety) in the Bulgarian school and kindergarten"; "Techniques for mastering and controlling professional stress"; "Cybersecurity and digital citizenship for teachers"; "Modern educational technologies"; "Basic and specific computer skills of teachers"; "Behavior in disasters, accidents and catastrophes"; "Formative assessment"; certificate "Director's qualification"; "Training of pedagogical specialists for the prevention of school violence, aggression and other negative manifestations"; participation in training and contribution to the project "TABBY-e-skills in the primary stage of Bulgarian schools"; English language course level A2; participation in a course on the topic "Children learn how to protect animals"; participation in the 18 national pedagogical readings "My pedagogical daily life"; participation in the 17 national pedagogical readings "My pedagogical daily life".

Analysis of the dissertation research:

The dissertation on the topic: "Formation of ecological culture through the teaching of the subject "Man and Nature" at the primary stage of the basic

educational level" is structured as follows: an Introduction, three chapters: "Conceptual statements for the challenge: man-nature-ecology"; "Formation of an ecological culture at the primary stage of the basic educational level"; "Analysis of the results of the experimental training", and Appendices.

The research conducted is the result of the author's long-standing aspiration to make the teaching of "Man and Nature" attractive to students, to help them build knowledge about the dynamic and extremely important relationship "Man – Nature", as well as to build skills for environmental protection.

In the Introduction, the doctoral student outlines an extensive and convincing motivation for the choice of the topic of the dissertation research, focused on:

- the contemporary challenges facing humanity, related to lifestyle, the dangers caused by inadequate human behavior, and the urgent need to build an ecological culture;
- the need to transform the abstractly set tasks related to the curriculum content of "Man and Nature" in the third and fourth grades and create conditions for expanding the sensory horizons of students and forming skills for nature conservation through well-thought-out practical activities;
- giving personal and value meaning in the course of training, in order to form internal motivation and build an ecological culture.

The stated motives logically presuppose the specific research tasks identified by the author:

1. Study and analysis of literary sources on the problem.
2. Development of a concept for environmental education in primary school.
3. Construction and theoretical substantiation of a technological model for the formation of an ecological culture through the teaching of Man and Nature.
4. Testing the technological model through experimental research.
5. Analysis of the results of the research.

After in-depth theoretical research of Bulgarian and foreign publications by authoritative authors, Galina Vasileva successfully outlines the conceptual basis of her work, aimed at utilizing a wide range of didactic opportunities in the teaching of "Man and Nature" with a good combination of curricular and

extracurricular activities – in their variants. The broad value bases for targeted efforts related to the need to build an ecological culture in the teaching of “Man and Nature” at the primary stage of the basic educational level are indicated. Despite the numerous studies devoted to the formation of an ecological culture, the author manages to find her field of study and achieve good results by constructing and testing an experimental, based on methodology and values, technological model for work. The content and functionality of its levels, determining the logic of the formation of an ecological culture, are well outlined and analyzed: motivational level; cognitive level; activity level; and reflective level.

Their specificity and interconnectedness are discussed. The principal basis of their implementation is explained, taking into account the typology of primary school students and the logic of the educational content. A number of research activities have been carried out, such as purposeful observation in nature, in order to accumulate experiences, facts, data, and dependencies between the elements of living and non-living nature; discussions on current problems related to environmental behavior; search and systematization of information in the course of research work; project development; creation of collections of natural materials (minerals, herbaria); production of nature conservation signs, panels; creative activities reflecting the attitude of students towards nature. The various activities included in each level are precisely selected and attractive to students. Their implementation is aimed at achieving distinct educational effects:

- overcoming the dogmatic familiarization of students with facts and data related to the manifestations of nature and directing them toward research activities;
- forming knowledge about phenomena, processes, and interactions in a broader scope than that set out in textbooks, and not speculatively and intrusively, but entirely on a practical basis (in extracurricular and out-of-school activities) based on provoked cognitive interest;
- forming skills and attitudes related to environmental protection.

The analysis of the obtained research results, supported by a large number of creative products of the students, proves the significance and perspective of the technological model of work. The achievements of the students also convince of the more comprehensive developmental effect and methodological soundness of the applied model of work: building research skills, primarily through project work; developing initiative and creative thinking; stabilizing the social

interactions of the students; developing skills for working with diverse information.

The text of the dissertation reflects the research intentions and achievements of Galina Vasileva.

Scientific and practical contributions:

The dissertation research is an independent work of authorship, with undoubted significance and applicability in pedagogical practice:

1. An author's technological model has been developed and tested in the process of teaching the "Man and Nature" subject, for the formation of an ecological culture among primary school students at the initial stage of the basic educational level. The results of the training prove the effectiveness of the model;
2. The approach to the pedagogical work, applied by Galina Vasileva, expands our ideas about the possibilities of primary school students to get to know nature, understand its diverse manifestations, and consciously care for its preservation;
3. The popularization of the author's creative ideas in the educational practice would support the revision of the curricula and textbooks on "Man and Nature" in the third and fourth grades, which is extremely needed.

Recommendations:

1. In view of the further publication of the research carried out, I recommend combining certain paragraphs in the first chapter of the dissertation, in order to avoid repetitions and achieve better readability of the text.

The attached abstract is logically linked to the dissertation research and adequately reflects its content integrity.

Conclusion:

The analysis made gives me reason to recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury at the Faculty of Pedagogy to award Galina Petrova Vasileva the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics).

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prof. d-r Emilyya Vasileva