

OPINION

By Prof. D.Sc. Venka Petrova Kuteva - Tsvetkova,
"St. Cyril and St. Methodius" University of Veliko Tarnovo

On a dissertation on a topic:

**"Formation of ecological culture through teaching the subject
"Man and Nature" at the initial stage of the basic educational level"**

For the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "doctor"
In the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences
Professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy
Doctoral program: Educational theory and didactics

Author: Galina Petrova Vasileva
Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Boncho Gospodinov,
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Education

I. Data for the procedure

Galina Vasileva **meets the requirements** of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Compliance for the Acquisition of the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor". The procedural requirements have been met.

The candidate **has met the minimum national requirements**.

There is no proven plagiarism in accordance with the statutory procedure. The candidate has attached a declaration of originality of the dissertation work.

II. Data for the candidate

Galina Vasileva graduated from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a degree in Primary School Pedagogy. She has 38 years of teaching experience. She works as a senior teacher. She holds a first professional qualification degree. In the documents for the procedure, she has listed 15 certificates and certificates of participation in various trainings. She speaks English at a good level.

III. Relevance of the topic

One of the main problems facing modern civilization is the preservation and development of planet Earth and its resources.

That is why the environmental education and upbringing of students is the main task of school education.

In the dissertation, the author traces a number of shortcomings in the environmental education of primary school students. And the environmental policy in our country, as well as the international strategy of environmental education, require that the process of developing environmental education, upbringing and culture in Bulgarian schools be deepened.

The above is a serious basis for the author's motivation for the proposed dissertation research. For all these reasons, the topic of the dissertation is relevant, concrete, specific and unexplored. It provokes both researchers and active specialists in educational practice.

IV. Content of the dissertation

The dissertation work has a theoretical and empirical nature.

It consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, contributions, used literature and applications.

Its total volume is 223 pages, of which 162 pages are the main text and 61 pages are applications.

The literature is 149 sources - in Cyrillic, in Latin, regulatory and strategic documents.

The text of the dissertation is very well illustrated with figures and tables. The appendices include tests for entry and exit levels in the subject "Man and Nature", student essays, and photographs reflecting various activities of students in this subject.

The **introduction** accurately and precisely formulates the scientific apparatus of the dissertation research – object, subject, goal and hypothesis. The relevance and significance of the research problem is presented. It is indicated that the research was carried out through an experimental program, which includes the following stages – a preliminary test to establish the entry level of environmental knowledge of students in experimental and control classes, implementation of experimental activity – putting the model into action in the experimental class, control test, comparison, analysis and conclusions to what extent the experimental training has achieved its goals.

As a positive moment, I will point out that the author also considers the working concepts used in the dissertation such as ecology, ecological culture, ecological education, ecological upbringing, ecological awareness, ecological ethics, environmental responsibility, ecological behavior, etc.

In the **first chapter** "Conceptual statements about the challenge: man - nature - ecology" Galina Vasileva examines the evolution of views on the dyad "man - nature" within the framework of ecological knowledge. Focusing on the numerous problems facing our planet, Galina Vasileva emphasizes that this requires the development of a new value system. She presents the ideas of the noosphere and sustainable development with a focus on the ideas of Acad. Vladimir Vernadsky. She also focuses on the issue of harmony in the relationship between man and nature. She examines the term "ecology" in detail. She also analyzes the relationship of ecological consciousness and ecological ethics. She presents in depth the essence and structure of ecological culture, ecological behavior, ecological competence, ecological literacy and natural science literacy.

The **second chapter** "Formation of ecological culture at the initial stage of the basic educational level" occupies a central place in importance in the dissertation research. At the beginning of this chapter, the emphasis is on the age characteristics of the young student, his emotional sphere and mental processes. Concepts about the nature of children of primary school age are presented. The concept of environmental education in primary school is analyzed in detail. The didactic characteristics of training for the formation of an environmental culture are studied. Modeling is studied as a method of scientific research in pedagogical practice and pedagogical research. A certain contribution to the dissertation research is the author's constructed model of training for the formation of an environmental culture at the initial stage of the basic educational level. A generalized, in-depth and comprehensive structure of the model of training for the formation of an environmental culture at the initial stage is presented. The developed model is implemented at four levels - motivational, cognitive, activity and reflexive. The basis of all activities, according to G. Vasileva, is children's curiosity and learning through experience. A special role is assigned to project training. A very detailed and systematized thematic distribution and description of the implemented activities is presented.

In the **third chapter** "Analysis of the results of experimental training" the methodology and organization of the experimental study are specified. Approaches aimed at forming an ecological culture have been tested. Various activities have been used to implement them. Detailed analyses of the results of the study are presented.

This is a particularly strong and significant research part of the dissertation work in an applied aspect.

The data from the conducted experimental study are presented in tables and graphs, which allows for good orientation in clarifying the current state.

The conclusions and the corollaries have a precise addressee.

From the study it is clear that Galina Vasileva knows the problems in both theoretical and practical aspects, which gives her a good basis for conducting the study and developing the dissertation work.

The author's rich and long-standing practical pedagogical experience and observation allows her not only to sufficiently fully and informatively substantiate her thesis, but also to develop and present a rich and comprehensive current model of training for the formation of an ecological culture in the initial stage of the basic educational degree.

V. Dissertation Contributions

The dissertation work contains significant contributions that are the personal work of Galina Vasileva.

As such, the following can be considered:

In theoretical aspect:

A relevant historical and literary review of the conceptual understandings of ecology and ecological culture has been made.

A well-founded concept for environmental education in primary school has been developed with an emphasis on teaching the subject "Man and Nature".

The emphasis is on the application of new forms, methods and activities, approaches and proposals that contribute to the formation of ecological culture.

In applied aspect:

A modern model of training for the formation of an ecological culture through training in the subject "Man and Nature" at the initial stage of the basic educational level has been constructed and substantiated, based on the general pedagogical principles of modern training, which is aimed at practical activities.

The model has been tested through experimental training in a real environment with a focus on practical activities.

A dynamic option for combining curricular with extracurricular and extracurricular activities is proposed with an emphasis on the independent work of students and their creative activity.

The model gives a positive result in the direction of forming an ecological culture in students through training in "Man and Nature" at the initial stage of the basic educational level.

Evaluation of the author's abstract and publications on the topic:

The abstract fully meets the requirements, adequately reflecting the content of the dissertation work. 3 author publications on the topic of the dissertation are presented.

VI. Conclusion

I believe that the goal and the tasks set for the study have been achieved. My assessment of the dissertation work is categorically positive. The content and qualities of the presented dissertation research fully satisfy the criteria, requirements and conditions for the defense of a dissertation work and the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor"

The achieved results and the presented arguments give reason to give my **positive vote** in the Scientific Jury for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic "Formation of ecological culture through teaching the subject "Man and Nature" at the initial stage of the basic educational level" of **Galina Petrova Vasilena** for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program "Theory of education and didactics".

March 10, 2025
Veliko Tarnovo

Author of the opinion:S....
Prof. D.Sc. Venka Kuteva - Tsvetkova