

REVIEW

by Prof. Mariya Aleksieva D. Sc.

Burgas Free University

for the award of the educational and scientific degree Doctor

Scientific field: **1. Pedagogical Sciences**

Professional field: **1.2. Pedagogy**

Scientific specialty: **Theory of Education and Didactics**

Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of **Theory of Education**

Dissertation Title: "Formation of Ecological Culture through Teaching the Subject 'Man and Nature' in the Primary Stage of Basic Education"

Author: **Galina Petrova Vassileva**

Supervisor: **Prof. Dr. Boncho Gospodinov**

1. Information about the PhD Candidate

Galina Petrova Vassileva was born in Sofia. She graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", majoring in Primary School Pedagogy, obtaining a Master's degree. Her professional career includes extensive experience as a senior teacher at 119th Secondary School "Acad. Mihail Arnaudov" in Sofia. She holds the first professional qualification degree and has completed additional specializations and training in the field of pedagogy.

2. General Information about the Dissertation and the Abstract

The dissertation of Galina Vassileva has been developed within the Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Didactics at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The research focuses on the formation of ecological culture among primary school students

through teaching the subject "Man and Nature", offering both a theoretical model and its practical application.

The dissertation is logically and coherently structured, including:

- Introduction, where the objective, subject, scope, and hypothesis of the study are formulated;
- Three main chapters, covering theoretical foundations, methodological principles, and empirical research;
- Conclusion, containing findings and recommendations;
- Contribution section, substantiating the scientific and practical contributions of the research;
- Bibliography, listing 149 scientific sources;
- Appendices, containing didactic materials, survey forms, and research results.

The dissertation abstract summarizes the key aspects of the research, clearly and accurately reflecting the objectives, hypothesis, methodology, results, and contributions of the study. Its volume aligns with academic standards, providing an adequate presentation of the dissertation's key points.

The dissertation work is characterized by scientific validity, empirical reliability, and significant practical applicability.

3.1. Relevance of the Topic and Structure of the Study

The dissertation topic is highly relevant, responding to the increasing need for environmental education from the early stages of schooling. In the context of global climate change, depletion of natural resources, and the necessity for sustainable development, cultivating ecological awareness among young generations becomes a crucial factor for the future of society.

Fostering ecological culture in primary school students is a fundamental aspect of modern education, holding long-term significance for both individual and societal attitudes toward the environment. The author's goal is to develop an effective pedagogical model

that supports the integration of ecological knowledge and skills into the teaching of ‘Man and Nature’.

3.2. Content of the Dissertation

The dissertation by Galina Vassileva is logically structured and aligned with academic requirements for doctoral research. The study includes theoretical analysis, methodological approaches, and empirical research, which together construct a comprehensive concept for the formation of ecological culture among primary school students.

The analysis of the dissertation’s content demonstrates consistency and depth, making it a valuable contribution to pedagogical science.

Chapter I: Conceptual Foundations of Ecological Culture

This chapter presents the scientific basis of the study, including:

- Evolution of perspectives on the relationship between humans and nature, emphasizing global challenges related to environmental education.
- Definition of ecological culture as a conceptual framework, its components, characteristics, and significance in the educational process.
- Analysis of ecological awareness and ethics, essential for fostering a sustainable attitude toward the environment.
- Review of national and international educational policies related to ecological education.

The author argues for the integration of ecological culture as an integral part of the educational process, providing a critical analysis of regulatory documents and contemporary theoretical concepts.

Chapter II: Methodological Aspects of Ecological Culture Formation

This chapter plays a key role in the dissertation, as it examines didactic strategies, methods, and approaches for shaping ecological culture. The main aspects include:

- Age characteristics of students and their role in shaping ecological attitudes and behaviors.

- Analysis of different models and strategies for ecological education, including active, interactive, and project-based learning methods.

- o Development of an original pedagogical model, based on: Interactive teaching methods; Practical and research-based activities; Project-based learning; Integration of innovative technologies in education.

Chapter III: Empirical Study and Experimental Results

This chapter presents the empirical study, designed to assess the effectiveness of the proposed model. The key aspects include:

- Description of the research methodology: sample, data collection, and processing methods.

- Presentation of the experimental design, including a control and experimental group.

- Statistical analysis, proving that the application of innovative methods significantly influences the formation of ecological culture.

- Graphical representation of differences between the control and experimental groups, confirming the research hypothesis.

4. Scientific Contributions of the Dissertation

The dissertation contributes **both theoretically and practically** to the development of pedagogy and ecological education.

Theoretical Contributions:

- Definition and systematization of key concepts: "ecological culture," "ecological awareness," and "ecological ethics".

- Development of a conceptual framework for integrated ecological education in primary schools.

- Analysis of national and international policies on ecological education.

Methodological Contributions:

- Development and testing of an innovative pedagogical model, integrating interactive and practical teaching methods.

- Formulation of recommendations for improving ecological education methodologies.

Practical Contributions:

- The model’s adaptability to various educational contexts.
- Creation of didactic materials and strategies, applicable in school practice.
- Proposals for the implementation of innovative methods in educational programs.

5. Publications and Participation in Scientific Forums

The PhD candidate Galina Vassileva has three publications related to her dissertation topic. Her participation in scientific forums focuses on sharing best practices, discussions on innovations in pedagogy, and the implementation of ecological education in schools.

6. Conclusion

The dissertation by Galina Petrova Vassileva is a scientifically rigorous and well-structured study, integrating both theoretical framework and practical applicability in the field of ecological education. The research is timely and socially significant, addressing the increasing need for effective pedagogical approaches to develop ecological culture in primary school students.

The dissertation meets high academic and methodological standards. The PhD candidate demonstrates deep knowledge of the topic, critical thinking, and the ability to apply contemporary pedagogical strategies.

On this basis, I give a **positive evaluation** of the dissertation and support the awarding of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” to Galina Petrova Vassileva.

Signature:

Prof. Mariya Aleksieva D.Sc.

Date: