

OPINION

ON DISSERTATION PAPER

FOR THE AWARD OF SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEGREE "DOCTOR" -
professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy (Design of educational programs)

ON THE TOPIC "ADAPTATION OF A TRAINING DESIGN MODEL IN THE CONTEXT
OF INFORMAL EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT /DANCE SCHOOLS/"

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Research supervisor: Prof. Dr. Vasya Delibaltova, SU "St. Cl. Ohridski

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Neli Boyadzhieva, SU "St. Cl. Ohridski" – FNOI

Assessment of the procedure

The submitted work with resume and documents meet the national requirements of the RSARB and the Regulations for its application. The paper was discussed at the pre-defense with a decision that it meets the criteria for a dissertation-type scientific study, the formal structural and content requirements.

Presentation of the PhD student

Ralitsa Atanasova Merdzhanova - Stefanova is a doctoral student in 1.2 Pedagogy /Design of educational programs/ at the Faculty of Arts of SU "St. Cl. Ohridski", Department of Didactics. She has been awarded the right to defense and has fulfilled the minimum criteria for training at the ONS "Doctor". A completed dissertation, an abstract, publications on the topic, reference to quantitative indicators and contributions are presented.

Ralitsa Merjanova has a master's degree in pedagogy / "Modern educational technologies" and in psychology / "Organizational behavior and consulting of the organization"/. She is a leading specialist with extensive creative experience as an artist, children's writer, playwright and choreographer, an author with her own production, a recognized at home and abroad competitor and expert in the art of dance, a professional teacher, leader, organizer, manager and trainer in dance schools and schools. The high theoretical and practical competence of the doctoral student in the field of pedagogy and art are a basis and guarantee for scientific achievements and contributions in the dissertation work.

Assessment of the scientific problem

The topic is dedicated to a scientific problem that was not the subject of a separate independent study in professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy /design of an educational environment/. Its theoretical significance for research in the field of pedagogy and the practical methodological organization of training in dance schools in non-formal education is indisputable. There is no coincidence of the topic, the object and the subject of research in dissertation works in the scientific specialty. Deriving and testing a model for instructional design in dance schools is expected to enrich learning theory and art pedagogy. This is achieved as a whole as a result of the overall dissertation research.

Presentation of the research setting

The presentation of the study in the introduction is convincingly argued and provides an orientation for the starting position of the doctoral student with a justification of the significance of the research problem. A leading challenge is to find a "bridge" between learning in a formal educational environment and learning art in a non-formal educational context.

The concept of "design" is precisely placed in the context of learning and education, relating both to art and creativity, and to structuring the learning process. The rich field of development of "design" in modern training models enables the author to search and find the most suitable model for the needs of dance art training. The stated intention is to analyze, apply and adapt it to the needs of training in a specific dance center according to its positives and sides and disadvantages according to the training process. The significance on a practical level is related to the need to increase the quality of training and the qualification of the personnel against the background of the increased interest in the art of dance in the last decade in Bulgaria.

The objectives of the research in the dissertation work are set competently. On a conceptual level, a justification of a design model of dance training in an informal educational context is sought, and on an applied plan - the construction of a dance art training program in an informal educational environment for children and youth with a creative product for free stage interpretation for public stage performances .

The subject of the dissertation research is dance education in the context of a non-formal educational environment, and the subject is learning design models adapted to the art of dance. This corresponds to an expectation of scientific contributions. It was not specified that the models refer to the training of children and young people.

The methods at the theoretical and applied level are relevant to the aims and objectives of the study. The case study, the derivation and adaptation of a learning model, the development of authored resources and tools for teachers, the creation of a training program and a creative product for stage performance are not formulated as methods, but as guiding tasks at an empirical level.

In accordance with the formulation of the research, specific research questions have been formulated, which are basic guidelines and outline the search framework according to the problem and the expected results. In the description of the general research concept in the introduction, research hypotheses are not highlighted.

Critical assessment of structure and content

Critical evaluation of the dissertation work is based on achievements in the theoretical and empirical parts of the study. The structure covers four chapters, conclusions, conclusion, contribution points, references and appendices. A sequential logic of presentation of the content is followed, beginning in the first chapter with a theoretical description and analysis of research on instructional design in a historical and contemporary perspective. The second chapter describes the dance schools in the context of the non-formal educational environment. The third chapter is devoted to the design and analysis of research results in a specific dance

school. The fourth chapter presents the research concept for the process of adapting the instructional design model and authoring resource developments.

Among the general conclusions, the most significant conclusion can be highlighted as the most appropriate Backward Design learning model described by Wiggins, McTighe /2011,2012/ based on a review of the methodology and specific data from the empirical evaluation methods used /observation, survey , focus groups/. On this basis, an author's matrix for training design was developed, specifying that the model can be successfully applied at the macro-level /curriculum/ tested in a dance school and at the micro-level /classroom/. It is based on leading productions derived from the modern philosophy of education - the attitude of the participants to the art of dance, to themselves and the expression of personality through dance, and to the relationship with others on a social-personal level. The specific conclusions of the empirical studies and recommendations can be useful at a practical-applied level for pedagogical specialists in dance schools in non-formal education

Critical notes, recommendations and questions

It is good to highlight and formulate the initial hypothesis according to the expectations and specifics of teaching children and youth in dance schools in the general setting of the study. Related to this is the question of whether the particular instructional design model is invariant and universal or applies primarily to children and youth.

How do you evaluate the mentioned limitations of the chosen Backward Design model developed for a formal environment in relation to the need to adapt it when applying it in an informal educational environment?

Assessment of scientific contributions

The formulated scientific contributions in the author's self-assessment reflect the actually achieved results. The development of an author's research concept for adapting the Backward design model in the practice of dance training in non-formal education in Bulgaria can be highlighted as the main contributions at the theoretical level.

On a practical-applied level, the development of educational resources for dance training in non-formal education is carried out: a training program applicable to different dance styles according to their specifics and creation of an author's product for stage performance in front of different audiences and audiences.

Assessment of the autoref

The abstract adequately presents the content and individual parts of the dissertation work, used literature, scientific contributions and a list of publications. The volume of 81 pages exc

Publications on the topic of the dissertation

A list of three publications is presented that present separate parts of the content of the dissertation work. Two of them are from 2022 included in collections of university conferences at SU-FP and VTU-College - Pleven, and the last publication from 2024 is in an anniversary collection under the seal of VTU.eeds the usual requirements for the ONS "Doctor".

Conclusion

Based on the fulfillment of the minimum criteria and the scientific contributions, I propose to award the scientific and educational degree "doctor" of the SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" of Ralitsa Atanasova Merdjanova-Stefanova in professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy (Design of educational programs).

May 22, 2024

Prof. Dr. Neli Boyadzhieva