



STANDPOINT

by Ass. Professor PhD Elena Stoyanova Sabeva

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Of Dissertation work for acquiring educational – scientific degree PhD in the area of Higher Education I.2 Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy)

Author: Gergana Marinova Minkovska

Topic: EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF GROUP MUSICAL-MOTOR ACTIVITIES OF 6 – 7 YEARS OLD CHILDREN

Scientific Supervisor: Professor Luchiyu Malinova, Sofia University "Saint Kliment Oehridski"

1. Introducing the PhD Candidate

Gergana Minkovska is a graduate of Sofia University "Saint Kliment Oehridski", Faculty of Primary and Preschool Pedagogy, where she graduated with the specialty "Primary School Pedagogy", Education-qualification degree Bachelor, specialization Physical Education. In 2000 she continued her education in a Master degree programme, specialty Primary School Education, specialization Language and Literature Education. In the context of the present dissertation topic is her post-graduate qualification Aerobics, Callanetics and Stretching (for instructors) and her diploma from a master programme "Sport at School and in Free Time" in Teachers' Faculty, specialty Physical Education at National Sport Academy "Vasil Levski". Connected to her dissertation work is her activity as a part-time lecturer in the subject Aerobics, Callanetics and Cheerleading Dances to the Sport Department at Sofia University "Saint Kliment Oehridski" and afterwards the position she took Assistant in Department "Preschool and Media Pedagogy", Faculty of Sciences for Education and Arts, teaching the subjects: "Physical Education at Pre-school Age Pedagogy" and "Didactics of Physical Education and Sport".

2. General information about the dissertation work

The dissertation work is of a volume of 194 pages, together with 17 pages of attachments, reasonably chosen, which as a quality addition, objectify the value of the dissertation work. The structure is classic, consisting of an introduction, three chapters, conclusions, recommendations, acknowledgements, literature and attachments. Structured this way the dissertation follows the logic of developing the issue, complying with generally established



requirements for structuring and shaping a scientific work. The bibliography includes 156 sources, from which 118 in Cyrillic, 17 in Latin and 21 Internet sites. The work is illustrated with 39 figures and 6 tables.

3. Topicality of the topic

The topic of the dissertation is definitely topical, as it corresponds open for solutions social, respectively educational issues, caused by characteristics of the modern information century. Here I aim the phenomenon "Hypodynamics" and unsatisfied needs of a child for movement, causing health problems such as overweight and obesity with children. Even in the introduction Minkovska conveys the message that in the time of information technologies group musical-motor activities are a valuable educational means for the successful fulfillment of the aim of pre-school education to preserve the physical and mental health of children. Topical are the PhD Candidate's research intentions to enrich the system of methods and means used in Physical Education at a pre-school age, which integrate: dance, music and sport. The whole theoretical and empirical research is developed in this direction, searching for meaning and significance in innovative motor activities / cheerleading dances and aerobics/ to teach 6 - 7 years old children socially significant values.

4. Knowledge of the Issue

This dissertation work was provoked by Minkovska's 16-year experience as a leader of educational group with focus on musical-motor activities (aerobics and callanetics groups), as well as the activity of the Cheerleading team of Sofia University "Saint Kliment Ohridski". This long period of preliminary preparation guarantees not only gain of knowledge and experience, but also successful modification and applying a technique, which is adapted for 6 - 7 years old children. The author's knowledge is visible in the theoretical argumentation and development of the concept from traditions to innovations. The emphasis in the first chapter is on the axiological aspect of musical-motor activities, and more precisely on their relation to moral and aesthetic education. Given the subject of the study, Minkovska emphasizes the importance of musical-motor activities for the formation of a range of moral-volitional and aesthetic skills. The symbiosis of dance, music and sport, which is the essence and content of musical-motor activities, is interpreted in an etymological, historical and comparative aspect, based on information from dictionaries and some copyright quotations. Consistent with the age specifics of 6 - 7 years old children and determined on basic normative documents, the theoretical study presents the author's knowledge about the content of educational direction "Physical Culture" for fourth preparation group at kindergarten. Widely and competently are presented the educational cores of Educational Direction "Physical Culture", the means for physical education - physical exercise as the main one and others. Priority is given to musical-motor activities: morning gymnastics, moving with musical accompaniment, musically mobile games and dances, as each form is described in details as to its content and way of conducting. In the context of the aim of the study, Minkovska differentiates in the theoretical chapter and paragraph Innovative Motor Activities with musical accompaniment - Means of Physical Education at Kindergarten for 6 - 7 years old children, alluding cheerleading dances and aerobics. Here the author skillfully combines the historical and the contemporary aspect in interpretation of the innovative forms - cheerleading dances and aerobics, influencing with their specific emotionality, vitality and positivism.



5. Methods of the study

In Chapter 2, in addition to the design of studying Minkovska outlines the prerequisites preparing and motivating the creation of modified model "Dance and Play", adapted for the conditions of kindergartens. The knowledge and experience gained in organizing and performing group musical activities with students / I mean the cheerleading team of Sofia University "Sant Kliment Ohridski" and the groups of aerobics and calistenics/ help PhD applicant Minkovska to outline the parameters of the study clearly and specifically: hypothesis, aim, object, subject, tasks, and methods of study. A system of methods is applied which are interconnected so that each of the methods adds to the information of the study. The number of the observed pedagogic situation in physical education is impressive /114/, as is the number of the hosted lessons in physical education and sport /225/, which is evidence of being aware of the specifics of education in physical education at pre-school and primary school age, providing continuity between them. The stages of study are described in detail creating a clear picture of the course and succession of the study. The scale of the study is impressive, including a sample of 63 children – 6-7-year-olds, 19 teachers, 31 students in their first academic year of the university program "Physical education and sport" and 16 students in the program "Pre-school Pedagogy", participating in the approbation of the model, which makes a total of 129 studied people. The study, in procedure aspect, is a closed cycle including people who are related to the problem – children with whom the model is approbated, students in the process of studying and teachers who are practicing.

6. Characteristics and evaluation of dissertation work and contributions

The dissertation of Gergana Minkovska is a successful attempt of breaking the traditional technological frame of the pedagogic situation in physical education at pre-school age. The innovative musical motor activities, integrating elements of sport, folklore and art, presented through games and fairy tale plots, attract the interest of 6-7-year-old children. Consequently, the created and approbated model "Dance and Play" is not only accessible /considering the age peculiarities of children and the game as a priority activity during this age period/ but also a valuable educational means, holistically and emotionally influencing each area of the development of the child's personality. It is one more alternative for preserving children's health. As far as the empiric study is concerned, what is impressive is the step by step description of the model also including a preparation stage with the relevant requirements, which not only gives completeness of the study but also makes easier its implementation in the pedagogic practice. I find reasonable the application of the method of "randomization" through the technique "selecting in pairs", since in this way equality of the groups is achieved before the forming stage of the experiment, which provides an equal start for the control and experimental group. The analysis of results is made in comparative way between the experimental and control group following a system of indications. The PhD applicant broadens the study by a survey of the opinions of working pedagogues and students in the university program "Physical education and sport". While the survey with the pedagogy specialists is aimed at studying their attitude to group musical activities as a part of the educational process, the survey with the students is focused on gained knowledge and competences during their education at university. The presence of positive attitude to the musical motor activities is determined in a summarized way, mainly due to the usefulness μ -for children in social, emotional and health aspect. The conclusions are formed in topic form and they follow the direction of the set goals and tasks confirming the hypothesis.



7. Auto-abstract and contribution moments

I agree with the presented contribution moments since they match the achievements of the dissertation work. The auto-abstract also represents the contents of the dissertation correctly and precisely.

8. Recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results

- I believe that it will be positive for the dissertation work if the results of the study go through statistical processing.
- Considering the established forms of pedagogic interaction in kindergartens, I suggest PhD applicant Minkova should differentiate and study the differences between musical motor activities in their function as methods in pedagogic situation in physical education and the same ones as an additional form of pedagogic interaction.

Question to the PhD Candidate:

On the basis of the observations made by you of the educational process both in kindergartens and schools, in which environment will musical motor activities be implemented more successfully and why?

Conclusion

Considering the presented achievements and results from the dissertation study, I suggest the members of the honored scientific panel of Sofia University "Saint Kliment Ohridski" should award the educational and scientific degree PhD in the area of higher education 1. Pedagogic Science, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Pre-school Pedagogy) to Gergana Marinova Minkovska.

06.02.2021

Standpoint made by: Ass. Professor PhD Elena Sabeva

I, the undersigned Tanya Dzhokova, certify the authenticity of this translation done by me from Bulgarian into English of the enclosed document – Standpoint. The translation consists of 4 /four/ pages.

Translator: Tanya Georgieva Dzhokova

