

OPINION

on a dissertation for achievement of scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, on the topic "**Positive Pedagogical Strategy for the Lesson of the Class**" by **Assoc. Prof. Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov, PhD**, Department of Primary School Pedagogy at the Faculty of Science, Education and Arts of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski
Opinion by: Galin Borisov Tsokov, PhD, Professor at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski

RELEVANCE OF THE DISSERTATION

The topic chosen by Assoc. Prof. Vitanov is relevant and important not only for educational practice, but in general for Bulgarian pedagogical science. This is so, because the construction and testing of a positive pedagogical strategy for the lesson of the class is a problem directly related to the search for opportunities to improve the pedagogical processes in the Bulgarian school. As an attempt to solve this problem, the author presents in the text of the dissertation theoretical analysis, discussion and construction of a comprehensive innovative pedagogical approach in the creation and application of a more dynamic, free and shared approach to selection and structuring of educational content; the application of positive approaches to education and management of the class; competence-oriented training; wider support for student participation and self-organization. This is a big plus of the dissertation, which has indisputable scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions not only for the Bulgarian pedagogical science, but also for the practice of our school education.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation in structural terms consists of an introduction, seven chapters, deductions, conclusion and references. The dissertation contains 286 pages, of which 12 pages with 125 publications in Bulgarian and 163 publications in English.

POSITIVE ASPECTS AND CONTRIBUTING MOMENTS OF THE DISSERTATION

- Relevance and significance of the developed problem related to the effective implementation of positive pedagogical strategies in modern school;
- The in-depth, complex analysis of the theoretical formulations related to the essence and the main characteristics of the pedagogical strategy;
- Principles are formulated and parameters of an innovative model of positive pedagogical strategy for teaching created by the author are substantiated, with different from the conventional for the lesson of the class approaches for selection of educational content, education and management of the class, as well as teaching and learning methods;
- The main aspects of the positive pedagogical strategy are clarified: *regulative framework, education and management of the class, training focused on the acquisition of competencies, learning content, teaching methods and techniques, organizational forms and organization of the learning environment, as well as analysis of the results of the diagnostic study of the lesson of the class.*
- A new approach for implementing a positive pedagogical strategy has been constructed, which includes the creation and implementation of a more dynamic, free and shared approach to selection and structuring of educational content, the application of positive approaches to education and management of the class, and a consistent process of competence-oriented training.
- The proposed model of positive pedagogical strategy has been tested by conducting a large-scale empirical study involving 3376 students;
- The dissertation proposed for review has the qualities of in-depth research, which gives a modern and innovative look on a significant problem for educational theory and educational practice: the construction and effective implementation of positive pedagogical strategies in modern school.

REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Some remarks and recommendations can be addressed to the dissertation:

- I believe that in the dissertation there are enough originally developed ideas and achieved results that can be promoted through publications in leading specialized and indexed scientific journals abroad.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

Despite the recommendations, I believe that the dissertation of Lyuben Vitanov is a thorough, original study, and has its undeniable scientific merits. It contains research, research-and-applied and practical results, which represent an original contribution to science, and meet all requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB), the Regulations for application of ASDARB, and the respective Regulations of Sofia University.

I have no doubts of any plagiarism in the dissertation and related publications submitted for review.

Due to the above, I confidently give my *positive assessment* of the research presented by the above reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and ***I suggest the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree “Doctor of Science”*** to Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov in field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional field 1.2. Pedagogy.

Member of the scientific jury

(Prof. Galin Tsokov, PhD)

22nd May 2021