

# REVIEW

by **Assoc. Professor Galina Georgieva Georgieva,**

Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, Faculty of Educational Studies and the  
Arts

of **dissertation work of Assistant Professor Gabriela Plamenova  
Valentinova-Metodieva**

on the topic: „**Model for optimizing the life-pedagogical culture of parents  
of 6–9-year-old children**“

for awarding the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ in: field of higher  
education **1. Pedagogical sciences**, professional field **1.2. Pedagogy** (Preschool  
pedagogy)

**Supervisor: Prof. DSc. Radoslav Ivanov Penev, Sofia University**

This review was prepared on the basis of order No. RD-38-305/26.06.2023 of the Rector of the Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, by decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts and in accordance with Article 4 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law, as well as the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

The author of the dissertation is Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva, a part-time PhD student at the Department of Preschool and Media Pedagogy of the National Institute of Social Sciences, awarded with the right of defense by order of the Rector of the University RD-20-1111 of 24.06.2022.

## **1. General description of the submitted materials**

The set of materials includes the following documents submitted in electronic format: resume; diplomas for higher education of bachelor and master

degrees; dissertation work; abstract and the included copies according to a list to it of the scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation; resume; order for enrolment, for transformation, for deduction and for scientific jury; statement of originality; report on the implementation of scientometric indicators; certificate of passed exams; anti-plagiarism check, as well as a protocol and opinion for checking the originality of the dissertation work.

The documentation presented by Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva was correctly completed in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff and no procedural violations were committed in relation to the requirements of the laws and regulations in force in the Republic of Bulgaria and Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

## **2. Brief biographical and professional data**

Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva was born in Pernik on May 8, 1993, where she completed her secondary education. In 2016, she graduated from higher education at „St. Kliment Ohridski“ with a bachelor's degree, specialty „Preschool and primary school education“, and in 2018 – the master's program „Management of education in preschool institutions“.

From 2016 to 2021, she worked as a primary teacher at the „Veda“ Private German School, Sofia.

Since 2021 until now, she is an assistant at the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, where since 2019 she is a full-time doctoral student at the „Preschool and Media Pedagogy“ department, in 3 subsequently transformed into part-time by Rector's Order No. RD-20-2089/13.10.2021. Conducts seminars and practical exercises in bachelor's programs in the disciplines „Preschool Pedagogy“, „Preschool pedagogy and social integration“, „Pedagogy of constructive-technical and household

activities“, „Pedagogical technologies for game interaction“, „Teacher training/Directed Observation“, „Pedagogical practice“.

In addition to the biography of Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva, I will share that she is married and has one child.

She has participated in a total of three projects at the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts together with her scientific supervisor, as well as a total of 3 scientific publications related to her dissertation work and meeting the relevant scientometric indicators.

From the biographical notes, Gabriela Valentinova Metodieva has the necessary minimum of practical-theoretical experience, as well as active interest, research aptitudes and qualities for work and development in the field of preschool pedagogy and family education. Also, the attached materials prove that Assistant Professor Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva complied with the requirements of the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ for a corresponding number of publications and participation in scientific forums and the minimum national requirements for the educational and scientific degree „doctor“ have been met.

### **3. General characteristics of the dissertation**

The dissertation of Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva „Model for optimizing the life-pedagogical culture of parents of 6–9-year-old children“ focuses on the family, socialization and upbringing of children, specifically focusing on three main aspects:

- research and stimulation of the educational orientations of the modern family;
- the possibilities of pedagogical education of parents for optimization of „parent – child“ communication;

- communication and interaction in the modern Bulgarian family and the formative projections of the educational content for parents to increase their life-pedagogical culture;

In formal terms, the dissertation covers an introduction, 6 chapters, conclusions and conclusions, scientific contributions, appendices, and a bibliography. The dissertation is developed in 188 pages, of which 6 pages are a bibliography with 114 sources indicated – 76 in Cyrillic, 20 in Latin and 19 sources from the Internet. The text includes 1 table, 47 diagrams and 7 images. 3 applications are included – Survey for parents 1 - author's development of Prof. DSc. Radoslav Penev, Survey for parents 2 - evaluation of the content of the „Step by Step“ model and Survey for students and teachers – evaluation of the content of the „Step by Step" model“.

In the first chapter, the actuality of the problem, as well as the conceptual parameters of the study, are presented.

In the second chapter, the essence of the theoretical justification of the problem area is presented, mainly related to the development of children in the childhood period, the role of the family and its relationship with educational institutions, and the normative regulation of cooperation and strategies of positive parenting are derived.

The following third chapter presents the methodology and organization of the research, including the ascertaining, formative and concluding stages of the experiment. The author's model of the „Step by Step“ research, on which the dissertation is based, is detailed in the fifth chapter. It aims to optimize the life-pedagogical culture of parents, it is structured into a total of 18 topics, divided into five thematic blocks, representing the specifics of „parent – child“ relationships, namely:

- Block 1 „Life priorities of parents and children“

- Block 2 „Social behavior of children“
- Block 3 „Goals of upbringing - important and unimportant“
- Block 4 „Educational style“
- Block 5 „The child and education“

The analysis of the results is presented in the last, sixth chapter. The sample consisted of a total of 393 respondents, of which 342 were parents of children aged 6–9, as well as 30 teachers and 22 students of pedagogical specialties.

The statistical processing of the data was carried out through the Google Forms platform, and procedures for descriptive statistics were also carried out – profiling the respondents (gender, age, education, address, marital status, professional commitment for parents, etc.), as well as comparative analysis procedures by calculating the mean rating of the respondents' answers. There is a formulation of the subject, object, goal, tasks and hypotheses of the dissertation in relation to the essence of the intended research, as well as conclusions for each of the research stages.

The theoretical and experimental part of the dissertation work correspond to the problems addressed by Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva. The abstract also corresponds to the structure and content of the dissertation and presents it correctly in a total of 47 pages.

#### **4. Scientific contributions and significance of the dissertation**

In general, I find that the results of the research work of Assistant Professor Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva have a high scientific value and enrich the theory of preschool education related to family education. As a result of a comprehensive theoretical and experimental analysis of the problem, an effective model for optimizing the pedagogical culture of parents of children of preschool and primary school age was developed. The research has a theoretical and practical-applied nature, and this enables its results to be used both in theory and

in new research, as well as in practice in teaching children and students of pedagogical specialties. My categorical conviction is that the dissertation work developed by Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva is dedicated to an actual science-pedagogical problem, reflects her author's methodical approach and is presented in a comprehensive form. Based on this, I believe that the following scientific contributions can be highlighted in a theoretical and applied aspect:

- Research and psychological-pedagogical analysis of theoretical concepts and models for family upbringing, the problematic of the family as a socializing factor, strategies for positive parenting, as well as forms and strategies for „kindergarten – family“ cooperation.

- Scientific substantiation of the structure and principles of the family system, methods and tasks of family education, the approaches of the educational process and dealing with various problem situations between parents and children.

- Development and testing of the author's model „Step by step“, structured in five thematic blocks, presenting the specifics of „parent – child“ relationships, the application of which proves the optimization of the life-pedagogical culture of parents of 6–9-year-old children.

- Development and testing of methodology and tools for researching the effectiveness of the author's model.

There are sufficient reasons to consider that the mentioned contributions of Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva are her personal creative achievements and indisputably reflect her scientific development. In this regard, I also appreciate the author's abstract of the doctoral student, which sufficiently reflects the main content parameters of the dissertation work.

## CONCLUSION

The dissertation work developed and presented by Gabriela Valentinova-Metodieva is in a complete form and clearly shows that the purpose and tasks of the research have been fulfilled. The analysis and presentation of the results convincingly confirm the importance of work to optimize the life-pedagogical culture of parents of children of preschool and primary school age.

The dissertation has the necessary qualities for a successful doctoral dissertation and I propose to the members of the scientific jury to vote positively for awarding the educational and scientific degree „doctor“ to Gabriela Plamenova-Valentinova-Metodieva, in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy).

07.08.2023

Sofia

Reviewer:

Assoc. Professor Galina Georgieva, PhD