

REVIEW

by Prof. Maria Stoyanova Aleksieva PhD

Burgas Free University

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences

Professional field: 1. 2. Pedagogy

Doctoral program: Theory of education and Didactics

Faculty of Pedagogy

Department of Social Pedagogy

Dissertation topic: The effectiveness of simulation workshops in education, on work and Self-Efficacy of teachers

Author: Yasmin (Jasmine) Baloum

Scientific adviser: assoc. prof. Veska Kirilova Guviyska PhD

1. Data for the dissertation

Yasmin Baloum is an Israeli citizen. She has a master's degree in pedagogy. She graduated from Beit Berl College with a degree in Organization and Technique of Education. He is the coordinator of the David Yelin College Simulation Center in Jerusalem, where he has been working for five years. The college's audience is mixed - students of Jewish and Arab descent.

For 4 years he has been the director of a school in East Jerusalem, which educates students from seventh to twelfth grade. He supervises 75 teachers and 820 students.

She was a teacher for five years at the Center for Professional Development, and before that she worked as a teacher in another school for 12

years. As a manager of simulation seminars at David Yelin College, Jerusalem in the period 2013 - 2017, she focused her interest on the research issues.

2. Doctoral data

PhD student Yasmin Baloumis enrolled in the Department of Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy in an independent form of preparation in English by order of the Rector of SWU "Neofit Rilski" from 13.11.2017 to 12.11.2020, for a period of three years in Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences; Professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy; Doctoral program: Theory of education and didactics.

After the restructuring of the Department of Pedagogy, by order of the Rector of SWU "Neofit Rilski" from 06.07.2020, Yasmin Baloum was transferred as a doctoral student in the Department of Social Pedagogy.

She was expelled with the right to defense by order of the Rector of SWU "Neofit Rilski" from 25.11.2020.

3. General information about the dissertation and the abstract

The content of the dissertation is structured in an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion. The total volume is a total of 175 pages. The main text contains 12 tables and 6 figures.

The literature sources are 231 - in English and Hebrew. Foreign and internet sources were used.

There are 3 applications with a volume of 12 pages.

3.1. Relevance of the topic and structuring of the development

In her dissertation "The effectiveness of simulation workshops in education, on work and Self-Efficacy of teachers" Yasmin Baloum develops a

scientifically and pedagogically important topic for education and in particular for teacher training.

Her research interest focuses on the study of current issues for the development of simulation workshops and their impact on teachers as a new tool for managing the education system in schools and colleges for the training of new teachers. This is directly related to the need to ensure a new quality of teaching and the ability to deal with conflicts, in response to growing demands on the education system.

In this context, conducting such a study is timely, relevant and necessary. It contributes to the improvement of the methodology of university teaching and to the enrichment of the practical competencies of teachers.

The importance of the development is related to the focus on researching the effectiveness of a teacher education program based on simulation training, which allows for modeling and creating conditions for exercise in effective pedagogical communication, skills for developing motivation in the classroom, for inclusive education, technology integration. Such skills are oriented and expected by the students of today.

The program takes into account the opportunities to change and improve the professional behavior and performance of teachers. The program is used in Israel. It is supported by the Ministry of Education because the main emphasis is on the practical training of teachers.

3.2. Content of the dissertation

In the introduction, Yasmin Baloum motivates the choice of the topic of the dissertation. The topicality and practical significance of the considered problem is logically and clearly outlined. The necessity of development of the simulation workshops, based on the pedagogical simulation, is argued. Through it, students are placed in a real pedagogical environment with certain

didactic, methodological, pedagogical problems. They are encouraged to implement different strategies, to plan, forecast and think ahead. All this is related to the development and application of pedagogical skills; to organize a pedagogical environment that helps reduce future pedagogical mistakes.

The **FIRST CHAPTER** of the dissertation, entitled "Literature Review" includes seven paragraphs, examines and analyzes the theoretical and methodological aspects of the study. The analysis includes earlier studies that are transversal in nature and are used to track the quality of teacher teaching and learning. The first three paragraphs highlight the need for a scientific statute for the teacher, the promotion of ethical behavior among teachers and the effectiveness of the teacher. As a reference point in the analysis in this part of the dissertation are the competencies of teachers and the quality of education they provide. The conclusion of the doctoral student is that the competencies of teachers are a factor that influences to the highest degree the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes by students. This factor, according to A. Ballum, surpasses other factors such as demographic and social. The need for a Scientific Statute of the teacher is highlighted, which is supported by arguments in the direction of professional and personal qualities of the teacher. In this context, the doctoral student points out that the knowledge that teachers need is divided into several parts: general pedagogical knowledge, pedagogical knowledge of the specific content and practical knowledge.

Yasmin (Jasmine) Baloum cites research results that confirm the statement that the effectiveness of young teachers in the first year of practice, especially in cities, decreases in this first year, which necessitates cooperation with senior teachers to support the sense of competence. *The following paragraphs are devoted to analysis related to the nature and role of the*

simulation seminar in teacher training, the process of the simulation workshop, the different options and types of simulations.

The simulation seminar is considered by the doctoral student as an educational interactive technology that includes training-based simulation techniques; tools and strategies for designing structured educational experience; measurement tools related to teamwork, focused competencies and learning objectives. After clarifying the essence, Yasmin (Jasmine) Baloum presents in detail the process of organizing the simulation workshop, continuing to push the idea of focusing on improving practical training by providing new opportunities for teachers before practicing their profession.

The **SECOND CHAPTER** of the dissertation presents the doctoral student's methodology of empirical research. This chapter is organized into five paragraphs. The purpose and tasks that arise from it, as well as the object and subject of research are presented at the beginning of the dissertation. In this part of the dissertation the doctoral student's attention is focused on the research methods, which are oriented towards searching for answers to the questions posed at the beginning of this chapter.

The idea of the research is substantiated, the methods of research are precisely described. A mixed research method is used, through which the results of the realized research are "seen". The toolkit with the help of which the research itself was realized is conditionally divided into two main directions: for quantitative research (questionnaire). The research questionnaire consists of three parts, focusing on questions that describe the choice of field of education: professional identity of the teacher; simulation efficiency; conducting simulation seminars, which includes video recording of the seminar participants and professional actors.

The Quality Research Toolkit (interview) is a semi-structured interview with participants in the simulation seminars.

The stages and the sample for conducting the research are described. The study included 1554 participants. It is aimed at assessing the perceptions of the participants in the simulation seminars. The seminar was held between December 2017 and June 2019 at the David Yallen College Simulation Center of the Institute of Education in Israel.

In the **THIRD CHAPTER** of the dissertation, Yasmin Baloum presents an analysis of the research results in detail, analytically and visually. This chapter is differentiated into two paragraphs and I assume that it has a contributing moment because of the way the results are presented and the static processing methods used. The first paragraph describes the analysis of the results of the quantitative data of the study. The descriptive analysis of the quantitative data shows the effectiveness of the simulation, as the highest rated element is the receipt of feedback from the group and active participation, and the lowest is the scenario and the work of the participant. The obtained empirical data are presented through descriptive and statistical analysis in tabular form and through diagrams. The methods used for analysis of the results are impressive: *factor analysis*, which proves that the validity of the structure of the research instrument is confirmed; *correlation analyzes (Pearson type)* for searching and proving connections between different search variables; *regression analysis* using the input method for all study variables. *Variation analyzes* have been made to find the differences between Arabs and Jews and between teachers and students. Separate analyzes were performed for all study variables.

The *second paragraph* analyzes the qualitative data on the nature of the effect of the simulation on the construction of teachers' educational perceptions, as well as on the way they teach in the classroom. The analysis in the qualitative part of the study is inductive, ie. the researcher collects evidence and analyzes it. The results of the study show an impact on the profile of each teacher and

on the perceptions of the relationships and conflicts they face. Regarding the analysis, the qualitative data were taken from the interviews of the participants after each session. For greater clarity and clarity, qualitative data are organized with titles of the high-impact practices used: **A. Perceptions of learning and teaching; B. Development of behavior in the classroom; C. Perceptions of the technology used, videos and script; D - Teacher self-efficacy.**

At the end of the qualitative analysis, based on the presentation Y. Baloum came to the conclusion that the research proves an increase in the effectiveness of teachers after participating in a simulation seminar.

Based on the theoretical analyzes and the experimental research, the doctoral student generates conclusions and summaries. They give grounds to assume that the set goals and objectives have been achieved. The doctoral student compares the conclusions and summaries with the leading categories for the research and concludes that the use of simulation seminars will lead to a significant increase in teacher education.

My personal conclusion is that in the overall research - theoretically and experimentally, a complex and multi-component picture emerges, in which the parameters of the simulation seminar are entered as the main form of the simulation-based pedagogical training.

The **abstract** has a volume of 88 pages. The included content is systematized and specifically reflects the most important aspects of the dissertation.

The **results** of the research are popularized in four publications on the topic of the dissertation and reveal significant aspects of it.

Questions and recommendations to PhD student Yasmin Baloum:

How do you promote the program you created?

How do you plan to continue your research and work with teachers in establishing the simulation workshop as a form of increasing pedagogical competencies?

In the long run, I recommend PhD student Yasmin Baloum to describe in a methodological context the entire process of organizing and implementing a simulation workshop.

4. Scientific contributions of the dissertation

Scientific contributions are specified as theoretical and practical.

1. Contributions of scientific and theoretical nature

1.1. Scientific concepts for clarification of basic concepts related to the simulation seminar are analyzed. On this basis, the need for experimental work for the formation of media literacy of students in the initial educational stage is justified.

1.2. Scientific publications and those on the effectiveness of simulation and the role of teachers' self-efficacy have been analyzed and systematized. Based on this, the need to use this model in teacher training has been proven.

2. Contributions of experimental nature

2.1. The simulation model has been tested by research and the possibility for its use in education has been proven;

2.2. A diagnostic tool for the effectiveness of the simulation workshop has been designed and tested.

2.3. An empirical and statistical analysis of the results of the experimental research has been performed, on the basis of which conclusions and recommendations for the pedagogical practice have been formulated. Key features have been identified that ensure the effectiveness of the simulation workshop and options for their use and improvement have been proposed (eg feedback, script, actors, video);

2.4. The tested experimental simulation model and simulation workshop program have been introduced in pedagogical practice.

5. Publications and participation in scientific forums

The presented publications on the topic of the dissertation are 4 (four). They have been published in periodicals and presented at various forums. All Yasmin Baloum's publications are separate.

6. Conclusion

Yasmin Baloum's dissertation is complete, with realized research and with proven scientific contributions. Assessing the qualities of the dissertation, the abstract and the four publications, I believe that they meet the scientific and technical requirements, in accordance with the scientometric criteria for the minimum national requirements for the candidate for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in 1. Pedagogical sciences.

This gives me grounds to give a positive assessment and to propose to the Scientific Jury to award Yasmin Baloum the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program in Theory of Education and Didactics.

05.06.2021

Signature:.....
prof. Mariya Aleksieva PhD