

OPINION

**of Assoc. Prof Krasimira Marulevska, PhD
for a dissertation work:
„The effectiveness of simulation workshops in education, on work and Self-
Efficacy of teachers”,
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“
of doctoral student Yasmin Baloum**

Scientific supervisor: Assoc. Prof Veska Kirilova Gyuvyska, PhD

I. Brief data of the PhD student

Yasmin Baloum is an Israeli citizen and is enrolled as a self-training PhD student in 2017 at the Department “Pedagogy” of the Faculty of Pedagogy. From 06.07.2020 the Department “Pedagogy” was restructured and the student was transferred in the Department “Social pedagogy”. The dissertation „The effectiveness of simulation workshops in education, on work and Self-Efficacy of teachers” was discussed and proposed for defense at Department Council meeting of the Department of Social Pedagogy, Faculty of Pedagogy, Southwest University "Neofit Rilski".

II. Topicality

In the context of modern scientific research in the direction of enrichment and improvement of theory and practice related to teacher training and qualification, the dissertation of doctoral student Yasmin Baloum has its place in the research field of modern pedagogical knowledge. The focus is on the possibilities for increasing the efficiency of the professional work of the teacher. In the search for ways to positively influence the effectiveness of the pedagogical activity of the teacher through the application of the simulation workshop, the present dissertation research gives scientifically substantiated answers. The researcher provides evidence and analyzes a large amount of empirical data to substantiate his scientific claims about the impact of the simulation workshop in the process of developing and improving the professional pedagogical skills and competencies of the teacher. In this context, the research activities of PhD student Yasmin Baloum can rightly be defined as useful and significant for the theoretical and procedural-technological enrichment of the overall activity related to the preparation and continuing qualification of the modern teacher. The topic of the influence of the simulation workshop in education on the effective activity of the teacher is dissertable and provides rich opportunities for the doctoral student to carry out bold and

consistent innovative actions to enrich modern educational practice to improve the professional skills and competencies of teachers.

III. Adequacy of the methodology

The research methodology is scientifically substantiated and adequate to the set goal and the research questions. The parameters of the research are presented in a specific way, as the approach is rather descriptive - circumstantial, without striving for the traditional conciseness and definite delineation of semantic boundaries. The choice of methods for the realization of the theoretical research and the experimental work is substantiated and allows to solve the research tasks by the mutual complementation of quantitative and qualitative methods for carrying out a complete analysis of the efficiency of the simulation workshop in the teacher training and qualification.

IV. Characteristics of the dissertation

The dissertation is in a total volume of 171 standard pages, of which 147 pages are main text, literature and appendices. 5 diagrams and 12 tables are included in the main text. The literature used includes 231 literary sources in English and Hebrew, of which 9 are Internet-based. In its content integrity and structural sequence the work includes: introduction, three chapters, discussion, conclusion, scientific contributions, literature and applications.

V. Scientific achievements in regard to the presentation, analysis and interpretation of ideas and concepts

1. The direct involvement of PhD student Yasmin Baloum in the organization and conduct of simulation seminars for teacher training at the David Yalen College Simulation Center at the Institute of Education in Israel is an important stimulating and determining factor in her research and results. This fact repeatedly enhances the intellectual and emotional charge of research and gives a special and valuable individual color to research ideas and actions.
2. The need for content and technological enrichment of the qualification activity for increasing the professional pedagogical competence of the teachers through their inclusion in simulation seminars for improvement of their communicative skills, team work, their interaction at different levels with pedagogical subjects is outlined and scientifically substantiated in the school and in the wider social environment, improving professional behavior and increasing the self-efficacy of teachers.
3. The positions of many authors who have worked in recent decades on issues related to professional pedagogical training and qualification, the quality of education, the

effectiveness of the pedagogical activity of the teacher are analyzed and critically considered.

4. Special attention is set on the professional and personal qualities of the teacher, emphasizing their interdependence and complementarity, as well as the need for academic theoretical training and a high level of mastery of practical skills as a basis for effective professional behavior in the educational environment.

5. A number of challenges stand before the modern teacher in the implementation of his professional pedagogical activity, arising from the complex social environment, the general trends in the development of education in the world and in particular in Israel, as well as the increased demands and expectations of society regarding the effectiveness of teacher work.

6. The author of the dissertation pays special attention to the problem of adaptation of young teachers and the need to overcome the imbalance between their theoretical and practical training. In the context of the concept of self-efficacy, the problem of individual attitudes of teachers regarding their own effectiveness is considered.

7. Emphasis is placed on the ethical dimensions of teaching, as well as on the need for targeted efforts to build appropriate practical skills in future and current teachers to achieve ethical relationships in the educational environment as a guarantee for the success of the overall pedagogical activity.

8. The interrelations between the self-efficacy of the teacher - on the one hand, and the peculiarities of the school climate, the management style and the relations in the pedagogical team - on the other hand are analyzed. The influence of the social context on the teacher's assessment of their own competence is considered.

9. The essence and the importance of the simulation seminars in the preparation of the teacher and for the increase of his professional pedagogical skills, and for more effective professional behavior in the educational environment are revealed. The functional possibilities of the simulation methods are analyzed, emphasizing the role of the organization and management of the simulation process, the design of the simulations and the selection of adequate scenarios.

VI. Scientific achievements related with the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the results of the pedagogical experiment

1. The planning and organization of the experimental work is highly commendable, in the conditions where the doctoral student Yasmin Baloum studies the effectiveness of the simulation seminar in education, as well as the influence of the simulation workshop on the self-efficacy of teachers. The research actions are characterized by consistency and scientific argumentation and in their entirety is evidence of a purposeful, clear, very well thought-out research strategy, implemented through a coherent, science-based methodology.

2. The level of research skills of the doctoral student is highly manifested in the selection of methods and the development of tools for conducting empirical research. The decision to combine a quantitative and a qualitative method of research to achieve the goal and solve the tasks of the research related to such a complex phenomenon as the self-efficacy of teachers is completely adequate and very well-reasoned.
3. The application of regression analysis is very successful in studying the attitudes of the participants to the simulation seminar and the influence of these attitudes on the self-efficacy of teachers. Regression analysis makes it possible to reveal important correlations between phenomena in the context of the studied influence of the simulation workshop on the effective activity of the teacher.
4. A strong point of the dissertation research is the high degree of authenticity and indisputable provability of the obtained and analyzed experimental data, which are thoroughly documented with the help of video films and audio recordings made during the experimental work at the David Yalen College Simulation Center and with the direct participation of doctoral student Yasmin Baloum.
5. The collected data set is impressive, based on a large number - 1567 participants in the simulation seminars (812 Arab participants and 755 Jewish participants), of which 152 were included in the experiment. The sample of the study includes participants, differentiated by age, work experience, marital status and academic experience, which allows for a multifaceted analysis of the research problem. The collection of empirical data is in accordance with the following principles: type and diversity of schools, place of research, experience in the field of education.
6. The instrumentarium - questionnaire, is well designed and is in accordance with the stated purpose and objectives of the study. The second main tool for collecting empirical data in the study - the non-standardized version of the interview as a qualitative research method, namely in-depth, semi-structured interview with the participants in the simulation seminars - deserves a very good assessment. This qualitative method provides a deep understanding of the attitudes and perceptions of the interviewees.
7. The conclusions and recommendations made in the final part of the dissertation are well presented and are based on empirical evidence and analytical and critical understanding of the course and results of the overall study.
8. The style of the presentation meets to the necessary extent the requirements for scientificity, informative load and balance, logical sequence, clarity and accessibility.

VII. Scientific and scientifically applied contributions

1. The pedagogical dimensions of the simulation methods in the educational field and the possibilities of the simulation workshop in the preparation and qualification of the teacher are revealed in theoretical aspect on the synthesis between theory and practice, between the rational and the emotional in the interaction of pedagogical subjects.

2. The practical dimensions of the simulation seminars in education are described and analyzed. A model of the simulation workshop has been tested and its effective aspects have been revealed, as well as opportunities for their strengthening, with special attention paid to its contribution to the improvement of the pedagogical interaction at different levels.

3. The positive influence of the simulation workshop on the communication skills, the effective professional behavior of the teachers, their attitudes towards their own effectiveness and last but not least - increasing the level of their self-efficacy, which in turn is a strong factor for improving the quality of educational activities.

VIII. Notes and recommendations

1. The overall dissertation research would definitely benefit from a greater clarity and definiteness in the presentation of the main parameters of the research - object, subject, aim, tasks and hypothesis. For a better presentation of the dissertation, clear titles oriented to the content of the individual chapters, and not to their functional orientation in the research, would contribute.

2. The dissertation work would be much more balanced in structural and substantive terms, if the unnecessary internal differentiation of separate too short paragraphs, which could be meaningfully combined in an appropriate way, is avoided.

IX. Authorship of the dissertation and contributions, evaluation of publications

The authorship of the dissertation is indisputable. I accept the scientific contributions outlined by the author. I rate as very good the publishing activity of doctoral student Yasmin Baloum. Three publications on the topic of the dissertation research are presented, and are related to the participation of the doctoral student in international scientific conferences. Another article was accepted for publication in the Yearbook of the Union of Scientists - Blagoevgrad branch. The publications meet the requirements.

X. Abstract

The abstract meets the requirements and correctly reflects the content of the dissertation. The necessary structural components and technical parameters are available.

XI. Conclusion

The dissertation of doctoral student Yasmin Baloum presented for discussion has the characteristics of science, innovation, originality. The results of the presented research prove

the importance of the simulation workshop for the preparation and qualification of the teachers and for increasing the efficiency of their professional work. The outstanding merits of the dissertation and the recommendations made give me reason to convincingly propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award Yasmin Baloum with the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 1.2 Pedagogy, doctoral program "Theory of Education and Didactics".

04.06.2021

BlagoevgradAssoc.

Reviewer:

Prof Krasimira Marulevska, PhD