

STATEMENT

From Assist. Prof. Emilia Petrova Georgieva, PhD
Deputy Director of the Medical College, "Career Development, Quality and Accreditation"
Medical college – Varna with
Medical University – Varna Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov

Subject: procedure for the defence of a dissertation and awarding of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science to **Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan**, PhD student in the full-time form of study in the doctoral programme "Health Care Management" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.4 Public Health, in Sliven Branch of Medical University - Varna on the topic "Research into the professional training of health care professionals for working in a nursery".

Scientific supervisor: Assist. Prof. Anna Petrova Georgieva, PhD

1. Descriptive characteristic of the thesis

The dissertation of Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan contains 159 standard pages, structured in four main chapters according to the requirements, including: Introduction, Literature review, Aim, tasks, material, methodology of the scientific research, Results and analysis of the results related to professional interaction and preparation of health care professionals for the implementation of pedagogical activities in kindergarten, practical approaches to maintain and improve the pedagogical training of the health care professionals working in a nursery, Conclusions, Proposals, Contributions, Conclusion, References and publications related to the dissertation. It is illustrated with 42 figures, 7 tables, 2 schemes and 7 annexes. The bibliographic list includes 247 references, 125 in Cyrillic and 122 in Latin.

2. Topic Relevance Assessment

Society's increasing demands for quality early childhood care and education, in the context of nurseries, are placing the focus on pedagogical professionalism. This has highlighted as a priority the process of maintaining and improving the qualification and pedagogical competence of health care professionals working in nurseries. The pedagogical competence of the nurse/midwife, in relation to her pedagogical activity in the nursery, is an integral part of her professional competence. When implemented in a specific environment or when performing functions and roles that go beyond her core professional competency, it shows the need to form positive attitudes and dispositions towards postgraduate training, in various forms, to increase the level of knowledge, skills and habits in every nurse and midwife working in a nursery setting.

3. Literature review

The doctoral candidate makes an analytical review of the literature sources of the national normative documents concerning the care of children in the nurseries in the Republic of Bulgaria. They highlight the pedagogical functions and roles as an integral part of their professional profile and the requirements for a good professional training from the basic education in this direction the necessary knowledge related to the care and education of children in early childhood. The qualification characteristics of the staff of the multidisciplinary team working in the early childhood facility are outlined. In a logical sequence, Zhivka Margosyan

examines the international best practice experiences in nurseries as early childhood learning environments. A comparative-legal analysis of the experience in other countries in the normative regulation of the requirements for professional training of specialists entitled to work in a nursery is made. The experience and knowledge of the doctoral student contribute to the correct and thorough analysis of the factors influencing the interaction in the team responsible for the care of the health, life, education and development of children in the specific nursery. The absence of a unified and systematic approach in the pedagogical training of health care professionals entitled to work in a nursery is highlighted. The structured literature review shows the doctoral student's broad competences in the field of the problem under consideration.

4. Survey methodology

The main aim and objectives are specifically formulated and reflect the precise research work carried out by Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan. The PhD student used a wide range of methods adequate to achieve the goal. Three hypotheses are presented. The subject, object, and scope of the study are well described. The structure and content of the developed toolkit are subordinated to the specificity of the information collected from the respective group of respondents. The methods are selected and described in detail. Documentary, statistical and sociological methods were used. A high degree of consistency was achieved between the eight tasks set, the number of respondents surveyed and the data and results obtained. The logical units of the study are indicated. The survey instrument is self-developed and includes four questionnaires aimed at exploring the attitudes and dispositions of pedagogical interaction, the training of health professionals, the problems related to their pedagogical activities, the postgraduate qualification of nursery staff. Questionnaires for a semi-structured interview for expert evaluation were developed among directors of nurseries, directors of municipal directorates of health and habilitated teachers involved in the formation of the professional training of the specialties "Midwife" and "Nurse" in general and special nursing/midwifery care and disciplines with pedagogical orientation from MU- Varna. The design, stages and location of the study are described in detail. The inclusion and exclusion criteria for the participating people in the study are outlined. The methodology of the dissertation includes traditional and original methods, specifically developed for the study, meets the modern requirements, prepares the doctoral candidate for the research work and is a guarantee for the reliability of the obtained results.

5. Results and discussion

The results of Zhivka Margosian's own research are presented in the third chapter of the thesis. They are grouped into five thematic sections following the chronology of the tasks and applied methods. The contribution of the survey among students (n=192), health care professionals (n=164), educators (n=15), parents (n=175) and experts (n=31) is determined by its scale: it includes 577 respondents divided into five groups; it was held in the cities of Sliven, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo and Shumen. The socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents were analysed. The results obtained from the answers of the respondents provide original scientific information about the attitudes towards pedagogical interaction, the training of health professionals, the problems related to the pedagogical activity carried out by them, the postgraduate qualification of nursery staff and the research into the level of satisfaction of parents of children attending nursery. The data from the study shows lack of difficulties in the realization of pedagogical functions and roles in a significant proportion of health care professionals (80.1%) and the presence of difficulties in approximately half of the students. The

main problems related to the pedagogical activity of health care professionals working in a nursery are outlined, mostly related to issues in children's behavior, the presence of large groups of children. The detailed analysis of the group of students (health care professionals) shows their positive attitude towards additional training aimed at optimizing the pedagogical activity in the nursery. The data from the study shows that a significant proportion of the parents of children attending the nursery are satisfied with the interaction with the health care professionals, confirming the possibility of receiving advice and recommendations from the professionals working in the nursery, related to the development, education and training of their children. The results of a semi-structured interview among experts proves the need for a unified and systematic approach to solving problems related to the pedagogical activity of health care professionals working in a nursery.

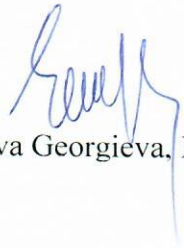
Based on the review of the literature and the results obtained, Chapter 4 proposes practical approaches for maintaining and improving professional training related to optimizing the pedagogical activity of health care professionals working in a nursery. These approaches include important components related to a system for evaluating pedagogical activity, criteria for evaluating pedagogical activity and a system for optimizing the pedagogical activity of health care professionals working in the nursery. The theoretical and cognitive contribution is the developed author's model of the system for control and evaluation of the pedagogical activity, as well as the author's model of the system for optimization of the pedagogical activity and the unified model of the system for postgraduate training of medical specialists working in the nursery. The developed practical approaches for maintaining and improving the pedagogical training of health care professionals working in a nursery have practically applied contribution. The formulated recommendations and contributions of the dissertation are made on the basis of own data from the scientific research. The dissertation is written in good language, precise in terminology.

The content and the quality of the abstract meet the requirements of the Regulations of the Medical University - Varna, as it reliably and adequately reflects the main results of the study. The dissertation is a personal work of the doctoral candidate, and the formulated contributions and I take the obtained results as her personal merit.

In conclusion, I believe that the dissertation work of Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan, on the topic " Research into the professional training of health care professionals for working in a nursery " is of high scientific and practical value, it will contribute to the optimization of the pedagogical activity of health professionals working in a nursery, as well as improve the quality of care and education of children, that Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan fully meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at MU "Prof. dr. P. Stoyanov" Varna.

I give my affirmative vote for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor" to Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan educational in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, in the professional field 7.4 Public Health and the scientific specialty Health Care Management.

10.04.2023.

Statement prepared by: 
Assist. Prof. Emiliya Petrova Georgieva, PhD