

STATEMENT

FROM PROF. ASSIST. KRISTINA PETROVA ZAHARIEVA

ANGEL KANCHEV UNIVERSITY OF RUSE

Faculty of Public Health and Health Care,

Department of Medical and Clinical Diagnostic Activities

for the dissertation of Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan

on the subject of

**EXPLORING THE PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION OF HEALTH CARE
SPECIALISTS TO WORK IN A NURSERY**

Scientific supervisor

Assist. Prof. Anna Georgieva, PhD

For the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
in the field of higher education: 7. Health and sport
professional field 7.4.Public Health
scientific specialty: Health care management

Details of the procedure

Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan was enrolled by order № P-109-34 of 31.01.2020 as a full-time doctoral student in the Doctoral Program in Health Care Management, Department of Health Care, Branch of Sliven Medical University - Varna for the acquisition of the degree of Doctor of Education in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.4. Public Health, in the doctoral program in Health Care Management.

By the decision of the Academic Council under Protocol No. 65/09.03.2023 on the basis of Art. 24, para. 6 and Art. 30, para. 3 of the PPPADB and Art. 68, para. 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Medical University Varna, on the proposal № 031-65/23.02.23 by prof. Ivan Alexandrov, Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan was given the right to defense by Order of the Rector of MU-Varna № R-109-196 from 16.03.2023.

I present this opinion as a member of the Scientific Jury, elected and voted by the AC of Medical University - Varna (Protocol No. 65/09.03.2023) and appointed according to the Order of the Rector of Medical University - Varna No. R-109-196 of 16.03.2023 to provide a procedure for the defense of the dissertation thesis entitled "Exploring the professional preparation of health care professionals to work in a nursery" of Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan, PhD student at the Department of Health Care, Sliven Branch, Medical University - Varna. According to the protocol No. 1/27.03.2023 of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, I have been appointed to prepare an opinion on the dissertation.

The presented set of materials on paper and electronic media has been prepared in accordance with the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for Academic Staff Development of Medical University - Varna.

The dissertation " Exploring the professional preparation of health care professionals to work in a nursery " is dedicated to a socially significant problem, the result of long and purposeful work of *Zhivka Marghosyan*.

Education and training

Zhivka Margosyan graduated from IPHSSSE "Dr. Petar Beron" Sliven in 1982, specialty "Nurse - children's profile", and in 1996 the Medical Institute - Sliven with professional qualification - children's nurse, after which she continued her professional development and training. In 2001 he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Social Activities, in 2004 a Master's degree in Finance and in Economic Management - Health Management at the "St. Cyril and Methodius" University of Veliko Tarnovo, and Master's degree in "Health Care Management" MU-Varna, "Prof. dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" in 2015.

Professional career and academic development

From 1982 until 2015 works as a nurse at the Hospital "Dr. I. Seliminski" - Sliven - Infectious Diseases Department. Since 2015 after competition - assistant professor at MU- Varna, Branch-Sliven.

As of 31.01.2020 by order № P-109-34 *Zhivka Margosyan* was enrolled as a full-time PhD student in the Doctoral Program "Health Care Management" at the Department of Health Care, Branch Sliven, Medical University "Prof. dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna.

Characteristics of the dissertation

The dissertation developed by *Zhivka Margosyan* has the standard structure for the professional field and includes: introduction, first chapter "Literature review"; second chapter "Aim, objectives, materials and methodology of the research"; third chapter "Results and Discussion"; fourth chapter "Practical approaches to maintain and improve the pedagogical training of health care professionals working in nursery", conclusions, proposed contributions, conclusion. The main text is 159 pages including 42 figures, 7 tables and 7 appendices. The content corresponds to the topic and reflects the results of the research done by the PhD student. The bibliographic reference contains 247 titles of which 125 in Cyrillic and 122 in Latin.

Assessment of the relevance of the topic

The dissertation work of *Zhivka Margosyan* deals with a topical, essential and significant problem related to raising the level of pedagogical competence and qualification of health care professionals working in nurseries. In the dissertation the development of professional skills and competences of both health care professionals (nurses, midwives) and students is considered in order to improve their pedagogical activity which is an integral part of their professional competence. This makes the chosen topic relevant and interesting. The introduction presents the social, scientific and practical-applied significance of the research problem.

Chapter One covers the literature review on various aspects of the problem under study. On the basis of literary sources the author has thoroughly examined the emergence and development of nurseries as early childhood learning environments, professional training of health care professionals for work in a nursery, international experience - nurseries as early childhood learning environments, the main tasks, responsibilities, pedagogical functions and roles of health care professionals, working in nurseries and the pedagogical training related to the functions of the health care professionals in relation to their pedagogical activity. The

international experience on the regulatory requirements for professional training of health care professionals is analysed. *The literature review and the bibliographic reference are criteria for the high level of awareness and competence of the PhD student on the topic under consideration.*

Study methodology and organisation

In the second chapter, the aim, objectives, object, subject and scope of the study, working hypotheses, sources of data collection, the study instruments and methods used are precisely formulated. The main goal is precisely and clearly stated: *"To study and establish the state of professional training (with emphasis on the pedagogical) of health care professionals to work in a nursery and to specify the possibilities for optimizing their pedagogical activity"* and is developed in eight correctly formulated tasks, the implementation of which reflects the research work carried out by the doctoral student. There are 3 working hypotheses. The methodology is presented in detail. The survey included 577 respondents divided into groups:

Students - 192 (97 specialty "Nurse", 95 specialty "Midwife"- MU Varna and branches of MU Varna (Shumen, Sliven, V.Tarnovo).

Health care professionals - 164 (134 nurses and 30 midwives - Sliven, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo and Shumen).

Teachers - 15 (nurseries in Sliven, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo and Shumen)

Parents - 175 (Sliven, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo and Shumen)

Experts - 31 (4 heads of the Branch "Nursery"; 17 directors; 10 habilitated lecturers - MU Varna and branches of MU Varna).

The organization of the study is presented in detail - subject, object, scope, stages, methods, logical and technical units and tools.

The methods used-documentary, statistical and sociological -are presented in detail. The toolkit is self-developed - four questionnaires and a semi-structured interview questionnaire for expert evaluation of nursery directors, directors of municipal health departments and habilitated teachers involved in the formation of professional training of students, specialty "Midwife" and "Nurse".

The study was conducted after approval by the Research Ethics Committee at Medical University - Varna with Decision № 115/31.03.2022; was carried out independently in five stages in the period 15.02.20-15.10.22 in the cities of Varna, Sliven, Shumen and V.Tarnovo.

The third chapter presents the results of the own study, reveals the actual state of the problem in practice, provides the results obtained from the fact-finding study. An in-depth analysis of the results was done. Theoretical, mathematical, statistical treatment and interpretation of the empirical data are presented.

In the fourth chapter of the dissertation presents the practical approaches for maintaining and improving the pedagogical training of health care professionals working in a nursery, the conclusions, recommendations and contributions. From the theoretical study and empirical research 11 conclusions are formulated which in a synthesized form reflect the results of the study. The conclusions reflect the realization of the objectives of the study.

Contributions of theoretical and cognitive nature

A study of the professional training of health care professionals to work in a nursery with an emphasis on the pedagogical has been carried out.

An in-depth analysis of parents' satisfaction with the professional competencies of health care professionals related to the education, care and training of children in the nursery, as well as their interaction with health care professionals was conducted.

Author's models of a system for control and evaluation of pedagogical activity, a system for optimization of pedagogical activity and a unified model of a system for postgraduate training of medical specialists working in the nursery were developed.

Contributions of practical-applied nature

The developed practical approaches for maintaining and improving the pedagogical training of health care professionals working in a nursery have high practical value.

The basis for future studies are the established patterns tracing the investigated processes.

I would recommend Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan to prepare informative material on the topic in an appropriate form for health care professionals and students which will contribute to the upgrading of professional skills and competences and optimization of the learning process.

The PhD candidate has submitted three scientific publications related to the topic of the dissertation, using English and Russian.

The structure of the abstract meets the generally accepted requirements. The content of the dissertation is fully and accurately reflected. The most significant results and relationships found are presented, as well as the conclusions, contributions, and recommendations of the study.

Conclusion


The presented dissertation " Exploring the professional preparation of health care professionals to work in a nursery" shows a thorough mastery of the researched matter by the doctoral student.

I appreciate the significance and relevance of the thesis, and believe that it will contribute to the optimization of the pedagogical activity of health care professionals working in a nursery.

During the development of the dissertation, the PhD student demonstrated skills in applying the methodology of scientific research. The research carried out meets the set objectives.

On the basis of the above, I give my positive vote and propose to the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, in the professional field 7.4 Public Health and scientific specialty "Health Care Management" of *Zhivka Georgieva Margosyan*.

14.04.2023.
Ruse

Drafted the statement: 
Prof. Assit. Kristina Zaharieva, PhD