

REVIEW

of a dissertation for the purpose of awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”

Topic:

“Influence of the resources of adaptive physical activity on the physical ability of special needs children”

Author: Shaheser Gyunesh

Doctoral student at the department of „Basketball, volleyball, handball“ at NSA (National sports academy) “Vasil Levski” (Sofia)

Sphere of education: Healthcare and sports

Professional direction: 7.6.Sports

Doctoral program: „Theory and methodology of sports science“

Supervisor: Prof. PhD. Rositsa Tsrova

Reviewer: Prof. PhD. Milena Aleksieva

Dissertation data

Shaheser Gyunesh acquired her Bachelor’s degree in physical education and sport at Dokuz Eylül University (Izmir). She has been working as a teacher at Adnan Menderes University (Aydin) since 1998.

After finishing her Master’s degree in adaptive physical activity and sport in NSA “Vasil Levski” (Sofia) in 2014, she immediately enrolled in her doctoral studies at the same institution.

This gives me ground to assume that Shaheser Gyunesh manages to successfully combine the theory and practice of sports.

She has the required computer literacy and is competent in writing and speaking in Bulgarian and English.

Doctoral studies data

Shaheser Gyunesh was enrolled as a doctoral student with a three-year term at the department of „Basketball, volleyball, handball“ at NSA “Vasil Levski” by order 3II-845/07.05.2014 r. of the rector of NSA “Vasil Levski”. She was

given the right to defend her dissertation on the topic of “Influence of the resources of adaptive physical activity on the physical ability of special needs children” by 3Π-809/17.05.2019. An internal discussion on the dissertation has been held at a department meeting, leading to a unanimous decision to allow its public defense by 3Π-1682/15.12.2021, including the members of the scientific jury.

There are no established procedural violations or oversights in the doctoral studies.

Information on the dissertation and the author's abstract

The choice of topic and the writing of the dissertation itself are based on the doctoral student's personal experience. The relevance of the topic is dictated by the need of establishing contemporary trends, approaches, ways of influence and societal attitudes towards children with special abilities. Shaheser Gyunesh's dissertation takes on a broad view of a contemporary in its relevance and significance problem.

The dissertation is structured according to the requirements relevant to this type of scientific paper. It contains introduction, exposition in 4 parts – theoretical setting of the problem; goal, tasks, methodology and organisation of the research; result analysis of the research; conclusions and recommendations. In its entirety the dissertation is 161 pages long, including the annex.

A significant amount of literature was used in the making of the dissertation (132 sources of which 92 in the cyrillic script and 40 in the latin script) and the theoretical analysis of the problem was appropriate.

The dissertation includes 10 tables, 70 figures and 1 annex which demonstrate the ability to adequately chose which texts require additional illustration as well as a high level of technical competence from the author.

Part 1 „Problem setting” is divided into 3 subparts (34 pages total).

We are shown a characteristic of intellectual disabilities, the leading criteria for classification of persons with intellectual disabilities are pointed out, a detailed analysis on the influence of physical activity and adapted sports on the development of children with mental disabilities is carried out by analysing the relevant literature. The review and analysis of the education programs and adapted

methodologies for work with children with mental deficiencies in Bulgaria and Turkey is placed right before the work hypothesis which is based on the doctoral student's personal opinion and is logically formulated.

The part uses scientific language which shows the candidate's analytical skills and knowledge of the specialised terminology.

Part 2 „Goal, tasks and research methodology" has a classic structure and takes 17 pages. The 5 tasks that are set lead the research in a direction relevant to the topic of the dissertation.

The methods and indicators of scientific research – theoretical analysis of sports literature, pedagogical observation in sports, pedagogical experiment in sport, pedagogical testing in sport – are well selected, which leads to a thorough viewing and investigation of the scientific problem at hand and to reaching its goals.

The developed “test battery” is highly informative and well described. 10 indicators of pedagogical testing in sports are used. They carry information regarding the level of physical development and physical ability of the studied subjects.

The math and statistics toolset includes variational analysis, comparative analysis using Student's T-criterium for independent samples, factorial analysis and the method of sigma deviations.

The research was conducted in the period between 2015 and 2019 and includes 38 subjects between 14 and 18 years old. Two groups of equal size were formed, each containing 19 participants - an experimental group and a control group. The research uses an experimental methodology for the tracking of physical ability and specific skills in children with mental disabilities by employing movement games and adapted physical activity and sport.

In **part 3** (totaling 43 pages) is logically and consistently analysed. The research experience of the candidate can be noticed through the legitimacy and correctness of the interpretation of the large body of data as well as the attention to detail in the process of scientific research.

Here are shown the mean levels and the variability of the observed signs of physical development and physical ability of the researched subjects, which gives

a clear idea of the experimental methodology in use (annex 1). The author extracts a factorial structure of the physical development and the physical ability of children with specific abilities.

A normative grade scale has been developed to score the physical development and the physical ability of children with intellectual difficulties between 14 and 18 years old in the Republic of Turkey, which allows for variability in the applied strain and the reaching of a maximal effect both on the level of physical ability and on the specific qualification of the children.

Shaheser Gyunesh's comment regarding the future accents on work with the researched group don't go unnoticed when it comes to the data from the analysis (pages 91-92.)

The choice of adequate tables and figures is precise, which leads to a higher informational value.

The conclusions and recommendations offered are in accordance with the tasks of the research and are derived from the conducted studies.

The dissertation is in accordance with the requirements for such work and is appropriately illustrated, which makes it easy to read.

The dissertation has many merits, which show the main scientific contributions of the doctoral student and can be brought down to the following:

- A deep theoretical analysis has been done;
- A pedagogical experiment in sports has been successfully conducted, proving the effectiveness of the experimental methodology. In it was used an adequate methodological toolset that allows for the correct resolution of the goal and the tasks of the research;
- The factorial structure has been revealed and the main factors for physical development and physical ability – identified;
- A normative basis for control and optimisation of the physical ability of children with mental disabilities from the Republic of Turkey has been developed.

The author's abstract summarises the contents of the dissertation. All of its parts are mentioned and the main research results are clearly presented. It also contains conclusions, recommendations for sports pedagogy and a list of scientific publications regarding the issues pertaining to the dissertation.

Shaheser Gyunesh has presented three publications on the topic of the dissertation.

In regards to them it must be mentioned:

- All three are corresponding with the topic of the dissertation;
- It is clear that contemporary information technologies, active methods of education, logical structuring, precise style etc. have been employed.

Criticism and recommendations

My recommendations are in regards to:

- In my opinion the dissertation could increase its value if in the theoretical part (part 1) there had been available resources pertaining to the application of movement games in the physical education and sport curriculum in the Republic of Turkey.
- The conclusions and recommendations could have been more concise.

These recommendations are not meant to belittle the scientific achievements of the doctoral student and are meant to be of help in future research projects.

Conclusion

The relevance of the researched problem, the scientific and practical value of the dissertation as well as the conclusions made are enough for me to evaluate this work positively. I propose that the honorable scientific jury award Shaheser Gyunesh with the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” of 7. “healthcare and sport”, professional direction 7.6. Sport, doctoral program “Theory and methodology of sports science”.

15.01.2022 г.
Sofia

Reviewer:
(Prof. PhD. M. Aleksieva)