

REVIEW

on a dissertation presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree „PhD”

to the Department of „Physical Education Theory“ at the Vasil Levski National Sports Academy

by Professor Georgi Vladimirov Ignatov, PhD.

lecturer from the Sport Games and Mountain Sports Division of the Sports Department of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University

***TOPIC:** Methodology for interdisciplinary training in the subject – Physical education and sports for students from the initial stage of the basic educational level*

Author of the dissertation: Iva Naidenova – Dancheva

Scientific adviser: Assoc. prof. Lubomir Borisov, PhD

In the modern stage of society's development, the growth of the negative trend leading to deepening of the problems related to unsatisfactory educational results, despite the enormously increased flow of information linked to the development of technologies, is increasingly evident.

With each passing year, lower and lower levels of literacy and motor activity, which is extremely important for all students of all educational levels, are reported in our country. It is here that we must mention that interdisciplinary learning is an important part of the learning process, which is laid down in the curricula, but there are few teachers who try to practically implement this kind of learning.

For years, a number of researchers and the responsible institutions in our country have identified these problems, but adequate solutions and strategies for their resolution have not been reached. In this sense, the topic is current and important. Anything related to attempts to solve the problem by applying

scientific methods to optimize learning and achieve better results deserves approval and increased research interest. This is also my point of view from which I will analyze and give my assessment of the ideas and results in my dissertation submitted for review.

The dissertation work is formed in one book with a volume of 259 pages, of which 187 main text containing 106 tables and 104 figures, 10 pages of used literature, as well as 62 pages of appendices. Structurally, the work is properly constructed, including an introduction, three main chapters, conclusions and recommendations, references and appendices. In terms of structure, volume and sequence of the presentation, the proposed dissertation meets the basic requirements for this kind of development.

In the introduction to the dissertation, the doctoral student purposefully motivates the need to conduct such research.

For the preparation of chapter one in a volume of 45 pages, 150 sources were used, of which 129 in Cyrillic, 20 in Latin and one internet site. In the first sub-chapter, Iva Naydenova – Dancheva presents us with a statement of the problem. The author introduces us to the modern settings of training in physical education and sports. The role and importance of motor activity for human health and creative longevity, the transition to online learning as a result of Covid-19, as well as the need to apply the interdisciplinary approach and competence-oriented education are clarified. In the second sub-chapter, the age characteristics of students from the initial stage of the basic educational level are examined in detail. In the third and fourth sub-chapters, the multi-functional possibilities of the game for increasing the quality and efficiency of the educational process in physical education and sports and innovative approaches in the field of physical education are thoroughly presented.

The publications on the topic are creatively researched. The study of the state of the problem was carried out competently and in the necessary scientific style. At the end of the first chapter, the doctoral student has developed a short,

clear and well-constructed working hypothesis that forms the concept of the dissertation work.

In the second chapter „Aim, tasks, organization and methodology of the research“, in its logical sequence in a volume of 19 pages, the goal and the resulting five main tasks are presented, formulated clearly and accurately and giving a clear idea of the intentions of the doctoral student.

The author has described the object, the subject and the contingent of her research (a total of 81 students, of which 40 boys and 41 girls), and the applied research methods provide an opportunity for an objective analysis of the achievement of the goal and tasks of the work. The organization of the research, the tests for sports-pedagogical control and the mathematical-statistical methods are described in detail.

In general, the positive points about what was written in this chapter refer to the clearly constructed methodological setting of the research, the appropriate and versatile research methodology. A very good impression is made by the sequence in which the organization and realization of the experiment is presented and the precisely selected and described in detail 10 tests for control and evaluation of the achieved results, as well as the generalized tests on the subjects included in the interdisciplinary methodology for the 1st and 2nd grades, presented in the appendices.

Structurally, the development of chapter two is scientifically sound and fully satisfying, and its content contributes to the high value of the dissertation work.

The analysis of the obtained results in chapter three, in a volume of 117 pages, makes it possible to derive important generalizations for theory and practice. A huge amount of research and analysis has been done, which in terms of scale fully meets the requirements of a doctoral thesis. The third main chapter consists of two sub-chapters, each of which is related to solving the relevant task of the research in the dissertation work.

In the first and fourth sub-chapters of the first chapter, the results of the comparative analysis of the tests for the assessment of physical development and motor abilities in the three tests, respectively, of the students of the 1st and 2nd grades are presented in great detail and professionally.

A very high mark deserves the presented comparative analysis of the results of the tests for the assessment of physical development and motor abilities between the initial and final data, respectively, of the students of the 1st and 2nd grades in the second and fifth sub-chapters of the first chapter. As a result of the applied methodology, a significant improvement of the studied motor abilities is reached.

The presented comparative analysis of the results of the knowledge assessment test on the subjects included in the interdisciplinary methodology of the students of the 1st and 2nd grades respectively in the third and sixth sub-chapters should be highly appreciated. From the tests developed by the doctoral student, applied with the students from the two studied groups, the effectiveness of the applied methodology for interdisciplinary training is very clearly visible.

In the second chapter, the developed correlation models are presented, and at the end of the training, a significant increase in the correlations between the used tests for the two age groups of the 1st and 2nd grades was observed.

The „Conclusions and recommendations“ made correspond to and are based on the solution of the set research tasks and derive from the analysis made.

From the extended scientific search, the researches and analyzes made in this part of the dissertation allow me to point out the following main contributions to practice:

1. The theory regarding the essence and content of interdisciplinary training and the competence approach in physical education has been enriched.

2. A reliable methodology has been created for interdisciplinary training in the subject „Physical Education and Sports“ for students of the 1st and 2nd

grades, with an emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge and the development of motor skills.

3. The changes that occur in the correlation patterns between the physical development and motor abilities of the students before and after the experiment were tracked.

4. A methodology has been developed for the assessment of the cognitive-motor abilities of students of the 1st and 2nd grades.

In **conclusion**, I will note that the reviewed dissertation work was developed at a very good scientific level, with the necessary theoretical and applied value in the field of interdisciplinary training in the subject „Physical Education and Sports“. The presented dissertation has a finished form. The in-depth analysis of the results of the tests carried out, the experiment carried out and the results obtained in it, enriching the training in the subject „Physical education and sport“ and increasing the professional competence of the sports-pedagogical personnel working in the field of physical education and sports, as well as the relevance of the problem chosen for research, give me a reason with full conviction to propose to the respected members of the scientific jury at the National Academy of Sciences „Vasil Levski“ to award the educational and scientific degree „PhD“ to **Iva Naydenova – Dancheva** in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in..., doctoral program „Physical education in the educational system“.

October 31, 2023

Reviewer:

/Professor Georgi Ignatov, PhD/