

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Doncho Donev, Ph.D.

Thracian University - Stara Zagora

for dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Field of higher education: Social, legal and economic sciences Professional

field: 3.2. Psychology

on the topic:

Predictors of parental stress influencing parenting style in children with disorders (5-10 years)

Doctoral student: Irina Boykinova

Research supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Diana Tsirkova, Ph.D.

Burgas Free University, Center for Humanities, doctoral program in
Pedagogical and Age Psychology.

Structure and content of the dissertation

The presented dissertation has a volume of the main text of 181 pages. It is structured in an introduction, three chapters, a summary and conclusion. 216 bibliographic sources are indicated. Of these, 33 in Cyrillic and 183 in Latin. The applications (five in number) are directly related to the research conducted and the data obtained.

The choice of topic is justified both through the prism of the lack of specific scientific data and from the point of view of the author's personal practical experience. Already in the introduction, the main constructs are clarified and the research perspective for establishing a relationship between them is set.

The first chapter presents basic theoretical statements about parenting and its importance for children. Special attention is given to psychoanalytic ideas in this field. The characteristics of families with children with various disorders are thoroughly and consistently analyzed. The development of basic systems in children aged 5-10 years is monitored. The analysis is carried out in the context of several different psychological strands. Different developmental disorders are logically presented and classified.

An operationalization of the constructs constituted as variables in the study was carried out. An alternative definition of parental stress is proposed. It is clearly stated what should be understood by parenting efficacy, resilience, parenting attitude and parenting style in the context of the conducted research. An author's definition of parenting style is proposed.

In the second chapter, a theoretical model of the study is proposed, in which the connections between the individual constructs are indicated. The research concept is logical. The elements of the concept are precisely and correctly defined. Two research objectives are formulated. The stated 5 research tasks are directly related to the objectives. 5 working hypotheses were raised, which are entirely in the object and subject of the research. The proposed diagnostic tools are relevant to the defined variables and appropriate for the age of the subjects. The development and application of an author's questionnaire for the assessment of the parenting style (p. 84) is at stake. The organization of the empirical study is described in a clear and coherent manner. The stages are differentiated, indicating the specific research activities related to each of them. At this stage, a definition of the sample was carried out, and its main characteristics were presented.

In the third chapter, the data from the conducted empirical research are presented and analyzed. They are tabularly and graphically summarized in an expedient manner. The applied statistical methods are relevant for testing the raised research hypotheses. A comparative analysis of the results of the measured levels of the variables according to the previously set demographic criteria was performed. The strength of some of the dependencies was also established by one-factor analysis of variance. Traditionally, in the humanities, correlation analysis in its varieties has been used to establish a relationship between two variables. With a larger number of variables, multivariate analysis is recommended. To establish cause-and-effect relationships, within the mediation model, a regression analysis was applied, the procedure and analysis of which are described in detail.

When applying an author's toolkit, it is accepted that it be tested before presenting and analyzing the data obtained through it. From a stylistic point of view, the text would benefit from following the present historical verb tense throughout the exposition.

The proposed 11 conclusions are directly related to the obtained results and correspond to the research objectives and working hypotheses.

The presented dissertation work is distinguished by consistency and clarity of presentation. The author skilfully uses the conceptual apparatus related to the topic of the study. Citations and references are correct and in compliance with the requirements of international standards. More detailed attention could be paid to the possibilities of applying the obtained results in practice.

No evidence of plagiarism.

Publications

There are present 6 independent publications of Irina Boykinova. The articles related to the topic of the dissertation work and were issued in the period 2017-2022.

Contributions

Contributions of a scientific-theoretical nature are related to the definition of the main constructs in the dissertation work. The indicated practical-applied contributions refer to the adaptation of diagnostic tools for application in Bulgarian language.

Conclusion

The presented materials reflect Irina Boikinova's consistent research interest in children with developmental disorders and their families. Theoretical knowledge in the field and practical training of the doctoral student are revealed. The materials also show Boykinova's skills in planning and conducting empirical research, as well as analyzing the results obtained.

I consider that there are sufficient grounds for Irina Boykinova to be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education: 3. Social, legal and economic sciences, professional direction: 3.2. Psychology.

10.10.2022

Member of Scientific Jury:

/Assoc. Prof. Doncho Donev, Ph.D./