

OPINION

by **Associate Professor Dr. Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva,**

Associate Professor and Head of the Department at the Pedagogical Faculty of

Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski",

of a dissertation of **Irina Petrova Boykinova**

on topic: „**Predictors of parental stress influencing parenting style in children with disorders (5-10 years)**“,

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" by: field of higher education

3 Social, economic and legal sciences professional direction 3.2. Psychology

Doctoral program Pedagogical and Age Psychology

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

By order No. UMO 18/3.10.2022 of the Rector of the Burgas Free University, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic: "Predictors of parental stress, influencing the parenting style in children with disorders (5-10 years old)" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.2. Psychology, doctoral program Pedagogical and age psychology. The author of the dissertation is Irina Petrova Boykinova. Scientific supervisor is Assoc. Dr. Diana Tsirkova from Burgas Free University. The dissertation work was discussed at a meeting of the PS in Psychology at the Center for Humanities at Burgas Free University and is directed for public defense.

2. Relevance of the topic

Irina Boykinova's dissertation is dedicated to the parenting of children of preschool and primary school age with developmental disorders. The problem is topical in a scientific and scientific-applied sense. The relevance is expressed in the attempt to achieve a broader understanding of one of the main factors in child development - the role of parents and to enrich scientific knowledge regarding children with special educational needs. In practical terms, ways of effective therapy for children with disorders are constantly sought, and in this aspect, it is interesting to empirically examine the relationship between parental stress and parenting style.

3. Knowing the problem

Irina Boykinova knows the state of the problem and appreciates creative literary material. The literature review includes 216 sources, 33 of them are in Cyrillic, 183 are in Latin and 3 Internet addresses.

4. Research methodology

The methods that I. Boykinova chooses to apply in her empirical research allow her to achieve the set goal and to get an adequate answer to the tasks solved in the dissertation work. The tools are:

- Parenting Sense of Competence Scale (Gibaud-Wallston & Wandersman, 1978; Johnston & Mash, 1989) to examine parenting efficacy. The self-assessment scale has 17 statements forming 2 subscales: Satisfaction and Efficiency.
- Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (Connor, & Davidson, 2003; Zankova, 2012). The CD-RISC is a short self-report questionnaire used to measure resilience as a developmental personal resource.
- Parental Stress Scale (Berry, J. O., & Jones, W. H. (1995). The Parental Stress Scale is a self-report scale for studying parenting stress containing 18 statements representing enjoyment or positive themes of parenting (emotional benefits, self-enrichment, personal development) and negative components (resource demands, opportunity costs and constraints).
- Parenting style research questionnaire (T. Stoeva, 2010), containing 44 items and grouped into 11 scales: Acceptance, Symbiosis, Authoritarianism, Cooperation, Application of punishment, Emotional distancing (implicit rejection), Rigidity, Emotionality, Frustration, Empathy, Guardianship.

5. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and contributions

The presented dissertation has a volume of 207 pages, of which 194 pages are the main text and 13 pages are appendices. The structure includes an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, bibliography and appendices.

The first chapter presents a theoretical analysis of views on child development and the role of the family and parents in this process. Developmental disorders are reviewed. The main constructs are defined: parental stress, parental efficacy, resilience, parental style and parental attitude towards the child with a developmental disorder.

In the second chapter, the setting of the empirical research with goals, object, subject, hypotheses, tasks and research methods is presented.

The third chapter is devoted to the analysis of the obtained results. A comparative analysis of the results of the studied constructs was carried out in two groups of subjects - parents of children with developmental disorders and parents of children without disorders. Summaries and conclusions are made, which are a logical consequence of the obtained results.

Irina Boykinova claimed six contributions. I believe that they have a place in the presented dissertation work. The dissertation must be evaluated on merit, as an interesting, current and innovative scientific and applied research.

6. Evaluation of the publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student

The publications that reflect the results of the dissertation are a total of six. All are independent articles. Five of them were published in Yearbooks of the Burgas Free University and one - in a collection. They are devoted to parenting style, parenting self-efficacy, parenting stress, and adaptation of basic research tools. I believe that the formulated contributions and obtained results are a personal merit of the dissertation student.

7. Abstract

The abstract gives a clear idea of the dissertation work. It is made according to the requirements and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

8. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results

The quality of the evaluated development is indisputable and this allows me to recommend that the author continues to work in this area by expanding and deepening her research.

CONCLUSION

I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research and propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree 'doctor' to Irina Petrova Boykinova in the field of higher education: Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction Psychology, doctoral program Pedagogical and Age Psychology .

21.10.2022г.

Prepared the opinion:

/Ass. Prof. Dr. Kirilka Tagareva/