

REVIEW - OPINION

For

The dissertation of **BOYANA KONSTANTINOVA KOTSEVA**

ANALYSIS OF THE CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALPINE SKIING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN BULGARIA

For awarding the educational-scientific degree "**DOCTOR**", scientific Specialty
"*Theory and Methodology of Sport Science*", professionally Direction 7.6
Sports

Scientific Adviser - Assoc.Prof., Dr. **Petar Yankov**

I accepted my inclusion in the Scientific Jury for the Dissertation of **BOYANA K. KOTSEVA** with great interest. This work made a real satisfaction from my enrichment with knowledge that rediscovered a new world in Alpine skiing for people with disabilities, but also new guidelines for revealing motivational attitudes with the help of AFAS. I make this introduction, knowing the statistics, the unenviable health status of our country between European countries, contrasting with the high efficiency in the work of our specialists, representatives of *culture-AFAS*, and this Dissertation showed overcoming a number of difficulties, creating new tools, methods and traditions in skiing for people with disabilities.

The Structure is in optimal volume (177 pages), formed according to the requirements of BDS 16332-86 in three Chapters; richly illustrated (31 tables, 53 figures 46 of them photos); reasoned Conclusions (7) and Recommendations (8); References (Cyrillic 13, Latin 77 with 14 Internet Sources); 2 Applications.

The creative tandem between PhD student and supervisor can be proud of its successful experience, which has contributed to the development of the conditions for the development of alpine ski disciplines: the goal and tasks of the Work are solved with appropriate complex methodology, statistical processing of the obtained data analyzed and summarized;

- the sports-pedagogical picture of the alpine skis presented in a relatively lapidary volume is enriched with valuable information from the world practice, as well as with results from the independently conducted field observations and experiments in the natural conditions of the winter mountain;

- the achieved results have been reconsidered creatively - there is a full range of benefits when participating with adapted skis in the outdoor programs.

The merits of the work are an expression of the **creative potential** of the Author, developed in the following current moments of the value-developed work:

The subject of the research respects the holistic approach and the efforts for chronological integration into the world semantic information and practice, has allowed the Author to enrich her work with people with disabilities. Information support of the problem in our country has been achieved with new facts - the "semantic truth" with specific names, events, terrains, equipment, methodology, organization, infrastructure, etc. (in Finland, Israel, Canada, Dubai, Australia). Complex natural experiments were conducted - a new practice in our country, which showed a high effect on all subjects (a total of 86 people - people with disabilities, ski teachers, managers of ski schools and hotels, parents).

The epistemological spectrum of the work covers the modern theory and practice of sport through the conceptual understanding of basic, synergistic features of AFAS in people with partial and chronic disabilities in order to adapt them through adequate mental and motor activation, in order to develop their life as potential equal members of society.

The contribution value of the work is not only in the literary awareness of the Author about the role of different types of disciplines, as well as the organizations developing adapted skis; with the qualities of organizer and coordinator of the program the PhD student achieves development of her model for organization of camps for adapted skis for people with disabilities;

The author shows a competent, critical, concerned attitude to the problems in the development of adapted skis in our country, outlines the need for specialized work to achieve accessibility of infrastructure in our famous ski resorts and ski areas with prospects for future participation of adapted skis in the Paralympic Games: - the author points out the need for additional qualification of ski teachers; -emphasizes the need for specialized ski equipment; - emphasizes the role of organizations such as Paraolympics, the Bulgarian Paraolympic Federation, etc. to conduct training programs in adapted skis and their inclusion in the sports calendar; -understands the need for an information platform for a link between *people with disabilities - ski teachers - ski schools, etc.*

The data from Boyana Kotseva's career development, reflected in her "CV", outline her as an ambitious researcher and follower of the departmental traditions, being faithful to her hereditary creative charge, defends and self-realization need in the development of a new and old issue. The student has chosen the steep and "thorny", but the most faithful path to knowledge and success in the name of the favorite sport of people with disabilities and in the name of society - a worthy representative of our Academic community!

The Abstract, formed in the optimum of 46 pages, reflects the structure of the work with an assessment of the main contributions. **The publishing activity** is presented in three articles as a leading author, two of which are co-authored in English, in one she is an independent author.

CONCLUSION: To the scientific contributions of the presentation I can point out the following main issues: the rich experimental material shows the heuristic nature of the work with the derived tables and conceptual models - a new knowledge that I recommend to include in the curricula of specialists in NSA (bachelors, masters, doctoral students, etc.), as well as to be published for use by coaches, who work with people with disabilities in various sports.

Specific perspectives for specialized work of sports psychologists, for the development of as yet undescribed and unresolved mental problems such as, rich moral (including healing, cathartic, risky, aesthetic, social, etc.) motivation for inclusion in activities with adapted skis.

The Dissertation is an innovative development in the Bulgarian research practice with a view to improving self-control and opportunities for management and self-management of people with disabilities in adapted skiing. The author is a responsible to sports science specialist dedicated to the professional "*secrets*" of skiing.

I confidently propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to give their positive vote for awarding to **Boryana Konstantinova Kotseva** the educational-scientific degree "**DOCTOR**".

20. 01. 2021.

The Opinion presented:

(Prof. Julia. Mutafova-Zaberska)