

OPINION

of dissertation by

Iva Nikolaeva Naidenova - Dancheva

on topic:

**„Methodology of Interdisciplinary Education in the Subject - Physical Education and Sport for
Primary School Students“**

For the award of the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ in the doctoral programme
„Physical Education in the Educational System“, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of training, field of
higher education, 1. Pedagogical Science

By Assoc. Prof Daniela Tomova, PhD

Member of the Scientific Jury, according to the Order No. 940/19.10.2023 of the Rector of the National Academy of Sciences "Vasil Levski", in connection with Article 4, paragraph 2 of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (LADRBA), in connection with Article 31, paragraph 1 of the LADRBA, in connection with Article 60, paragraph 1, paragraph 2 and paragraph 1 of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (LADRBA). 3 of the Regulation for the Acquisition of the Doctorate Degree in the National Academy of Sciences "Vasil Levski" and in accordance with the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy under Protocol No. 9 of 12.10.2023

Biographical data of the PhD student

Iva Naidenova - Dancheva is a physical education and sports teacher with nine years of experience, who has enriched her professional qualification with a number of courses: folk choirs and dances in the classroom, primary cricket training, road safety, coping with stress and emotional overheating in the

educational environment. He also works as a football coach for various age groups. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the NSA Vasil Levski.

Relevance of the research problem

The search for and application of innovations in the learning process in order to increase its effectiveness is a permanent problem. Approval of various methods, means and forms in the process of physical education and sport teaching, as well as their use in practice, is a condition for increasing students' interest in its participation. Of course, the effectiveness of physical education is judged by the results achieved and their performance through the evaluation of students' achievements. The degree of learnability of students, formed motor skills, knowledge and competences, indicators of the level of physical fitness, time needed for acquisition of motor skills and habits, health condition of students are the elements by which the quality of learning process is assessed. The conscious and active participation of learners at different levels of education is determined by various factors. Pupils in primary education are hardly aware of the benefits of physical exercise and the need to develop motor skills. In response to the modern challenges of the educational system, the application of a non-disciplinary teaching methodology is an opportunity to realise an overall effective learning process. In this respect, the theme is relevant and significant

Presentation of the dissertation and the abstract

In this dissertation, a comprehensive study of the topic under development has been realised in terms of content, structure, theory and experiments. It is 259 pages long, divided into three main chapters. The literature review covers 150 sources related to the topic under development. Of these, 129 are in Cyrillic and 21 in Latin and Internet sources. The appendices comprise 61 pages. The experimental data are illustrated with 106 tables and 104 figures.

In the theoretical part, the author makes a thorough analysis of contemporary trends in the educational process, focusing on the application of the competence approach in education. A place is given to the organisation of education in the conditions of the global pandemic of Covid-19 and the transition to online learning. Attention is paid to the use of an interdisciplinary approach to increase the effectiveness of the learning process. The theoretical part of the dissertation has a number of merits, namely: skilful selection

of the analysed sources, through which the content of individual aspects directly related to the research is presented: anatomophysiological and psychological characteristics of primary school students; age-gender specifics of motor qualities; game as a prerequisite for increasing the quality of the learning process in physical education and sport; scientifically sound style of exposition. The theoretical part ends with an analysis of innovative approaches in the field of physical education in the context of the educational system and a logically formulated working hypothesis.

The methodological framework and organisation of the study are presented in the **second chapter**. The aim and objectives, object and subject of the study are outlined. A prerequisite for the realisation of the research vision is the appropriate choice of research methods. The experiment carried out meets the requirements for conducting scientific research. The selected test battery of 10 motor tests to determine the physical development and the level of physical ability of the students is appropriate and innovative.

In the third chapter "Analysis of the obtained results" Iva Naydenova-Danchova correctly analyses the empirical data. The richness of the data allows to draw conclusions about the positive influence of the applied methodology of interdisciplinary training on the dynamics of development of motor skills of primary school pupils and on the formation of knowledge of academic subjects corresponding to physical education and sport through intersubject links. The merit of the dissertation is the correlation analysis carried out on the complex influence on the development and manifestation of various aspects of motor skills in boys and girls of the experimental group and the control group of pupils of classes I and II and on anthropological indicators. The correlation model derived and the generalisations made of all the results obtained allow their complex evaluation and their theoretical and practical significance.

The interpretation of the data corresponds to the results obtained and the six conclusions and three recommendations formulated. The four highlighted contributions support the significance of the thesis and are of great practical-applicational relevance in the theory and practice of physical education.

The doctoral candidate has published the results of the research in three co-authored papers in peer-reviewed journals.

The abstract fully reflects the content of the thesis.

Conclusion: The submitted dissertation on "**Methodology of Interdisciplinary Education in the Subject - Physical Education and Sport for Primary School Students**" was developed in accordance with the requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor". Iva Naydenova-Danchova demonstrates competence and ability to analyse theoretical approaches and empirical data, on the basis of which she draws relevant and significant conclusions and implications. The results obtained are significant in terms of theory and, above all, in terms of physical education practice.

All this is the reason for my positive vote and my recommendation to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to award the pedagogical and scientific degree of "Doctor" to Iva Nikolaeva Naidenova-Danchova, a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Theory of Physical Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy in Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of training

29.10.2023

Opinion by:

Assoc. Prof Daniela Tomova, PhD