

# REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Maria Semerdjieva, PhD

Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University-Plovdiv

Member of the Scientific Jury according to Order No. P-109-309/29.07.2022 of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**".

**Professional direction:** 7.4. "Public Health", in the doctoral program "Health Care Management"

**Doctoral student:** Muzhgian Ismail Sabri

**Form of doctoral study:** doctoral student of independent training at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna

**Topic:** "Cervical cancer prevention: assessment of awareness among healthy and sick women"

**Scientific supervisors:** Associate Professor Diana Dimitrova, Ph.D.

Prof. Dr. Stefan Ivanov, MD, PhD, DSc

## GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE PROCEDURE AND THE DOCTORAL STUDENT

The presented set of materials in electronic and paper form is in accordance with the requirements for acquiring the Doctoral Doctorate according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Belarus (LDASRB) and the Regulations of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. The presented package of administrative documents has been prepared precisely and thoroughly.

## BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON THE DOCTORAL STUDENT

Doctoral candidate Muzhgyan Ismail Sabri graduated in 1993 at the "Iv. P. Pavlov" - city of Ruse, specialty "Nurse". Her post-graduate studies continued with the acquisition of the educational qualification "Bachelor" in "Social Pedagogy" at "Episcop K. Preslavski" High School - Shumen in 2003; educational - qualification degree "Master" and professional

qualification "Social Management" at VSU "Chernorizets Hrabar" - city of Varna in 2004; educational - qualification degree "Master", specialty "Health Care Management" at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - city of Varna in 2015

From 2019, by order of the rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, is enrolled as a doctoral student in an independent form of study in the doctoral program "Health Care Management"

M. Sabri began her professional career as a nurse in 1992 in the Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski" - Razgrad, then in Comprehensive Oncology Center Ltd, Ruse, DCC Ltd, Razgrad, ET Dr. Biser Simeonov Razgrad and "Reflex" Ltd Varna. For one academic year, she worked as an assistant assistant in anatomy and physiology at "Episkop K. Preslavski" School of Education - Shumen. Since 2017, she has held the position of "Chief Inspector" at the RHI, Shumen, Directorate "Supervision of Infectious Diseases"

She participates in post-graduate training courses and seminars organized by BAPZG, the National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases - Sofia, the Institute of Public Administration - Sofia and various scientific events, at which she presents reports on significant medico-social problems. She has undergone training in computer literacy - WINDOWS 98, WORD, EXSEL, INTERNET.

She also engages in project activity: Project "New opportunities for care" under the operational program "Development of human resources" (2016); project "Development of complex measures for the integration of the most marginalized communities among ethnic minorities with a focus on the Roma" - V.Tarnovo (2012). She speaks English (level B2) and Russian

### **RELEVANCE OF THE SUBJECT**

The relevance and significance of the chosen topic is explained by the exponential increase in the number of cervical cancer patients. Worldwide, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women. The high frequency and unfavorable prognosis of the disease determine the medico-social importance of the problem for modern public health care. It is a socially significant disease characterized by high morbidity, morbidity and mortality and is



among the leading causes of long-term disability in women.

According to the World Health Organization, there are four main components of cervical cancer control, which include: primary prevention, early detection through increased awareness and an organized cervical cancer screening program, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care.

Statistics show that the mass application of the HPV vaccine and organized screening lead to a decrease in cervical cancer cases in developed countries. At the same time, about 90% of deaths from this disease occurred in low- and middle-income countries, highlighting existing global health disparities. Women from the poorest backgrounds, those with lower levels of education and those from rural areas are less likely to benefit from regulated prevention and early detection.

Another problem is the lack of opportunities and requirements for continuing education of the health personnel included in the screening programs, so that they can participate more actively in the health education of the risk contingents.

The availability of up-to-date evidence-based information is important to maximize information coverage and to develop the best strategies to focus on the prevention and control of CC.

## **CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION**

In terms of content and structure, the dissertation meets the requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". The paper is written on 175 pages and illustrated with 15 tables and 87 figures. It is structurally divided into five main chapters, preceded by an introduction. The scientific development ends with cited literature, scientific publications in connection with the dissertation and five appendices.

**The first chapter** is a 50-page literature review on the subject. 182 literary sources were used, of which 30 in Cyrillic and 152 in Latin. The literature cited is contemporary and relevant to the topic. The epidemiology and types of cervical cancer prevention are presented in great detail and systematized. A special place is devoted to the importance of women's awareness of CC. The role of the midwife and her competence in the prevention of CC has been examined.

The literature review is comprehensive, informative, written in a very good style. It ends with well-structured conclusions, a logical transition to the formulation of the purpose and tasks of the dissertation work.

The chapter "**Aim, tasks, methods and organization of the study**" is laid out on 6 pages. The main scientometric characteristics of the dissertation related to the implementation of the research are defined in great detail and correctly: goal and tasks, working hypothesis, subject, object and units of observation, criteria for admission to the study.

Three logical units of observation are distinguished:

- students studying at universities in the cities of Shumen, Razgrad and Veliko Tarnovo
- women with a diagnosis of "cervical cancer" who visited the health center in the cities of Shumen, Veliko Tarnovo and Varna
- healthy women of sexually active age from Shumen, Veliko Tarnovo and Varna.

The significant number of respondents covered in the survey is striking: 600 individuals, which ensures representativeness of the sample.

The choice and the way of applying the different approaches and methods in the research carried out by the doctoral student gives me reason to assume that the methodological tools used are suitable for the features of the object and the subject of the research. Two sociological methods are combined:

- Documentary method - used for the study of regulatory documents, manuals, dissertations, scientific developments, reports, programs, recommendations, scientific publications.
- Direct individual survey - three specific survey cards have been developed according to the units of observation.

Adequate statistical methods were used in the processing of the obtained primary data.

The results are presented following the logical sequence of the tasks set in chapter three "**Results and discussion**" and represent 60 pages of the scientific work. In the course of the study, a large number of results were obtained and successfully analyzed, systematized and



visualized, appropriately illustrated with tables and figures.

The conducted study found that about 1/3 of the respondents do not know how cervical cancer is transmitted and the symptoms of the disease. The expected lowest level of awareness about CC is observed in the group of young women (students). At the same time, it should be noted the positive trend that students in the "Health care" direction are better informed about the disease and the availability of a vaccine against it.

The studied contingent of women have a low level of health culture in terms of risk factors related to PMS, which is the probable reason that a significant number of them have reported harmful habits - smoking, early onset of sexual life, risky sexual life, neglect of annual prophylactic examinations. A negative attitude towards vaccination against CC has been established, and with advancing age this negative tendency increases.

This is largely related to the wrong policy in the country, which underestimates health education and allocates available resources primarily in the direction of treatment, at the expense of active prevention.

The fourth chapter presents "**Strategy for increasing women's awareness and health behavior regarding the prevention of CC**". Referring to the scientific results of the study, the real possibilities of the health system and her professional competences, PhD student M. Sabri presents a very detailed conceptual "Strategy for increasing the awareness and health behavior of women regarding the prevention of CC". I admire the idea of developing different strategies depending on the specific informational needs of women in different age groups. **The specific activities, content and executors of the information strategy** for the respective group are described in great detail.

Thirteen **general conclusions** are formulated, which follow correctly and logically from the analysis of the results. They meet the goals and tasks given to the doctoral student.

Specific **recommendations** have been made to the Ministry of Health and the Regional Health Inspections.

The dissertation work of M. Sabri has a number of **contributions** of a scientific-theoretical nature, which I accept, but its importance is above all in the contributions of a

practical-applied nature:

1. Based on the well-planned research, analysis and comparison of the three groups of women, the most significant gaps in women's awareness of the risk factors, prevention and treatment of cervical cancer have been identified.
2. Strategic guidelines and an action plan are proposed to increase women's awareness and health behavior regarding the prevention of CC.

### **Abstract of Dissertation**

The auto-abstract to the dissertation work is formatted according to the requirements and reflects in a concise form the goals, tasks, methods used, results, conclusions and recommendations.

### **Publications on the topic of the Dissertation**

PhD student M. Sabri presents four full-text scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation, all of which have been presented at scientific forums in the field of health care. In all presented scientific works, the doctoral student is the first author, and in three of them he is an independent author. I believe that these publications are sufficiently representative and reflect the achievements of M. Sabri before the academic community and those interested in practice.

### **Conclusion**

My overall assessment of the work, based on the importance of the chosen topic, its structure, content and theoretical summaries, gives me reason to assume that it contains scientific and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and practice. Under these circumstances, I consider that the dissertation work of Muzhgyan Ismail Sabri meets all the requirements for awarding the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in the doctoral program "Health Care Management" and I strongly recommend the esteemed jury to vote positively

01.09.2022

City of Plovdiv

Prepared the review.....

/Prof. Dr. M. Semerdjieva, PhD/