

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Silviya Ivanova Filkova, PhD
Educational sector "Rehabilitator", Medical College,
Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna

of Muzhgyan Ismail Sabri's dissertation on:

"CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION: ASSESSMENT OF AWARENESS IN HEALTHY
AND SICK WOMEN"

Scientific supervisors:

Assoc. Prof. Diana Dimitrova, Ph.D. and Prof. Dr. Stefan Ivanov, PhD, Dsc

For awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in a field of higher education: 7. Healthcare and sports, professional direction 7.4. Public Health and Science Major: Health Care Management

Procedure data

By order of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna No. P-109-232 dated 25.07.2019. Myzhgian Ismail Sabri is enrolled as a doctoral student in an independent form of study in the Doctoral Program in "Healthcare Management" at the Department of "Healthcare", Branch - Sliven to the Medical University - Varna for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional direction 7.4. Public Health, majoring in "Healthcare Management".

On 14.07.2022, at the departmental council of the Department of Healthcare, Sliven Branch of Varna Medical University No. 7, the readiness for public defense of the doctoral student was established and a proposal was made for the composition of a Scientific Jury.

According to Order No. R-109-309 of 29.07.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna, I have been elected as a member of the Scientific Jury, and on the basis of Protocol No. 1/08.08.2022 I have been appointed to prepare an opinion on the acquisition procedure of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" with candidate Muzhgyan Ismail Sabri.

The set of materials presented on paper and electronic media has been prepared and presented in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University - Varna.

Biographical data and professional development of the candidate

Myuzhgyan Sabri graduated with a bachelor's degree with the following majors: nurse - general profile at PMI "Iv. P. Pavlov" in Ruse and social pedagogy in "Episkop K. Preslavski" Sh.U in Shumen. Years of upgrading degrees and post-graduate studies followed. She obtained

the educational and qualification Master's degree in Social Management at the "Chernorizets Hrabar" Evening Secondary School, Varna and Health Care Management at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna.

After completing her basic higher education with a degree in nursing, Muzhgian Sabri worked in the field of health care in an internal department with a gastroenterology profile, endoscopy and oncology office. She also worked as a chief inspector at RHI-Shumen and a medical representative.

She has undergone a number of training and qualification courses, some of which were organized by BAPHC. She speaks English and Russian. There are scientific publications and participation in national and international scientific forums.

Characteristics of the dissertation work

The dissertation work developed by Muzhgian Sabri is 175 pages long, with the standard structure for the professional field. Illustrated with 15 tables, 87 figures and 5 appendices.

Includes: Introduction (2 pages). Literature review (39 pages). Purpose, tasks, methods and organization of the study (6 pages). Results of own research and discussion (55 pages). Strategy for raising awareness among women in three age groups (5 pages). Conclusions, recommendations and contributions (3 pages). References (16 pages) and 5 appendices. The bibliographic reference contains 182 titles, of which 30 are in Cyrillic and 152 are in Latin alphabet.

Review of the topicality of the topic

The importance and topicality of the topic is determined by the fact that cervical cancer is one of the three most common malignant diseases in women. The doctoral student draws our attention to the data of the Bulgarian National Cancer Registry, according to which the statistics for cervical carcinoma are negative and the mortality rate is high. Annual preventive examinations remain the only way to detect the disease early. Timely diagnosis of cervical cancer and successful treatment of precancers is possible only through regular gynecological examinations. The practical aspect of the development is aimed at researching awareness about cervical cancer, clarifying social and personal myths related to primary prevention, assessing risk and behavioral factors that hinder mass screening. Cervical cancer can be prevented through screening programs, that is why the increase of health culture and motivation of Bulgarian women for prophylactic gynecological examinations and administration of vaccines should be maintained at a good level.

Literature review

The literature review is very well structured, it includes various directions in the development of the studied problem. In the introduction, the topicality of the chosen topic is substantiated. The PhD student has developed in detail and comprehensively the prevalence and incidence of cervical cancer. Examines etiology, risk factors, and diagnostic approaches in depth. Given the importance of the problem under consideration, it describes types of prophylactic models and methods of treatment.

The experience and knowledge of the doctoral student contribute to a correct and thorough description of the position of the health workers and their role in raising awareness among women.

The literature review and bibliographic reference reveal a broad awareness of the subject under consideration. The studied literary material was evaluated critically and creatively, as a result of which an in-depth analysis of the theoretical statements was made. All this shows broad scientific awareness, competence and in-depth scientific knowledge of the problem to which the doctoral student has directed her research interest.

Research methodology

In Chapter II, Muzhgian Sabri presented the purpose, tasks, hypotheses and methods of organization of the dissertation work.

The main goal is precisely and clearly stated: "To establish the level of awareness about cervical cancer and to identify the factors and reasons influencing the knowledge of Bulgarian women about the methods and means of prevention and early detection of cervical carcinoma". It is developed in 5 correctly formulated tasks, the implementation of which reflects the research work carried out by the doctoral student. There are two working hypotheses. The methodology is presented in detail. The respondents included in the survey are divided into three groups.

- First group of respondents: 200 female students.
- Second group of respondents: 200 sick women with cervical cancer, treated and hospitalized.
- Third group of respondents: 200 healthy women, randomly selected from the cities of Shumen, Veliko Tarnovo and Varna.

Criteria for admission to the study have been formulated for each of the listed groups. The time and stages of conducting the scientific research are described. Three questionnaires have been developed, which contain closed and open questions. The study was conducted after obtaining permission from the Research Ethics Committee at the Medical University - Varna. All study participants signed an informed consent.

The research methods of the study - documentary, survey, observation are adequately applied. Descriptive and evaluation methods, hypothesis testing methods, correlation analysis - Spearman's coefficient were used for the statistical presentation of the results. Each of them is appropriately applied and enriches the analysis of the results.

The results of the own study and their discussion

PhD student Muzhgian Sabri presents in Chapter Three of her dissertation.

Results are presented that are logically laid out and structured. The results of the three surveyed groups were analyzed clearly, in detail and with understanding. 600 persons were examined.

The doctoral student skilfully studies the awareness of the respondents regarding the recommended frequency of the preventive gynecological examination. It is concluded that the education of the respondents does not correlate with the frequency of visits to a gynecologist, but it is found that women living in rural areas are the least informed.

The results of the own study show that the lowest level of awareness about cervical cancer is observed in the group of young women (students).

When examining the level of health culture in relation to the risk factors associated with cervical cancer, the doctoral student found that women lead a risky lifestyle, almost half of them smoke regularly, more than a third started having sex before the age of 18, more than half have no practice for regularly conducting prophylactic examinations. The data of the conducted survey present the awareness of almost half of the women about the connection between infection with the human papilloma virus (HPV) and the development of cervical cancer, and slightly more of them know that the vaccine against this virus protects against infection.

The awareness and attitude of the respondents to vaccination against cervical cancer was studied and the data indicates that one third of them would not get vaccinated. According to the analysis of the data, the prevailing opinion is that the administration of the human papillomavirus vaccine does not replace the gynecological examination with a pap smear.

I highly appreciate the decision and effort of the doctoral student to develop, based on the literature review and the results obtained, a proposal for a strategy to increase women's awareness of cervical cancer prevention.

Based on the results of the conducted research, the analysis of the literature and international experience, 13 conclusions were formulated, which in a synthesized form reflect the results of the research.

The analysis of the data from the dissertation work has significant practically applied contributions, both for real practice and for the training of future health care professionals. I agree with the scientific and theoretical contributions mentioned by the doctoral student. Based on the results, recommendations were made, specifically addressed to the Ministry of Health and the Regional Health Inspections.

In connection with the dissertation, the doctoral student has presented four publications in which she is the first author, and in three of them she is the sole author, which proves her personal participation in the conducted research, the obtained results and contributions.

The abstract meets the generally accepted requirements in terms of structure. The content of the dissertation is reflected fully and accurately. The most important results and established dependencies are presented, as well as the conclusions, contributions and recommendations of the study. It is richly illustrated with tables and figures.

My notes on the dissertation work are indicated in the appropriate places in the opinion.

Conclusion: The presented dissertation work "Cervical cancer prevention: assessment of awareness in healthy and sick women" is on a current topic and shows a thorough mastery of the studied subject by the doctoral student. While developing her dissertation work, Muzhgian Sabri demonstrated skills in applying the methodology of scientific research work, which is one of the goals of doctoral studies. The conducted research corresponds to the set tasks. The dissertation work shows that Muzhgian Sabri has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional competence, shows the ability to independently conduct and present the results of scientific research.

The dissertation meets all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and the Regulations of the MU - Varna.

The aforementioned gives me reason to confidently give a positive assessment of the presented dissertation work and I propose to the Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Myuzhgyan Sabri in the Doctoral Program in "Healthcare Management" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.4. Public Health.

07.09.2022

Varna



Assoc. Prof. Silviya Filkova, PhD