

OPINION

On a Dissertation

FOR AWARDING EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE OF 'DOCTOR'

In: Health Care Management

Author: Daniela Sabeva Taseva

Academic Advisor: Prof Sonya Koleva Toncheva, PhD in Education

SUBJECT: ***„INTERACTION BETWEEN THE NURSE AND FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN PROVIDING INTEGRATED CARE***

Opinion written by: Prof Ivanichka Atanasova Serbezova, Angel Kanchev University of Rousse.
I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order № P-109-116 / March 14, 2022, of the Rector of Prof Dr Paraskev Stoyanov Medical University of Varna.

I am presenting an Opinion in connection with a procedure for awarding an educational and scientific degree of Doctor to Daniela Sabeva Taseva, in an independent form of training on a doctoral program in Health Care Management, at the Department of Health Care, Varna Medical University.

1. Relevance and significance of the Issues

There is no doubt about the need for integrated care for children with disabilities and their families. They are a special population and may present unique opportunities and challenges for health professionals in the delivery of integrated health care. In many of the regulations over the past years, some principles require that the approach to children with disabilities and their families should be comprehensive, offering integrated care to allow the child's potential to develop and live a full life to a maximum degree. Integrated care requires coordination among the various sectors of health care, education, social sphere to improve the quality of life of children, and the nurse proves to be a link between the members of the interactive team. In Bulgaria, this issue still needs to be addressed and discussed. Many European countries are implementing their model of care which is different in terms of the integration of the structures concerned - finance, human resources, legal framework. At present, Bulgaria does not have a policy document or concept that coordinates and plans the development of integrated services

and early intervention. This practice allows for a range of approaches for families and children with disabilities.

It is the relevance of the subject, very well substantiated by the author, taking into account contradictions and the inadequate scientific development of the issues in Bulgaria that determine the subject of the dissertation to be evaluated. Arguably, the issues of nurse participation in integrated care and interaction with the family of a child with a disability are worthy of further research.

2. A question to be studied is present.

The subject formulation is clear with regards to terms, correctly treated in the dissertation content; a good example of that is the formulated and defended aim, tasks, hypotheses and methodology of the study. The methods employed have been described precisely. The study was conducted using a unique methodology, and unified instruments, to clarify the role of the nurse in the multi-disciplinary team delivering integrated care. Various appropriate methods have been used to gather the primary information needed to assess the most common factors that impact the integrated care provided by the nurse. The information obtained has been processed by appropriate statistical methods. All this leads me to believe that the chosen subject and the approach to its problematization in research tasks are realistic, adequate, measurable and achievable. The present dissertation is indicative of serious work on a widely discussed subject over the past decades – the nurse’s interaction with the families of children with disabilities in delivering integrated care. This is a subject in which there are different opinions of parents, specialists (doctors, nurses, rehabilitates, kinesiotherapists), non-medical specialists (psychologists, speech therapists, social workers, social educators), experts (experts in the state and municipal administration, universities) and students. They intertwine and complement each other to create a product able to do the work of the nurse efficient and with better quality.

3. Dissertation Characteristics

3.1 Size, framework, design and style.

The framework, design and style of the paper meet the requirements and expectations of a similar type of research. It is 240 pages long, with 2 charts, 35 tables, 40 figures and 4 appendices. References consist of 185 sources. It comprises an introduction, five chapters, conclusions, recommendations, conclusion, contributions and a bibliography. The influence of the academic advisor is evident: accurate task formulation and detailed description of the empirical study.

Chapter One has five paragraphs, 51 pages, and Chapter Two has 16 pages. Chapter three is 69 pages long, chapter four is 27 pages long, the conclusions, recommendations, conclusion and contributions are 8 pages long, and are structured at the end of the dissertation. The bibliography includes 185 titles, 121 in Cyrillic and 46 in Latin, as well as 16 Internet sources. The style is clear, scientifically sustained, and the text is readable.

The literature review in Chapter I confirms the relevance of the issue under study by defining terms and links. Public and state policies on early intervention for children have been discussed in the light of the family-based approach. The experience of major European countries such as Germany, France, and Norway on the subject has been presented. The review of the fundamentals of integrated care is interesting. Attention has been paid to the view of the WHO, according to which integrated care is 'a comprehensive and coordinated complex of services, planned, managed and implemented for individual users by various organisations and various professionals.' Here the nurse can find the place she deserves. The legal framework which governs integrated care for children with disabilities and their families has been analysed in detail. Various forms of integrated care for children with disabilities and their families in European countries and Bulgaria have been looked at. The differences are the result of the organization of health and social systems, national legislation and cultural characteristics and traditions. Analysis of the situation in Bulgaria suggests that in our country the nurse is absent from the multidisciplinary team for providing integrated care for children with disabilities and their families, which provokes the author to look into the problem and prove the need for her inclusion in the teams.

Chapter Two focuses on the aim, tasks, methodology and organisation of research. Four working hypotheses have been competently formulated. The organisation, the set of tools, the sources of information gathering and the research methods have been described carefully. The inquiry cards and questionnaires are approved by the Ethics Committee in science and research with Varna Medical University. The stages of research are precisely presented in tables.

Chapter Three focuses on a discussion, the result of an empirical study, aiming to poll the opinions of all participants in the interaction for delivering integrated care for children with disabilities – parents, medical specialists, non-medical specialists, experts and students. The statistics have been processed very well, as is data interpretation. Analyses of the data obtained have been illustrated with figures and tables. Their presentation and interpretation demonstrate Assistant Professor Daniela Taseva's scientific competence and marked abilities to extract and sum up information.

Chapter Four approves Assistant Professor Daniela Taseva's Model of Multidisciplinary Team Care for children with disabilities at the Centre for Comprehensive Services for Children with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases (structure and interaction) presented through a very well-considered rationale, skillfully incorporated in the entire didactic study. An author's algorithm presents 'Function of Modren Nurse in the Multidisciplinary Team at a Centre for Comprehensive Services for Children with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases.' The skills and competence of the nurse in providing integrated care are precisely described, based on the research, which adds new meaning and forms the basis of a new attitude towards the nurse as a professional.

For the research, and after a study of the regulations and analysis of the results of the poll, was proposed a *Model of Job Description of the Nurse Working in Integrated Care. This will result in streamlining the nurse's work in the field of integrated services for children with disabilities.*

3.2 Conceptual Maturity of the Research Approach and Adequacy of the Scientific Methods Used

Assistant Professor Daniela Taseva has focused precisely her interest as a researcher on an interesting issue, something that can be realised only by a person with practical experience in the field of care of children with disabilities. The PhD student approaches the identification and evaluation of the possibilities of implementing integrated care by describing in detail its organisation in Bulgaria, analyses the social and demographic aspects of the people studied, the quality of integrated care, and the barriers to it according to respondents. The finding that despite the emotional burden and difficulties faced in communicating with the children and their families during their practical training, 35% of the students claim they are ready to begin work in integrated care, is praiseworthy.

The analysis of the results and their statistical processing have been given distinctly and illustrated aesthetically. Adequate statistical methods and procedures have been used

3.3 Scientific competence, precision and efficiency

Assistant Professor Daniela Taseva shows literature, practical and research awareness, skillfully coupled with analytical capabilities and selective review of the studies and approaches not only in the theoretical part of her study but also in the empirical part. The formulation of personal findings and generalisations at the end of each chapter, as well as the presentation and convincing defence of the research and analysis results, make a good impression.

3.4 Recommendations and Questions for the PhD Student:

I have no questions or recommendations for the PhD student.

4. Scientific and Scientific and Applied Contributions

The present dissertation research is characterised by its originality and contribution both in a theoretical, conceptual and empirical, research aspect. I accept the proposed contributions.


5. Authorship and Publications

The PhD student has presented a sufficient amount and quality of publications (4, three are co-authored, one independent) on the dissertation subject. They attest to her successful current work and applicability in the field of science. The Abstract is 83 pages long and precisely presents the content of the dissertation. The Abstract is also presented in the English language.

6. Conclusion

Given the assets of the dissertation presented and having in mind the undoubted authorship and creative contribution, I give my positive evaluation. On that grounds, I suggest that a positive vote should be given for awarding the educational and scientific degree of 'Doctor' to Daviela Sabeva Taseva in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.4 Public Health, Major Health Care Management.

April 15, 2022
Rousse

Opinion written by: 
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