

REVIEW

from **Assoc. Prof. Katerina Shtereva**

about dissertation on topic

BEHAVIORAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPACT OF ONLINE LEARNING ON CHILDREN WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

on

ALEXANDROS PROEDRU

for the acquisition of Doctoral degree

Scientific supervisor: **Assoc. Prof. Margarita Stankova**

1. Compliance of the procedure with the current regulatory framework

Alexandros Proedrou has submitted all necessary documents for the dissertation defense procedure: curriculum vitae, dissertation and abstract.

2. General biographical presentation of the candidate

Alexandros Proedrou has participated in a large number of trainings in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders, which shows a high scientific and research commitment to the topic of the dissertation.

3. Data for the dissertation

The topic of the dissertation work "BEHAVIORAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPACT OF ONLINE LEARNING ON CHILDREN WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER" is current and significant, as it affects modern and increasingly relevant problem areas in society in general and the scientific space in particular.

he dissertation has a main content introduction, four chapters, general conclusions, limitations and references to future research and contributions. The main text is 153 pages long and includes 33 tables. The cited literature covers 292 titles.

In the introduction, the doctoral student substantiates the topicality and scientific significance of the topic. The dissertation makes a good impression with the fact that the main questions are posed at the very beginning, the individual components of the exposition are well presented.

The scientific justification of the dissertation is presented in the Second Chapter "THEORETICAL CONTEXT". The basic framework related to the autism spectrum, the types of interventions are examined, the advantages of online learning and, in particular, its impact on children with autism are thoroughly presented. The exposition is clear, precise and multidimensional. The classifications associated with ASD are also well described. I feel that the dissertation would have benefited more if the space devoted to describing ASD interventions and treatments that are not directly related to the dissertation topic were limited. All the analyzes presenting the international classifications and characteristics of the World Health Organization for autism spectrum disorders make a good impression.

Chapter Three "METHODOLOGY" describes the objectives, research questions, design and procedures of the study. The PhD student demonstrates very good skills in planning, organizing and conducting experimental research. I would recommend that in this part the statistical methods and the program with which the data were processed should be presented in summary.

In the Fourth Chapter of the dissertation - RESEARCH PART - quantitative and qualitative data processing, statistical processing, analysis of results, conclusions and recommendations from the two experimental studies are presented. In these parts of the dissertation, Alexandros Proedrou shows good skills in presenting the results and interpreting them consistently. A good impression is also made by the fact that at the beginning of this part both the research questions and the hypotheses arising from them are provided. The questionnaires and scales used are described in relative detail, but my recommendation is that they should be added in their entirety in appendices at the end of the dissertation.

The interpretation of these results involved a number of statistical methods, which gives clarity about the possibilities provided by the research tools used in the dissertation.

The discussion in the dissertation is very well presented, including a number of modern studies and comparisons between the data established in the dissertation and the findings available in the world databases. The conclusions and recommendations made at the end of the dissertation fully reflect what was stated in the previous sections of this scientific work.

The conclusion, presentation of limitations and references to future research are thorough and focused.

4. Theoretical and scientific and applied contributions of the dissertation

This dissertation contributes by presenting a careful selection of the literature on the effects of online learning lessons and interventions, as well as teacher computer use self-efficacy, on the learning and development of children with ASD. Of particular contribution is the introduced Greek version of the AFEQ questionnaire, which has shown good psychometric properties and could be considered in future standardization and use studies.

A strength of the dissertation work is the practice-oriented contributions and recommendations regarding online learning, teachers' attitudes and abilities, and parents' attitudes toward educational applications for children with ASD.

5. Author's abstract

The abstract fully reflects the content of the dissertation and meets the requirements. I recommend that the cited authors be presented correctly at the end of the abstract by means of a list of the scientific literature. Publications that are related to the thesis must also be noted in the abstract.

6. Publications

On the topic of the dissertation, the doctoral student submits the necessary list of publications that meets the required minimum.

7. Notes, recommendations and questions

Regarding the recommendations to the doctoral student - they were indicated during my presentation. I have no questions as I find the exposition sufficiently grounded and supported by evidence and research arguments.

8. Conclusion

The PhD student shows very good theoretical preparation and skills for organizing and conducting scientific research. The in-depth processing of the obtained data is the basis for deriving reasoned analyzes and conclusions, which have contributions in both theoretical and practical-applied terms.

The presented dissertation work should be evaluated on its merits by **giving a positive evaluation and proposing to the respected Scientific Jury of Alexandros Proedrou that the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" be awarded.**

19.06.2024

Reviewer:

/Associate Professor Katerina Shtereva/