Dissertation thesis review

Author: Sunil Kumar, MEd.

Dissertation title: Inclusive Education the way for future Fiji schools: A comparative case study of Inclusive Education in the Czech Republic Schools in Brno and Fiji Primary Schools

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Karel Pančocha, Ph.D.
Opponent: prof. Miloň Potměšil, Ph.D.

Sunil Kumar submits for consideration and defence the dissertation thesis with current topic of special educational practice and what is clear, the topicality has no regional limitations. Inclusive Education represents modern comprehensive approach to education and within the dissertation is focused on comparison of educational situation in the Czech Republic and Fiji.

Formal adjustment of the dissertation

The dissertation thesis is clearly organized into 8 chapters. Theoretical background is processed in three chapters with overall range of 69 pages. Practical part of the dissertation thesis with the discussion is divided into three chapters with a range of 67 pages. Following part of the dissertation consisted of well-organized attachments, adequately referenced in the text.

Language processing of the thesis is not a subject of the review. If author was considering future publication of the dissertation, careful language correction of typing errors and mistakes would be appropriate (see “Mirasolova, questionnaires, practionner, involves, Furtehrmore, it enhance, favorable, …”).

From the formal point of view, the dissertation thesis is at very good level as well as the graphic edit.

Literature sources are mentioned in common form and sufficient scope. The form of the quotes corresponds to the norm. No further comments to formal adjustment of the dissertation.

Conclusion: The dissertation thesis meets the formal adjustment criteria.
Assessment of professional and scientific level of the dissertation thesis

In the theoretical part of the thesis author represents the theoretical basis. Theoretical part is thoroughly processed within the use of current professional literature sources. On a reasonable area author proves his ability to analyse professional sources, ability to compare and draw conclusions for his own research activity. The text of the theoretical part is comparative with compilation nature and well balanced concerning national and international sources. Relevantly to the research the theoretical basis and elementary themes are purposefully specified. The author proves his orientation in the given issues. The result is a clearly conceived thesis with clear objectives. The comparison is focused on concrete schools so the obtained results would reflect the intent of the study. Already in the theoretical part some doubts concerning the success can be observe. These affect also following parts of the dissertation thesis, mainly the discussion. Among other things the benefit of the dissertation thesis lies in use of contemporary literature sources which present state of knowledge at present.

Conclusion: The theoretical part of the dissertation is complex and clear with a clear understanding of the issues in wider context. From the opponent's view the theoretical part is suitable for the defence.

Research part of the dissertation thesis

The research and obtained data are presented in second part of the dissertation thesis. With regard to the given demands this part has a logical construction and it is reasonably extensive. The basis for the research with respect to theoretical part are clearly conceived. The author estimated four research questions which are listed with the resultant opinion in the conclusion. Methodology is processed on a sufficient extent mainly for a description of the methodological tools and weaknesses of the research (the inability to affect the selection of the participants – teachers).

Concerning the research strategy, author describes the genesis and every item including consequences. The research tool was presented also outside of the students' department (FoE UK Prague) and found functional and suitable for the research.
Twenty-five following pages are dedicated to analysis and interpretation of the data. This part of the thesis is processed correctly, clearly and with suitable graphic edit.

The conclusions are summarized in the discussion which meets all criteria given on this level. The benefit is, that author is not trying to “transport” some of foreign successful approach to the conditions of his homeland but shows tendency to create own approach reflecting environment specifics.

Author suggests possible procedures for the practice – not only special pedagogical practice but also in interdisciplinary context. Parts labelled as a space for further exploration are considered to be useful.

Conclusion: Student proved creativity in given research field. Submitted thesis fully meets standard dissertation thesis requirements in the field of Special Education. Author proved his ability for science work. It is expected the outlined theme will be discussed in an erudite manner during the defence of the dissertation thesis.

In the light of the above, I recommend admitting the thesis to the defence and in case of successful defence to award Sunil Kumar, MEd. academic title Ph.D.

Within the dissertation thesis defence I suggest following issues for discussion:

1. In your thesis you mention the necessity of the cooperation with family (which is undeniable). Please specify in the discussion possible attitudes and influence of parents of intact children.

2. Please characterize the most important matches and differences in teachers' attitudes to inclusive education and its possible sources.

In Olomouc, 24.5.2017

Miloň Potměšil