

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva

for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor”

at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

Scientific field: “Pedagogy”

Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Education in ...”, specialty

“Psychology and Pedagogy”, announced in State Gazette, Issue 5 dated 16.01.2024

Candidate: Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Vitkova Stoilova

1. General presentation of the procedure and the materials received for review:

The competition was announced under Higher education field 1. “Pedagogical Sciences”, Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Education in ...”, specialty **“Psychology and Pedagogy”**. One candidate applied for the announced competition – Liliya Vitkova Stoilova. It was announced in State Gazette, Issue 5 dated 16.01.2024.

2. Brief biographical data of the candidate: Liliya Vitkova Stoilova was born on 28.07.1987 in Plovdiv. In 2006, she began studying at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University and graduated in 2010 with two specialties: in 2010 – “Psychology” and in 2011 – “Slavic Philology – Serbian and Croatian”. She completed a Master’s degree in “Social and Legal Psychology” at Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.

In 2012, she started her PhD studies at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, and in 2014 she became a doctoral student at Saint Petersburg State University, Faculty of Psychology.

She started her teaching career at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University and since 2018 has been appointed as an Assistant at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. In 2020, she won a competition for the position of Chief Assistant. Dr. Stoilova teaches “General and Developmental Psychology”, “Psychology of Art”, “Differential Psychology”, “Psychopathology”, and “Psychology of Giftedness” to undergraduate and graduate students.

She has participated in numerous training courses and specializations both domestically and abroad.

3. Description of the candidate’s scientific and artistic-creative production:

The publications proposed for the period 2017-2024, which were not submitted in the competition for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor”, include 1 monograph, which is the main habilitation work – *“Motivational Determinants in Choosing the Teaching Profession Among Young People”*, 1 book based on a defended dissertation

work – *“Everyday Hassles, Coping Strategies, and Life Satisfaction in Old Age”*, 5 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, 2 of which are sole-authored, and 25 articles published in non-peer-reviewed journals, 14 of which are sole-authored, and the rest in collaboration.

4. Scientific and artistic-creative production: The presented publications and studies by Liliya Stoilova are dedicated to psychology and its reflection in pedagogical practice.

The monograph *“Motivational Determinants in Choosing the Teaching Profession Among Young People”*, which is the candidate’s main habilitation work, focuses on motivation and motivational determinants related to the selection of the teaching profession. The first chapter examines the theoretical and methodological foundations of the research, including key concepts and definitions, the state of pedagogical training in Bulgaria, motivational theories, and various factors influencing the motivation of future teachers. It also analyzes the reasons that lead teachers to leave the profession, the role of support from colleagues and administration, working conditions, and the societal perception of the profession.

The second chapter is dedicated to the organization, design, and methods for studying the motivational determinants in the choice of the teaching profession, preparing the basis for the empirical study presented in the third chapter.

The third chapter presents an analysis of data from different groups: students in grades 11 to 12, students in pedagogical specialties, and new teachers. Their attitudes towards the profession, motivational factors, and the impact of various determinants on their decision to select or leave the profession are examined. The chapter also explores the relationship between motivational factors for choosing the profession and the decision to leave it.

In conclusion, the monograph offers conclusions from the study and formulates recommendations for increasing the attractiveness and status of the teaching profession, which is essential for improving the quality of education and for attracting talented individuals to the field.

The book *“Everyday Hassles, Coping Strategies, and Life Satisfaction in Old Age”*, based on the candidate’s dissertation work, provides an in-depth analysis of everyday hassles, coping strategies for stress, and life satisfaction among older adults in Bulgaria. The first chapter establishes the theoretical and methodological foundations for studying the topic, including key concepts and definitions, demographic, psychological, and social aspects of aging, as well as specific theories regarding stress in old age. Additionally, this chapter examines specific factors influencing daily stress and methods for coping with age-related challenges. The second chapter covers the organization, design, and methods used in the study, allowing readers to understand the approaches and techniques behind data

collection and analysis. The third chapter of the book presents the results of the study, including a detailed analysis of everyday hassles, coping strategies, and life satisfaction among older adults. It discusses the levels of various aspects, including how everyday problems affect overall life satisfaction. The relationships between coping strategies for stress and the level of life satisfaction are also analyzed, along with a model explaining these relationships. The book concludes with findings and conclusions summarizing the main findings of the study and offering recommendations for improving the lives and well-being of older adults. These findings can inform the development of policies and practices aimed at supporting older adults in Bulgaria, taking into account their specific needs and challenges.

The research and articles proposed for review in the competition by Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Stoilova cover important aspects of education, professional motivation, loneliness, and psychometric measurements, contributing to the understanding of these key areas in psychology and pedagogy. The main themes around which professional interests are focused relate to several key areas:

- Motivation in education: Factors influencing the selection of the teaching profession are examined, including motivational factors among students and teachers, the impact of academic stressors, and academic engagement.

- Loneliness and socio-emotional well-being: Studies on loneliness are conducted, including comparative analyses between different nations (Bulgaria and Russia), as well as the influence of social and economic factors on experiences of loneliness.

- Organizational culture: Interest in organizational culture in schools and its influence on the motivation and engagement of teachers is another focus of the author's research.

- Academic stress and engagement: Academic stress among students is investigated, along with its impact on resilience and engagement in the learning process.

- The impact of the pandemic on education: The focus is on the influence of distance learning and the pandemic on academic motivation, career choice, and socio-emotional well-being of students and teachers.

- Psychometric tools: Development and validation of various psychometric scales are conducted, especially those related to academic motivation and social and emotional well-being.

5. Scientific contributions:

The scientific production of Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Stoilova significantly contributes to the understanding of key areas in psychology and pedagogy. Her research focuses on important aspects of education, professional motivation, loneliness, and psychometric measurements. The main contributions of her research can be summarized in several key areas:

- Exploration of motivational determinants: Investigating the motivational determinants among students, teachers, and the motivation in education, reflected in the study of factors influencing the choice of the teaching profession among young people.
- Analysis of academic stress, work conditions, salary, and the prestige of the teaching profession: Examining the impact of academic stress, working conditions, salary, and the societal prestige of the teaching profession on job commitment when choosing this career.
- Study of social-emotional well-being and loneliness: Conducting comparative analyses between different nations (e.g., Bulgaria and Russia) with the purpose to understand the influence of social and economic factors on loneliness, as well as exploring coping strategies for stress and life satisfaction in the aging population.
- Focus on organizational culture in schools: Highlighting the impact of organizational culture in schools on teacher motivation and commitment, crucial for understanding the factors affecting the work of the educational staff.
- Emphasis on academic stress among students: Investigating the influence of academic stress among students on their resilience and engagement in the learning process as a factor in creating a conducive educational environment.
- Examination of the impact of distance learning and the pandemic: Studying the influence of distance learning and the pandemic on academic motivation, career choices, and socio-emotional well-being of students and teachers.
- Development and validation of psychometric scales: Designing and validating various psychometric scales, particularly those related to academic motivation and socio-emotional well-being. These instruments contribute to a better understanding and assessment of these aspects in education.

6. Conclusion. In conclusion, based on the expressed opinion regarding the candidacy of Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Vitkova Stoilova and the outlined contributions of her scientific and creative activity, I believe that she possesses the necessary qualities and qualifications for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

03.05.2024

Plovdiv

Signature:.....

/Prof. Dr. A. Zlateva/