



Saint Petersburg State University

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Dissertation Thesis Review Report

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Title: FAMILY INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT AS RISK FACTORS OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR AMONG ADOLESCENTS

It is a pleasure to write this recommendation letter for acceptance of the scientific degree of candidate of psychological sciences submitted by Anastasia Kolpakova.

General comments

Nowadays, digital parenting and integrating digital technology into family life is applied in many fields of research, and it is valuable contribution to the psychological research area on stress in interesting and novel area of this dissertation study. Namely, today's parents face a multitude of parenting challenges, the impacts of digital technology have become a predominant concern giving the widespread integration of digital devices in everyday lives of families as systems. More broadly taken, this thesis gives new and actual insights into the digital well-being of families as concentrating to the best uses of digital technology and integrating digital technology into family communicative multidirectional context in ways that are meaningful and promote family members – especially parent-adolescents, interaction.

The thesis consists of three main chapters, the introduction, the rich part is appendixes (more than 40 pages with 11 appendixes with quantitative research methods used and some additional numeric results of the statistical analysis) and the bibliography (316 relevant sources). PhD thesis is organized in the form of the monographic PhD thesis following the classic structure of thesis. The main text of the thesis is written on 237 pages all together in both a Russian and English part of the dissertation. The author has studied and used appropriate number of bibliography sources and quoted in the thesis. It is the evidence of the deep theoretical knowledge and good orientation in the problem discussed in the thesis. The thesis is prepared in good editing standard. All the figures and tables are carefully prepared and clearly presented.

The thesis is inspired from both theoretical and methodological point of view, whereby both parts of the dissertation – theoretical and empirical, contain original contributions to the field. To attain them, the Author had to have a good command of the subject matter, both theoretically and in terms of triangulation for data collection and comprehensive analysis.

The Author represents the ideas and knowledge with sufficient theoretical background in the Chapter 1, and the research process and its results in the Chapters 2-3. The thesis consist of summary and conclusion (in Russian version respectively: выводы and заключение) chapters.

No major criticism regarding the overall quality of the work I should like to move on to the specific are-as of dissertation with some issues which could be addressed to specify through academical discussion.

Specific comments

The introduction to the main text is proper helping to understand the acknowledgements presented inside the text and presents the aims and methods of the study as well as the hypothesis of the research.

The purpose and subject/object of the dissertation research have explained and as well as hypothesis of the research have presented, whereby the general methodological framework of the whole research is given. The (general) purpose and (specific) objectives of the dissertation have explained, whereby the purpose of the research seems to cover different terminology in the Russian and English part of the dissertation evoking questions/critical comments connected with the whole work.

Question for academical discussion:

Which terms and why, in the Author's opinion, more accurately describe the purpose of the study: impact/ влияние; society/социум; risks of deviant behavior/risk factors of deviant behavior (used also as mediating factor).

Chapter one consists of a literature review and has a logical partition with three relevant sub-chapters analysing the large and appropriate body of research on the key broad and presenting theoretically-empirically developed concept – “family information environment” as a socio-psychological phenomenon based on general systems theory and “adolescents’ deviant behavior” as the other key concept based on review of domestic and foreign studies in the field psychology of deviant behavior. In general, the thesis demonstrates a solid understanding of the state-of-the-art in the research area and the knowledge of the most important and current literature analysis. In the addressing the complex multidimensional issue utilizing in the whole dissertation could be useful to bring more attention to the use of some terms – it seems that terms “deviant behavior” and “maladaptation”, and “deviant behavior” and “diagnosis of deviant behavior” or “behavioral disorders” are used by Author as different terms but also in parallel line; and terms “socially induced behavior”, “personal-social behavior”, “socio-psychological maladaptation” are used as synonyms.

Chapter two is methodological consisting of two sub-chapters. The aim/objectives were fulfilled, methods of research work are appropriate to the aim/objectives and hypothesis formulated in the thesis. The coverage of the development of the methodology – quantitative and qualitative, and the research design – pilot study and main study, is thoughtful and coherent. In general, the used methodology is scientifically sound and described in a way that allows reproducing the research and relevant ethical standards and rules of good research practice are adhered to in the work. The data collection for the empirical portion of the thesis provides unique data from different subsamples of respondents rising a question for the academical discussion during defending process: Whether the Author considers the formation of sub-samples (adolescents who are not connected and connected by adolescent-parent relationships) to be a limitation or a strength of the used methodology and whole the research? Why?

The third main overwhelming part of the thesis consists of results within four sub-chapters, each addressing a specific scientific problem. The results are well presented with the appropriate statistical analysis and their interpretation is at a high scientific level demonstrating a solid understanding of the research field. In general, the presented results are reliable and well documented. I would like to emphasize that the dissertation study concerns a broad area of research, and their main value consists in the detailed description of the obtained results, whereas the weight of analysis and interpretation of research data is overwhelmingly related to quantitative analysis compared to qualitative analysis. In general, the results are discussed in relation to the research of other relevant sources demonstrating a good understanding of the implications of the work in a broader context.

In the final section the general conclusions of the work are summarized. The key conclusions of the dissertation research are substantiated by overwhelming empirical data and stem from the research body. This chapter is well-argued, summarising the key contributions of the research well and presenting some thoughtful reflections on the research process and also recommendations and application possibilities for work in this area. Thus, the dissertation has a clear contribution and interesting results and addresses an important nowadays issue generating significant new knowledge in a field of special psychology.

Conclusion

In spite of the above-mentioned minor remarks for academical discussion, this reviewed PhD thesis is clearly the result of great deal of work and the Author demonstrates a good command of the principles of scholarly work. The candidate's contribution to the research and publications is sufficiently large to award her with the Candidate of Sciences in Psychology in the field of Correctional Psychology and Defectology.

Finally, I thank the Saint Petersburg State University, for the possibility to serve as an External Examiner for the thesis of by Anastasia Kolpakova.

Associate Professor Kristi Kõiv, PhD University of Tartu, Estonia

