

OPINION

by Prof. PsyD Mayana Milcheva Mitevska, University of Library Studies
and Information Technologies

REGARDING: Evaluation of the documentation submitted for participation in the competition of **Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova, PhD** for the academic position of **Associate professor** at the *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Studies, Professional Field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental Psychology and Educational Psychology).

1. *The basis for writing the opinion is Order № RD-16-067/ 10.07.20* of the Rector of the *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen for the appointment of a scientific jury to conduct a competition for the academic position of *Associate professor* in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental Psychology and Educational Psychology), announced by *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen in State Gazette, issue 20/ 10.03.2020 for the needs of the Department of Technological and Vocational Education, Preschool and Primary School Education and according to a meeting held (Protocol №1/ 20.03.2020).

The sole candidate for the competition is Assistant Professor Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova, PhD, Chief Assistant Professor at the *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen, Department of Technological and Vocational Education, Preschool and Primary School Education at the Faculty of Education at *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen. All the requirements of the application procedure in the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* are met. The documents required by Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and Regulations on the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria Act are submitted within the mandatory term.

2. Brief information about the candidate

Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova was born on 7 November 1980. In 2006 she obtained a master's degree in Psychology from *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen, and in 2018 – the Educational and Scientific Degree Doctor of social, organizational and counseling psychology at *Chernorizets Hrabar* Varna Free University. From 2007 to 2016 Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova successfully completed five specializations: Clinical and Counseling Psychology at *St. Kliment Ohridsky* Sofia University, Management and Care of

Children with CLP at The University of Nottingham/ United Kingdom, Applied Behavioral Analyzes (ABA) at ALGI Terapi Merkezi, Istanbul/ Turkey, Functional ABA: Pyramid Approach to Education Basic Training & Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), in Skopje/ North Macedonia, Civil Society Impacting Change, The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The professional experience of Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova from 2002 to the present is related to positions consecutively in the Multiprofile hospital for active treatment - Shumen AD, the Shumen branch of *Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov* Varna Medical University, the Faculty of Education at *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen as a nurse, educator, clinical psychologist and lecturer. She is a member of the Society of Psychologists in the Republic of Bulgaria, Eurlyaid – The European Association on Early Childhood Intervention (EAECI), International Society on Early Intervention (ISEI), The European Association for Physician Health, The Association for Contextual Behavioral Science, The European Network for Mental Health Promotion. Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova's project activity is associated with participation in three international and national projects, which shows organizational and research experience.

3. Data on the scientific production of the candidate

According to indicator *D* with a required minimum of 200 points, Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova exceeds them. She submits 27 scientific papers for review, as follows: one monograph and 26 copies of studies and articles in periodicals, reports at scientific conferences, symposia, in yearbooks and in collections at home and abroad. Regarding the minimum required points in the groups of indicators for the position of *Associate professor* Sevdzhihan Eyubova shows in her reports that she has them. These papers have not been submitted for participation in other competitions for the award of scientific degrees and academic positions and have not been reviewed so far.

4. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the creative production presented for participation in the competition

The works are dedicated to a significant and therefore topical and researchable issue, related to the possibilities for application of innovative interdisciplinary methods for therapeutic intervention in various behavioral and mental disorders. This contribution is complemented by the conclusions from the applied research work related to the study of children with autism spectrum disorders.

Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova presents a habilitation thesis monograph *Early Childhood Autism Screening*. Shumen: *Konstantin Preslavsky* University

Publishing House, 320 pages, ISBN 978-619-201-398-1, published in 2020, reviewed by two habilitated persons. The monograph presented for the competition presents the results of many years of theoretical and experimental research on opportunities for early childhood autism screening in Bulgaria. The main contribution stemming from the advantages of introducing autism-specific screening in early childhood as part of a national screening program for general development in Bulgaria with informed parental participation stands out.

The 26 publications presented for the competition deserve high praise, both for the topicality of the treated issues and the degree of depth of its analysis, as the personal position of the author on the topics discussed clearly stands out. The wide range of discussion issues and multidisciplinary issues in the field of developmental psychology and educational psychology, which are discussed by Sevdzhihan Eyubova, PhD stand out: aggression among adolescents, behavioral and psychosomatic changes in the use of technology in childhood, assessment of mental development and crises up to 3-years of age, aging, emotions as an element of cognitive development and therapy of emotional-behavioral problems in childhood, integrative models for working with children with special educational needs and their families, assessment of professional exhaustion with Burnout-Q, Knowledge and nursing approach in patients with chronic pain, Anxiety and depression in hemodialysis patients. The publications demonstrate the scientific achievements of the author and establish her as a competent researcher and practitioner.

From the presented citations reference of these papers it can be seen that 7 citations of publications have been noticed, as one of them is in a scientific publication, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and six – in collective volumes with scientific review.

Scientific and applied scientific contributions in the scientific production of Sevdzhihan Eyubova. In the presented monograph and publications, several contributions with theoretical and applied character stand out, which I fully accept. The contributions stem logically from the analyzes, discussions and conclusions in the research works.

[1] The advantages of introducing autism-specific screening in early childhood as part of a national general development screening program in Bulgaria have been proven.

[2] Specific screening tools for early childhood autism spectrum disorders have been systematized - CHAT, Q-CHAT, Q-CHAT 10, M-CHAT, M-CHAT R/ F, PREAUT, ESAT, CESDD.

[3] An autism-specific screening tool, M-CHAT R/ F, has been validated and a mobile application has been developed to facilitate the screening.

[4] The possibilities for introduction of autism-specific screening in 21 administrative districts in Bulgaria have been adduced.

[5] Based on an in-depth study, two functional models for effective delivering of bad news have been identified – SPIKES and Safe Cross Code.

Sevdzhihan Eyubova's original research was conducted according to the general standards for publishing psychological and experimental research, organizing and conducting the research with accurately and clearly described tools, sample of the subjects, presentation of primary data, analysis and conclusions. Empirical data are organized in a coherent logical framework, summarized in tables and figures, which illustrates skills for synthesis and analysis of information and extraction of significance. The reference used in the proposed monograph and publications is up-to-date and expediently recreated into the research work. The critical consideration of the sources used by Sevdzhihan Eyubova gives grounds to build an idea of the author's position on the issue. The sources are cited correctly and in accordance with the standards used.

5. Critical Notes

I have no significant remarks regarding the scientific and publishing activity of Sevdzhihan Eyubova, PhD, as well as in relation to the stated contributions.

6. Conclusion

The examination of the presented documentation for teaching and applied scientific activity of Sevdzhihan Eyubova, PhD gives grounds to consider that the candidate is able to organize and effectively conduct her work and successfully implement research and apply knowledge in the field of developmental psychology and educational psychology.

The presented works meet the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the regulations on its implementation. I express my positive assessment and vote for the scientific jury to propose to the Faculty Council Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova to be elected to the academic position of *Associate professor* in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.2. Psychology.

18.08.2020

**Prepared by:
Prof. PsyD Mayana Mitevaska**

