

REVIEW

by Lucian Angelov Milkov, PhD, Prof. Econ., Lecturer at the University of National and World Economy - Sofia, Faculty of Management and Administration, Department of Public Administration,

of the scientific papers of Zhivko Velichkov Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. including monographs, studies, articles, communications in scientific forums, national and university projects with which he participates in a competition for the academic position "Professor", for the needs of the Faculty of Pedagogy at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", Department of Social Work, in the field of higher education: 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", Professional field: 3. 4. "Social activities" (Art therapy and socialization).

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I have been appointed an external member of the scientific jury and elected a reviewer by order № RD-16-004 of January 12, 2021 of the Rector of the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski".

Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. has presented all necessary documents, according to the requirements of the Regulations of the University of Shumen for obtaining scientific degrees and titles and the Law on the growth of academic staff in Bulgaria: an application to the Rector of University of Shumen, list of publications, annotations of his works, detailed CV.

He has a solid theoretical and practical training in the field of social pedagogy and, in particular, in the field of art therapy and the socialization of the individual and his development to an active, creative and creative persona.

He has been working for 35 years as a lecturer at the University of Shumen: first as an assistant, later as senior assistant, followed by head assistant, doctor and finally as associate professor.

He holds a PhD in "Theory of Education and Didactics" (Social Pedagogy), acquired on February 18, 2013, Professional field: 1. 2. "Pedagogy", Field of higher education: 1. "Pedagogical sciences".

Since 2015 he has acquired the academic position of "Associate Professor" for the needs of the University of Shumen, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Social Work.

Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. is participating in the announced competition with a habilitation thesis - monograph: "The need for a father figure for children placed in social services and institutions." University Publishing House "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". Shumen. 2020. 125 pp. ISBN 978-619-201-452-4.

The topic of the father's role in the child's life has been the subject of a number of humanitarian sciences, including philosophy and religion. In the conditions of political and ideological patriarchy, the first traditional civilizational cultures emerged, laying the foundations of the modern world. In the anthropological aspect of the word "father", we most often find its meaning as the founder of the family unit, the source of genetic material and later on the supplier, guardian and leader of the family he created. This meaning of fatherhood is universal even for our daily perception of the word. When we talk about the father as part of the child's life during the various stages of his development up to 18-19 years, our ideas are limited only to the role model of sexual self-awareness and the purely economic contribution to the child's well-being. In the context of social work with children, the father figure is still not perceived as an effective

and multifunctional resource, as well as an alternative to institutional care. A similar approach is taken in the cases of judicial distribution of parental rights.

The presented monograph states the opinion that fathers and significant male figures from the extended families of children continue to be an underestimated and neglected element of child protection. This happens for a number of social or subjective-stereotypical reasons, which, in the end, leads to the system harming the children it is aiming to protect. The monographic study aims to clarify and analyse how the lack of a father figure affects the children accommodated in the system of social services, as a target group. In order to prove the thesis of the monograph, Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. sheds light on various issues, such as: the role of biological parents in the development of the child; psychological and pedagogical aspects of the role "father"; contemporary views and approaches to the father in social work.

Within the three chapters of the study an empirical research is presented, which aims to examine the real effects and consequences of the deprivation of a father figure on the vulnerable target group - children from institutions, children protected by social services, children included in the child protection system due to family problems, etc. Also, the possible benefit of involving the father as an active participant in the multidisciplinary team that looks after the child subject to social services care is outlined. According to the results of the empirical study, a large part of the children placed in social services suffer from the lack of constant and active presence of a father figure. After the placement in social service, a small part of these children were visited by their biological parents, which has an impact now. From the impressions the children have shared, and the opinion of the expert counselling specialists the following can be concluded: the lack of paternal presence in the lives of children in social services has above all a negative impact on their socialization and personal development.

Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. also presents a monograph, which is not the main habilitation work: "Sociological and legal regulation of the subject "Disadvantaged children". University Publishing House "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". Shumen. 2019. 166 pp. ISBN978-619-201-291-5.

The monograph raises the question of the need for a constructive state policy when it comes to disadvantaged children. It is stated that this regulation is realized through the constitution and implementation of social policy in its broad sense. The concept of "disadvantaged children" is clarified - its normative definitions and classification. The most common definitions in international documents, in particular, of UNESCO, are emphasized. The reader's attention is also drawn to the Child Protection Act, which defines a "child at risk". A comprehensive classification of children at risk in Bulgaria has been made, according to two criteria:

- according to the factors (causes) determining the risk for the child;
- according to the form of care.

Throughout the monograph, the terms "institutionalization" and "deinstitutionalization" are defined. Bulgaria has adopted a strategy for deinstitutionalization (Strategy 2010) according to which "deinstitutionalization" means the process of replacing institutional care for children with care in a family or close to family environment in the community which is not limited to removing children from institutions.

An important component of the monograph is the legal regulation of the subject. Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. points out that the main legal and normative documents related to the studied subject are the following: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1989; Child Protection Act (CPA), Prom. DV. issue 48 of June 13, 2000; Regulations for implementation of the Child Protection Act (PDPA), Prom. DV. no. 66 of July 25, 2003; Social Assistance Act (SSA), Prom. DV. no. 56 of 19 May 1998; Rules for implementation of the Law on Social Assistance (PSPA),

Prom. DV. no. 133 of 11 November 1998; Family Allowances for Children Act (FACA), Prom. DV. no. 32 of March 29, 2002; Regulations for implementation of the Family Benefits for Children Act (PZSPD), Prom. DV. No. 67 of July 12, 2002; Law on Integration of People with Disabilities (ZIHU), Prom. DV. no. 81 of 17 September 2004; Regulations for implementation of the law for people with disabilities (PPZIHU), Prom. DV. no. 115 of 30 December 2004

Published university textbooks:

1. Zhechev, Zh. (2020). Art therapy. Motivation for children's social activity through art. University Publishing House "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". Shumen. 281 pp. ISBN 978-619-201-424-7.
2. Zhechev, Zh. (2020). Organization and management of social activities in Bulgaria. University Publishing House "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". Shumen. 111 pp. ISBN 978-619-201-435-3.

Both textbooks are in the field of social work and are used in the learning process for students majoring in "Social Activities". The first is also intended for fellow pedagogues teaching in primary school age. The topic is related to the ideas of synthesis between art and education for the development of children's cognitive powers and creative abilities.

In addition to monographs and textbooks, 12 articles and reports were presented, published in journals, with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes.

In the analysis of the style and language, which is used in the works of Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof., I could establish synchrony and complete coverage of style, used terms, ways of expression. All this speaks of his own scientific works, with a strictly scientific style, serious conclusions about the theory and practice of social work.

In his scientific production no signs of plagiarism and literal copying of foreign ideas, theories and positions can be found.

There are also 14 citations of the scientific publications of Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. by authors established in the university and the scientific community in our country.

Along with the scientific publications, we find a very serious participation of Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. in national and university projects aimed at social policy, social assistance and social activities.

The scientific contributions of Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. are as follows:

1. Identification of the need for a father figure for children placed in social services and institutions.
2. Conducting an empirical study on the need for a father figure for children placed in social services and institutions.
3. Creating a scientific idea about the organization and management of social activities in Bulgaria.
4. Formation of theoretical approaches to the relationship between social activity and socialization of children placed in social services.
5. Theoretical focus on the positive direction and motivation of social activity through "Art Therapy".
6. Formulation of an Exemplary Program for Art Therapy, aimed at motivating the social activity of children placed in social services.
7. Focusing on diagnostics in social work related to the client's participation and his interaction with the social worker.
8. Clarification of "Art Therapy" as an effective tool in cases of medical, emotional, educational, mental and rehabilitation problems and problems related to inclusion in society.
9. Explanation of deviant behaviour from the perspective of social behaviour.
10. Formation of a sociological notion about the foster family approach - its advantages and disadvantages.

11. Definition of the term "Art Therapy" on an individual and on group level.

12. Consideration of the social institutions for children in the context of different sociological concepts - social construction of reality, macro-sociological paradigm and the concept of social distance.

13. Practical application of the Brainstorming and Ring methods for research of social problems, together with students majoring in Social Activities at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski"

CONCLUSION

The papers presented by Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. meet the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of this law and the respective Regulations of the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". The presented materials fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Shumen for the application of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The analysis of the whole scientific work of Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. shows that he has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the field of higher education: 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", Professional field: 3. 4. "Social activities", where he demonstrates qualities and skills for independent research.

Considering the statements above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the reviewed papers, results and contributions.

I propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award Zhivko Velichkov Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education: 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", Professional field: 3. 4. "Social activities "(Art therapy and socialization).

Reviewer:



(Prof. Lucian Milkov, Ph.D.)

February 18, 2021

Sofia