Dissertation evaluation

Title of dissertation: A Comparative Study of Competencies of Teachers Teaching Students with Special Needs in Primary Mainstream and Special Schools in Czech Republic

Author of dissertation: Dorji Tshewang

Evaluator: PhDr. Iva Strnadová, Ph.D.

One of important factors influencing successful implementation of inclusion is in the focus of the submitted dissertation - competencies of teachers educating students with special educational needs (SEN) in two different settings, concretely mainstream and special schools.

The choice of mixed method approach by using self-completion questionnaires and semi-structured interviews was highly relevant to the topic.

The dissertation has the logical structure of the work being divided into five chapters, bibliography and appendices. You select good examples to support your arguments.

The purposes of the study are presented well in chapter one. Especially the focus on exploration of “teacher’s needs for future improvement of their competencies in educating students with SEN” is crucial in terms of future implications. In the same chapter you state that “the appropriateness of separate systems of education has been challenged in all cases”.

**Suggestion for the viva: what are your arguments to support this statement?**

The research is based on well-defined terms and concepts as clearly revealed by chapter two. The literature presented is critically reviewed within the immediate context. I highly appreciate your choice of key components of teacher’s competencies and the way you provide an in-depth understanding of studied issue.

The questionnaires were analyzed by using SPSS, calculating frequencies and percentages. I especially appreciate that the results presented in chapter four are arranged in graphs and pie-charts including the comments and possible explanations of data. Moreover the quotations of teachers are well used in order to provide better understanding of studied
issue. **Suggestion for the viva:** Explain the choice of content analysis used for analyzing the interviews. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this method?

You use the term triangulation as synonym for mixed method approach on page 43. **How can you support this argument? Explain at the viva.**

Chapter five is a solid display of your ability to evaluate own research theory in the light of critically reviewed background literature.

You have reached justified conclusions and demonstrated their significance for future practice.

During your work on the submitted dissertation you have demonstrated on one hand ability to work independently with great responsibility and enthusiasm, on the other hand ability to accept my suggestions. Well done!

I recommend the dissertation to be accepted to the viva.

**Evaluation: 1**

Prague, 1. 8. 2007

PhDr. Iva Strnadová, PhD.