

Assessment of the Candidate

MARTIN MWONGELA KAVUA

Martin Kavua graduated from the prestigious master's study program Special and Inclusive Education Erasmus Mundus delivered jointly by University of Roehampton, University of Oslo and Charles University. Before joining the Ph.D. study programme on Special Education he worked as a lecturer at the Kenyan Institute for Special Education and later as an expert at the Ministry of Education in Kenya.

In 2019, the candidate joined as an internal doctoral student the Department of Special Education. As part of his doctoral study programme, Martin successfully completed all partial exams, and passed the state final exam in the spring of 2023.

The dissertation focused on understanding how teachers use their digital literacy skills to facilitate the learning of students with disabilities in Kenya and the Czech Republic. The dissertation pursued four objectives: to find out how teachers apply their digital literacy skills to facilitate learning; to find out the level of self-efficacy in the field of digital literacy among teachers of pupils with disabilities in basic special schools in Kenya and the Czech Republic; to explore the challenges of applying digital competences of teachers in special primary schools; and understand how teachers of students with disabilities overcome the challenges they face in applying their digital competencies.

During his doctoral studies, Martin was actively involved in the scientific research and publication activities of the Department of Special Education. His professional and scientific-research competences contributed to the acceptance of the research project proposal focused on the digital skills in the context of pupils with special educational needs submitted to the Grant Agency of Charles University.

Martin participated in preparation of a number of scientific articles intended mainly at the theory and practice in the field of special education (the main publication achievements are listed below). In addition to his engagement in publications, Martin participated in a number of foreign professional conferences, workshops and seminars including 15th International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies (EduLearn23) from 3rd to 5th July 2023 at the Palau de Congressos, Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Participated in a 2 weeks internship at the Autonomous University of Barcelona from 14th to 27th May 2023.

The publications include:

- Siska, J., Zahorik, J., & Kavua, M. M. (2022). Education in the light of the legacy of the colonial era and disability. In, African Century. Prague: Vysehrad, Albatros Media, Pp. 105-120. ISBN 978-80-7601-655-2"
- Mbari-Kirika, I., Walker, B.N. and Kavua, M. (October, 2020). Distanced and Disadvantaged: A Study on the Effects of COVID-19 on Education for Learners with Disabilities in Kenya. Available at: <https://inable.org/index.php/resources/case-study/>
- Kavua, M. M. (2020). Education Reforms in Kenya. In Oxford Research Encyclopedia of

Education. New York: Oxford University Press. DOI:
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264093.013.435>.

- Kavua, M.M. (2019). Special and Inclusive Education Policy and Practice in Kenya, 1963 to 2016: The Journey. In Sulochini, P. & Roger, S. (2019). Challenging Inclusive Education Policy and Practice in Africa., Vol. 40. Leiden: Sense Publishing. (ISBN No.978-90-04-39149-9)

Two manuscripts on digital skills of special educators have been recently submitted to international peer reviewed journals.

Throughout the doctoral study programme worked responsibly, and was in a regular contact with his supervisor. For most parts, he met the set deadlines consistently and responsibly.

In conclusion, the doctoral study contributed to the professional, scientific-research, personal development of the candidate including lecturing, data analysis skills and scoping literature review using the Covidence platform.

I am convinced that Martin Kavua will during his future professional carrier enhance international research community on special and inclusive education.



doc. PhDr. Jan Šiška, Ph.D.

Supervisor September 3, 2023