Dissertation evaluation

Title of dissertation: Role of Special Schools in Promoting Inclusive Education. Exploring the Views of Teachers from Special and Mainstream Schools in Czech Republic

Author of dissertation: Pramod Gupta

Evaluator: PhDr. Iva Strnadová, Ph.D.

The traditional point of view considering the special schools as a separate entity working in parallel to mainstream schools is finally changing. The topic of the submitted dissertation presents the well-founded reflection of the new role of special schools in inclusion and therefore is highly up-to-date.

The dissertation is logically structured into six chapters, bibliography and appendixes. The basic terms and concepts are well described, though I would like to hear your voice more, especially in chapter two.

The aim of research - to investigate the role of special schools in promoting inclusive education in the environment of the Czech Republic – was reached. The research strategy selected in order to gain the responses of 27 teachers of mainstream schools and 19 teachers of special schools using the questionnaire – the survey – was handled well.

Chapter four focused on analyzing data shows your ability to use the computer technology when validating the data. Nevertheless I am missing your comments concerning your choice of individual questions or at least areas of questions.

Conclusions are well perceived, but I would like to see more refined implications for future research and I am missing recommendations for future practice.

The suggestions for improvements:

- Be careful with the terminology used for describing people with special needs (we prefer the term “people with special needs” to “deaf”, “mental retarded” – see page 11, etc.).
The recommendation in the field of methodology used is to follow more carefully the literature on statistical evaluation on data. I am missing for example the reference about level of significance.

The suggestions for questions to be answered at the viva are the following:

- What do you mean by “special education skills” (see page 53)? Explain.
- How do you explain that mainstream schools teachers did not favor the new role of special schools being “Partners with mainstream schools in promoting inclusive services”? How can we support partnership between mainstream and special schools in inclusion matters?

I recommend the dissertation to be accepted to the viva.

**Evaluation: 2**

Prague, 5. 8. 2006

PhDr. Iva Strnadová, PhD.