

Dissertation evaluation

Dhyan E.W.M.Veermeulen

„Learning how to Learn in Inclusive Secondary Education“

Evaluator: Doc. PhDr. Marie Černá, CSc.

The dissertation brings new ideas into the current knowledge of inclusive secondary education. It is focused on teaching-learning processes at schools that develop awareness of learning styles and educational needs of students with various disabilities. The main focus is clearly described in the abstract and introduction. Dhyan selected the topic with regard to her professional practice in the field of teacher training and educational consultancy. The three key objectives are stated. There were 100 students, and 50 teachers in 5 schools in the Netherlands included in the action research program.

Review of literature is divided into two sections, Learning and Inclusive Secondary Education. The chapter provides not only a broad overview but also shows the author's ability to use the knowledge to critique existing theory and to reflect it upon her own practice.

In chapter three the research methodology and research review are elaborated. The defined aim of research – “to find out how teachers can facilitate paths of learning” with regard to raising relevant students' consciousness, has been fulfilled. Both hypothesis and research questions are fully acceptable. Selected methods and instruments are well suited to the research action. Using multiple methods [multiple method triangulation] is not easy, and consumes much more time. The video recordings are useful, and they can serve also the schools involved in the future.

The data are analyzed in chapter four from two main approaches: qualitative and quantitative. As in previous chapters, the text here is well arranged and convincing. All the pictures and tables illustrate the content as well as the quotations from the peer-to-peer interviews. **I recommend Dhyan to choose one of the interesting pictures [from p. 26a, 29 or 32a] and present it together with her commentary during the viva.** Three added well elaborated case studies enhance even more the high level of this dissertation.

Dhyana presents justified conclusions in chapter five. The conclusion contains three aspects: 1. critical evaluation, 2. implications and possible areas of further inquiry, 3. consequences for Dhyana's professional and personal development. **The author's further thoughts and statements could be also interesting part of discussion during viva.**

I recommend Dhyana E.W.M.Veermeulen's dissertation to be accepted for viva.

Mark: excellent

Prague, August 2007



M.Černá