

POSUDEK OPONENTA HABILITAČNÍ PRÁCE

Masarykova univerzita

Uchazeč

PhDr. Petr Vlček, PhD.

Habilitační práce

A critical analysis of the Physical Education in the Czech Republic

Oponent

Associate Professor, PaedDr. Branislav Antala, PhD.

**Pracoviště oponenta,
institute**

Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, Slovakia

Dr. Petr Vlček submitted as a habilitation thesis publication A critical analysis of the Physical Education in the Czech Republic, which was published in 2019 by the publishing house Logos Verlag Berlin GmbH with ISBN 978-3-8325-4961-9.

The quality of the physical education teaching at primary and secondary schools is a current social problem, which has not received enough attention, especially in the last period. Therefore, I consider the choice of the topic from the point of view of the contribution to the development of theory and practice of PE teaching to be appropriate and necessary. A critical analysis of the physical education curriculum in the Czech Republic contributes to completion of the mosaic of works that deal with this issue in the world.

The author chose a holistic approach to the study of chosen topic with an effort to present its' different perspectives. From this point of view, the work has a suitable structure, the chapters follow each other logically and give opportunity to gradual good orientation in the issue. The author also appropriately combines knowledge from researches of other authors with results from his own researches. Sometimes he could have presented some of his works in more detailed way.

In the introduction, the author presents the theoretical basis for the creation of curricula in general, then develops on the basis of empirical data the results of various works from different types of views on the Czech curriculum. Next part is focused on research related PE curricula from comparative and international perspective using the methodology of problem-oriented comparative analysis. Last parts represent an overview provided to current issues regarding the Czech PE curriculum and recommendation made for PE curriculum changes.

In characterizing of PE curriculum development in Czech land in the past, the author presents large scale of knowledge based on using results of many related authors. In characterizing the development of school physical education in the Czech Republic in the common state of Czechs and Slovaks (1918 – 1939 and 1945 – 1992), author used especially results of Czech authors, he could have cited more Slovak authors. Similarly, in the section devoted to the comparison of curricular reforms in the Czech

Republic and Slovakia, he refers mainly to the one source focused on Slovak curriculum reform. He could also use other sources of other Slovak authors. But this comparison was made in appropriate level. Only, in 2015, the second important part of the curricular reform at primary schools, including physical education, was carried out in Slovakia, but the author mentions it only marginally.

I consider the part, where the author compares the curricula in the Czech Republic with several curricula in other countries, especially Germany and the USA, and subsequently in Ireland and the Netherlands, as one of the best elaborated parts of the work. This comparative part would certainly be further enriched by analyzing more the PE Worldwide surveys, organized by prof. Ken Hardman in 1999, 1997 and 2012. It would also be interesting to compare curricula in the Czech Republic with Nordic countries such as Finland or Sweden, where school physical education has a long tradition. As a most important results of this part author considers that the documents in the Czech Republic compare favorably with those the other countries studied. They are outcome-oriented as well as contend-oriented and pupils-focused, they emphasize relative rather than normative performance, they include the goal of lifelong physical activity and cover both health and movement topics in a similar way, given the cultural differences.

The next part of the work is oriented of reviewing of PE curriculum in the Czech Republic, especially when compared with other countries it is oriented on major issue of congruence in the Czech Republic. This part is based on the elaboration of basic areas of physical literacy concept. Interesting is especially author's final discussion where he presented ability of critical thinking. Author also presented a high degree of ability to generalize knowledge.

In the final part of the work, the author brings a summary of the most important results of his study and several recommendations for PE curriculum redesign in the Czech Republic. His recommendations are aimed to implement new physical literacy concept with reflection of full suite of literacy elements: motor competencies, knowledge, behaviours and attitudes. He constates that current revision of the curriculum must not end with the design of a new curriculum, what was in the time when his work was published, just in the beginning.

In presented work, it is felt that the author is active on the international level, while also using the knowledge from his work in international organizations and personal contacts with foreign experts. He is also able to make sufficient use of the knowledge gained from his participation in various international events in Czech Republic and abroad, such as congresses, conferences, seminars etc.

The presented work is formally processed at a very good level, pictures and tables are clear, illustrative. The author did not avoid minor errors, such as the designation of chapter 3.1. occurs twice at the work (p. 33 and p.44). The work is prepared at a very high level of English.

Opponents' questions on the defense of the habilitation thesis:

1. What are the main differences in PE curriculum concepts between Czech Republic and the Nordic European countries?
2. What place should have the evaluation of pupils in recommended physical literacy concept, what should be basic content, methods and form of the evaluation of pupils in this concept?
3. Which recommendations of the author were already implemented into PE school practice?

Conclusion

Petr Vlček's habilitation thesis "A critical analysis of the Physical Education in the Czech Republic" **meets** the standard requirements for habilitation thesis in the field of Kinanthropology

Bratislava, 2.2.2021