

OPINION

of Assoc.Prof. Hristina Wilhelm Blagoycheva, PhD

Department of Finance at the University of Economics – Varna

concerning dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**"

in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

professional field 3.8.Economics

doctoral program "*Finance, Insurance and Social Security*".

Author: *Mohammed Aslam Khan*

Topic: TO DEVELOP AN INNOVATIVE HEALTHCARE BUSINESS MODEL, SOCIO VENTURE PARTNERSHIP (SVP), TO PROVIDE THE AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Scientific supervisor: *Irena Nikolova Markova, Associate Professor at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia, PhD in Economics*

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

By order № 18 of 16.02.2021 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance Assoc. Prof. Dr. Grigoriy Vazov I was appointed a member of the scientific jury to provide a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic TO DEVELOP AN INNOVATIVE HEALTHCARE BUSINESS MODEL, SOCIO VENTURE PARTNERSHIP (SVP), TO PROVIDE THE AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE SERVICES for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics, doctoral program "*Finance, Insurance and Social Security*". The author of the dissertation is Mohammed Aslam Khan - a PhD student in independent form of study, whose scientific supervisor is Assoc. Prof. Irena Nikolova Markova, PhD from the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia.

The set of materials presented by Mohammed Aslam Khan is in accordance with Art. 52 (2) of the Regulations for admission and training of doctoral students at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance and includes: a CV, list of publications on the topic of the dissertation, reference to the scientific and the applied contributions of the dissertation, reference concerning compliance with the minimum national requirements for acquiring a Doctor's degree in the professional field 3.8. Economics, dissertation paper and abstract of the dissertation paper.

The doctoral student has enclosed copies of 4 articles, which are related to the dissertation. No list of citations is provided.

Mohammed Aslam Khan was born on September 27, 1974. In 1996 he graduated from M.H. Saboo Siddik College of Engineering, Mumbai University, India, acquiring the degree Bachelor of Engineering in "Electronics Engineering, Computer and Microprocessor Executive Education".

He took part in different trainings to enhance his qualification, the most important with regard to the current procedure being: *Organization Design and Development, Leadership and Management* in Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, India; *Professional Services, Customer Relationships* in Harvard Business School, Harvard University, USA; *Innovation, Marketing* in Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA; *Corporate Finance, Capital Structure, Investor relations, Corporate governance* in Said Business School, Oxford University, England.

He has excellent language and computer skills.

Although the doctoral student's professional career is mainly in the field of information technology, some of his interests and competencies are related to the social sphere. He is the founder of the RIDA Foundation, established in 2010, to support vulnerable people through health, education and public services programs. Undoubtedly, his work for the foundation has provoked his interest in the development of the current research and has created the conditions for the implementation of the research project for conducting experiments for the implementation of the innovative business model through the integration of strategic partnerships.

All of the above logically leads to a deep penetration into the issues of his dissertation work.

2. Relevance of the topic and expediency of the set goals and objectives

The problem developed in the dissertation is extremely relevant both in scientific terms and from the point of view of its implementation value. The relevance of the study can be sought in several ways. On the one hand, the access of socially disadvantaged people to health services in India is very difficult. On the other hand, there is limited research available on the possibilities for providing affordable healthcare for those people through innovative health business models. Thirdly, the relevance of the study is associated with the many benefits of developing an innovative business model of healthcare in India - for investors, NGOs, healthcare institutions and doctors. At the same time, the proposed model is a solution to health problems among much of society, which strongly determines its social character.

From this point of view, the dissertation, in addition to being a completed research paper, can also contribute to complementing theories of social partnership in the field of healthcare in India.

3. Awareness of the issue

The reading of the dissertation reveals a deep penetration into the problems of the researched area. The main thesis of the study is that the development and introduction of a new business model in healthcare will improve the relationship between the entities that implement it and, through innovation, will provide permanently accessible health services for self-insured patients and socially disadvantaged patients in India.

The study shows that in the healthcare sector in India, the share of private medical structures, mainly in large cities, is predominant. The development and provision of affordable medical services for the people at the bottom of the pyramid requires innovative approaches, which, however, are associated with the need for serious investment costs and an appropriate organizational structure. Therefore, the central point in the dissertation is the application of an innovative health business model, based on the strategic partnership between socially responsible companies, medical professionals, and non-governmental organizations, to provide affordable health services for the socially disadvantaged.

The preparation of the dissertation is the result of serious research. 358 literature and 60 normative sources were used, as well as 15 websites. The study of Bulgarian-language sources on the subject makes a good impression (nine of the sources are in Bulgarian). Analytical reading of the literature and his own research have allowed the doctoral student to go into the depth of the problem, to study it, to draw correct conclusions and to offer both adequate solutions and recommendations for additional research.

4. Methodology of the research

The PhD student Mohammed Aslam Khan demonstrates in-depth theoretical knowledge and skills in the selection of methodological tools. A wide range of modern methods is used for analysis and presentation of the obtained information. The research methods used allow the achievement of the set goal and to adequately solve the research tasks. The results of the study are visualized through tables, figures and diagrams.

5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The structure of the dissertation is classical, reflecting the the object, subject, goals and objectives of the study and is a good basis for the achievement of the latter. It is balanced, with a consistent research logic and fully meets the requirements for developing a doctoral dissertation. It is important to note that each chapter ends with synthesized conclusions and a transition to the next.

The research project developed and implemented by the PhD student deserves admiration and clearly proves the benefits of combining government measures, corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship.

6. Contributions and significance of the study for science and practice

The presented dissertation is the result of serious research and practical activities and as such has significant contributions. Moreover, these contributions are reasonably substantiated and of real value in a scientifically applied aspect:

- Studying, characterizing and displaying the features of the health system in India and, on this basis, identifying and analyzing the risks associated with the system's effectiveness;
- Identifying, formulating and categorizing the problems facing India's health system and, on this basis, providing guidance on health reform;
- Reasoned justification for the need to apply a new business model in healthcare, based on an in-depth study of the state and trends of the healthcare market in India;
- Demonstrating the role and importance of corporate social responsibility, social entrepreneurship and social innovation in improving healthcare in India;
- The most significant contribution of the dissertation, which also has a real practical application, is the development of an innovative business model based on a strategic partnership between medical professionals, socially responsible investors and NGOs to ensure affordable health care for the socially disadvantaged in India. Among other benefits, this business model will help alleviate poverty and social exclusion of individuals from the groups studied. The model is particularly relevant in the current COVID-19 situation, given that India is the second most affected country in the world.

In addition, I believe that the formulated areas for future research in this area can be considered as a contribution. They provide a good basis for future researchers to step on.

7. Evaluation of the publications related to the dissertation

The PhD student has presented four scientific publications related to the dissertation and reflecting significant aspects of its content. All four are articles, one of which was published in Panorama of Labor magazine, one in Money & Culture Magazine - a publication of the Higher Institute of Insurance and Finance, and one in the International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Review and the International Journal of Education and Social Science. This further shows that some of the results in the dissertation are already made available to the scientific community.

All four articles are independent from one another. One of them is in Bulgarian and the other three are written in English.

The International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Review is in the process of obtaining an impact factor, and the International Journal of Education and Social Science is indexed in several scientific databases: Google Scholar, World Cat, BASE, ect.

8. Evaluation of the compliance with the minimum national requirements

The submitted publications are sufficient to meet the minimum national requirements for the acquisition of a Doctor's degree in the professional field 3.8. "Economics". They reflect the scientific potential of the author and promote the scientific ideas he is working on.

9. The PhD student's own contribution

The dissertation research has been performed entirely by the doctoral student. The results obtained and the specific contributions can be credited to him exclusively. No plagiarism was found in the evaluated dissertation.

10. Abstract

The abstract (34 pages) adequately reflects the structure, content and main points in the dissertation. The contributions are correctly defined and comprehensively presented. The wide qualification and close acquaintance of the author with the practice is evident.

11. Personal impressions

I have no personal impressions of the doctoral student. But the impressions I received from the review of the presented materials are for an extremely erudite person, with serious research capacities.

12. Critical remarks and recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results

I have no significant critical remarks on the dissertation. In some places there are some very long and complex sentences that could be edited. To make it easier for readers, it would be better if the list of abbreviations displayed at the beginning of the dissertation was arranged alphabetically.

The innovative model of cooperation developed in the dissertation between socially responsible companies, medical specialists, and non-governmental organizations, for the provision of accessible health services for the socially disadvantaged, could be applied in other countries as well. That is why I recommend that PhD student Mohammed Aslam Khan makes additional publications on this topic, which will reach wider scientific and business communities.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation *contains scientific, scientific-applied and implementaion results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements* of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its application. The presented materials and dissertation results **fully** comply with the specific requirements of the Regulations for admission and training of doctoral students at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Mohammed Aslam Khan **possesses** in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional field 3. 8. Economics, **demonstrating** qualities and skills for independent research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my *positive assessment* of the research presented in the above reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and I *invite the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'* to Mohammed Aslam Khan in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3. 8. Economics; doctoral program "Finance, Insurance and Social Security".

08.03.2021

Reviewer: 

(Assoc.Prof. Hristina Blagoycheva, PhD)