



REVIEW OF DIPLOMA THESIS

Review type: Supervisor's Review

Author of the diploma thesis: Wang Ren

Title: Primary health care development during the health care reform in China and future direction---With experience inspiration from UK

Author of the review: Zuzana Kotherová

The thesis addresses a very interesting topic: the role of primary care within the healthcare system. Primary care is often seen as a back-bone of the healthcare systems and from the view of health policy, the topic deserves systematic research.

The author studies the Chinese healthcare system in which the ongoing health reform is focused - among others - on primary care issues and aims to compare it with the situation in the UK. This sounds promising, especially here in Europe where we are more about studying the healthcare systems in the EU and we lack such analysis.

Unfortunately, the author – in my eyes – does not provide a real analysis, the thesis is not clear to me and does not explain the role of primary care in China properly. This starts with the fact that the **theoretical part is missing** in the thesis. The author does not present a real theoretical framework. The first part of the thesis called “Theoretical background” remains descriptive and provides a kind of introduction to the Chinese healthcare system and primary care policies in China and the UK. But in result, this part does not provide an explication of similarities and differences of selected systems, the primary care issue is not well anchor in the text – this results in misleading work with the key words which are used in different contexts: i.e. the top key word “primary care”

- p. 9, Introduction section, the author claims: “In 1978, the World Health organization (WHO) recommended that PHC is one of the most ideal health care models“. But primary care is not a healthcare model, it is simply one part of the healthcare systems/models and its principles were first outlined in the Alma-Ata declaration in 1978.

In the part “**Methodology**”, the definition of the aim of the thesis remains unclear to me (p. 30) and research questions are not well set (p. 31-32). Nevertheless, one can understand that the author wants to evaluate primary care policies in China and the UK and that “he assumes that the UK PHC policy as a whole is better than that of China “(p.30 – regrettably, he does not explain his assumption).



The author chooses four policies (GP, cooperation of health care institutions, public medical insurance system and e-health of doctor consultation) and proposes a method of „scoring standard“ (p. 32) that will be used for the evaluation. The choice of those four policies is not discussed in the thesis. I am also missing some features that I would expect while doing a policy evaluation - types of evaluation (such as i.e. content evaluation, implementation evaluation, impact evaluation) and evaluation criteria (effectiveness, efficiency, relevance...). The author uses the method of scoring standard which is not detailed/explained/discussed, so the results are – in my opinion - at least controversial. On the other hand, I appreciate that the whole approach (scoring standard) seems to be the **author's own concept**, this is in my eyes one of the added values of the thesis.

The structure of the thesis is not clear enough. And stylistic and text editing is relatively poor for a diploma thesis. The language would need a profound proofreading.

In summary, the thesis stays at the very borderline of acceptance for the defense. As a supervisor I would like to point out that the situation of the author was very complicated. He did not have a supervisor to work with till the end of September. We started to work together in October – this gave us three months of work. We have searched for the topic, this took a long time – so in reality, the author only has two months for working on his thesis. Unfortunately, the communication between us was stopped for a while so that it was not possible for me to go through the “final” version of this thesis. The author chose a very promising and interesting topic of primary care. But this is a very complex topic. It was extremely difficult for the author to orient himself in the topic. I would like to point out that the author went through an impressive amount of literature and he really worked hard and made efforts to write a good thesis. I have learned new things while reading the thesis (i.e. barefoot doctors, Chinese evidence). That is why I think the author deserves the right to persuade us about his results during the defence.

For the above reasons, I recommend the diploma thesis for the defense.

My grading is "E or F – depending on the quality of the defence".

Date:

Signature: