



FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

Record of the dissertation thesis defence

Academic year: 2023/2024

Student's name and surname: Ing. Martha Amoako
Student's ID: 10836079

Type of the study programme: doctoral
Study programme: Public and Social Policy
Study ID: 522425

Title of the thesis: Towards a Functional Health System Governance: The Centrality of Policies, Institutions and Actors' Configuration in Malaria Eradication among Under-five Children in Ghana
Thesis department: Department of Public and Social Policy (23-KVSP)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Supervisor: prof. PhDr. Martin Potůček, CSc., M.Sc.
Reviewer(s): prof. Mgr. Ing. Martin Dlouhý, M.Sc., Dr.
prof. Emmanuel Kabengele Mpinga

Date of defence: 13.06.2024 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of the examination: The Defense Committee Chair, Prof. Veselý, welcomed all participants. In 20 minutes, the student presented her thesis on Towards a Functional Health System Governance: The centrality of politics, Institutions and Actors' configuration in Malaria eradication among under-five children in Ghana. She briefly described the main scope, research objective, and questions. Then, she introduced analytical and theoretical frameworks. She presented research design using qualitative (semi-structured and open interviews) and quantitative methods (using SPSS). After presenting policy developments in malaria, fight she spoke about results - discrepancies between malaria health policy strategies and actual implementation, health governance structure, power relations and actors' participation in health policy formulation and implementation, institutional and policy challenges inhibiting effective implementation of health policies toward the eradication of malaria among U5, factors influencing U5 mortality rate (U5MR) and U5 mortality rate from malaria (U5MRM) in Ghana. In conclusion, she stressed that the findings highlight the impact of factors such as government health expenditure, clean water, women's employment, and malaria prevalence on child mortality rates. The study also highlights challenges in policy implementation and the need for ethical considerations, strong institutions, and political commitment. It emphasizes the inherent influence of politics and international actors interference in shaping health policies and the importance of collaboration and values in policy analysis. The study reveals that a comprehensive healthcare system requires that which addresses child health issues in Ghana, focusing on collaboration, finance, infrastructure, health workers, and effective policies and

strategies. She also mentioned the challenges and limitations of the research progress.

The opponents, Prof. Mpinga (online) and Prof. Dlouhý (present), introduced their reviews.

The student reacted to the questions in the reviews. Firstly, she formulated specific and applicable malaria policy recommendations. Then, she served some countries as a benchmark for Ghana, but she also stressed limits like policy implementation deficits or the fact that every country has its own demands and structure. As a model worth exploring, she named S.A.

Prof. Potůček commented on the good quality of the thesis. He asked how the student would design a more general recommendation to help public policymakers fight malaria. The student stressed education as the basic rule for improvement because uneducated citizens can't use the help properly.

Prof. Veselý asked about evaluating the difference between information campaigns and education concerning time. The student answered satisfactorily.

Result of defence: pass (P)

Chair of the board: Veselý Arnošt, prof. PhDr., Ph.D. (present)

Committee members: Potůček Martin, prof. PhDr., CSc., M.Sc. (present)

Dlouhý Martin, prof. Mgr. Ing., M.Sc., Dr. (present)