

superior's first name without his titles when talking to him is still seen as something impolite. But Hristo never placed importance on that. Doesn't matter if students or colleagues, he always asked all of us to call him simply by his name. Later he told me something that I will forever remember: It's not so important how many titles do you have. Only thing that matters in the end is how serious you do your work. It's all about days, months and years spent with doing research, analyzing data, discussing issues and publishing papers. You have to be fully involved in what you are doing. It's only your life's work that makes you a good teacher and scientist. And when you once reach this point of view, everything else including your academic degrees will become a minor thing compared to it.

Three years ago I assisted Hristo by a comparative study focused on Roma children literacy. We had already collected some data materials from different samples and started to analyze them. Suddenly, in the half of his research, he had to leave for some months and it was not clear when we would continue. Even if there would be some continue in the future. I felt little disappointed about this because it seemed to me that we had done a lot of work for nothing. But there wasn't a hint of disappointment in Hristo's acting, which was again something I couldn't comprehend. He finally explained to me that nothing we had done in this way would ever get lost, even when it's still unfinished. And at least, there is one much more important thing I already understand. In each research, results are the most relevant thing. But results can't be the most relevant thing for the researcher himself. It's the process of creating new ideas, developing new methods and strategies what really matters. Not the goal itself is the highest value we have to be focused on. It's the way that leads to it. It's our own decision, our own conviction and our own belief that everything we do, we do in the right way and the best we can. We have to love what we do and we have to do it truly and fair. When doing things like this, absolutely nothing from our effort could ever get lost or be for nothing, even without reaching the finish line. It's good to have big objectives. But the best thing is to go our own way by reaching them. To have the belief and the will to try and to do everything, what we are able to do. Hristo told me once an old Chinese wisdom: "If you try to reach the moon and the only thing you have achieved is that you have climbed on the highest peak on earth, you still did much!" And I think that this parallel is in force not only for scientific activities, but for all aspects of our lives in general!

Being my supervisor for last three years, I have learned many useful things from Hristo. However, the thing I appreciate the most is that he showed me how to become a better man. Now, I have to finally answer the question: Who is Hristo Kyuchukov? Hristo Kyuchukov is well known capacity, author, scientist and pedagogue. He is my teacher and mentor. He is a man who follows his own objectives, a man who walks his own way. Hristo Kyuchukov is my friend and hereby I would like to thank him for everything.

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