

1154-01-400

Mariya Boyko* (mariya.boyko@mail.utoronto.ca), 6 - 469 Woodview Rd, Burlington, ON L7N 2X9, Canada. *Soviet Mathematics Curriculum Reforms (1958-1985): Redefining the Purpose of Mathematics Education*. Preliminary report.

The major mathematics education reforms that took place in the period of 1958-1985 in the USSR are referred to as Kolmogorov's reforms, after professor Andrei Kolmogorov. The reforms intended to bridge the gap between theoretical and practical skills and prepare students for entering postsecondary study and the workplace. Kolmogorov's view of practical mathematics education was different from the government's notion of practical. Kolmogorov believed the school mathematics needed to align with modern mathematics, while the government was interested in providing students with practical skills needed in the workplace. The Kolmogorov curriculum included the introduction of set theory, a deductive logical approach, and focused on the abstract character of mathematics. It resembled the new mathematics movement in American education in the 1960s. The Kolmogorov curriculum was fully introduced only in the 1970s. In the way in which it was implemented it turned out to be unsuitable for the broad range of students. Their grades declined. In the early 1980s the Kolmogorov reforms were replaced with counter-reforms, led by Ivan Vindogradov and Lev Pontryagin. The legacy of Kolmogorov's reforms endures in the form of a philosophical vision of mathematics education till this day. (Received September 03, 2019)