



"IN THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES, THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF SCHOOLS AND MADRASAHs IN TURKESTAN"

("Reflected in the pages of "Taraqqiy" and "Sadoi Turkestan" newspapers: The progress and development of the school education process")

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Abstract

In the early 20th century, the local national press in Turkestan played a significant role in drawing public attention to the social, political, and economic life of the Turkish people, as well as the educational system of schools and Madrasahs, teaching methods and approaches, material-technical infrastructure of Madrasahs, and the overall education system. In this context, the services provided by national pioneers, particularly under the leadership of the Jadid movement, through the publication of newspapers and journals, were of great importance. We can observe these developments in a range of local periodicals. For example, in the early national publications such as "Taraqqiy" and "Sadoi Turkestan," information and articles were published that primarily aimed to promote progressive goals, modernize the education system, improve teaching methods in schools and Madrasahs, enhance the competence of teachers and educators, and provide valuable and relevant materials on educational and pedagogical approaches.

Keywords: "Progress", "State Duma", "geography", "history", "archaeology", "agriculture", "farming", "medicine", "specific subjects", "Sadoi Turkestan", "Friend of the School", "Rahimiya Girls' School in Tashkent", "From Bukhara", "Mirzozoda", "Knowledge and Education" called "article", "from Tashkent", "Mo'minjon Muhammadjonov", "Teachers Among Us", "relationship", "Liver Kebab in Khoxand", "Unfortunately, Our Situation" by N. Yovushev, "Modern Methods of Madrasah".

Introduction

In the local national press during the early 20th century, great attention was paid to the worldly knowledge and sciences, such as geography, history, archaeology, agriculture, farming, medicine, and specific subjects, that were unfamiliar to the scientific and public communities of European countries and Russia. Developed foreign countries demanded and recognized the significance of these sources.

By reading the following articles and headlines published in the newspaper, "Taraqqiy," you can discover the path it has taken: "...why do people not have an interest in knowledge and education? They neglect the sweet lives of their innocent children, causing them to wander the streets and waste their precious lives in ignorance. Even though we observe that



many of our compatriots do not send their children to school, preferring to work them as apprentices, teaching them trades, and depriving them of education and knowledge, they do not make any effort to change the world or achieve success in life. And this ignorance wishes to sacrifice its life for the benefit of the nation, just like a brave lion, as our young heroes divert their thoughts from the entire nation and direct their abilities and zeal towards teahouses and taverns" (from an article by Munavvarqori in the first issue of the "Taraqqiy" newspaper).

Similarly, if we pay attention to the ideas presented in another article published in the same spirit: "...if our schools were organized according to a system like other national schools, and if the task of teaching were entrusted to competent individuals, our innocent generation would find the primary reason for their spiritual life, worldly success, and eternal happiness in education and knowledge. They would not be deprived of education and knowledge to such an extent..."[2] "...it is possible to hope for improvement from these regions because the conditions of Madrasahs, scholars, and qazis, who do not work, have reached a level where they cannot be hoped for young, immature children to expect them to find hope in a career path" (from an article in the ninth issue of the "Taraqqiy" newspaper).

Indeed, among the modern press, the newspaper that paid the most attention to the issues of nationality and ethnicity is "Sadoi Turkestan." The newspaper specifically emphasized the importance of education and the implementation of reforms in schools and Madrasahs. The newspaper's initial task was to develop a true and vivid understanding of the actual state of education in society. The conditions, problems, and solutions related to education in Turkestan, as well as articles or news related to them, occupied almost all the issues of the newspaper. In the article titled "Turkestan Schools" announced under the signature of "Friends of the school" in the first and second issues of "Sadoi Turkestan," the state of schools in the country and their response to the demands of the contemporary era from the perspective of the nation's youth were addressed, providing answers to relevant questions. The article states, ***"The development and progress, life and prosperity of every nation are closely related to the issue of education. If a nation's school system is organized and structured, its future is hopeful and it possesses the capacity and ability to thrive in the world. However, if it lacks order and structure, its future becomes uncertain and the nation is disregarded, leading to humiliation and degradation."*** This is summarized in conclusion.

In the article, the author expresses their opinion about four types of initial schools that existed in Turkestan. They highlight the shortcomings of traditional, modern, oral, and Russian-Turkestan schools, considering the fourth type, the modern schools, as the most favorable. They discuss the openness of examinations and the effectiveness of education in these schools.

However, due to the limited number of such schools, they call for the opening of more modern schools. The newspaper played an active role in continuously improving the schools attended by local children. The article mentions that continuous information was provided to students about the exams conducted in the modern schools. For example, the 13th issue of the newspaper reports on the exams held in a modern school in Namangan, stating that



students successfully demonstrated their acquired knowledge in a short period of time. The article emphasizes the satisfaction of parents who witnessed the knowledge their children had gained and the negative attitude of those who opposed this modern approach. In the subsequent section, the newspaper highlights the satisfaction of those who attended the open exam held at Rahimiya Girls' School in Tashkent, along with the call from the school principal for others to send their children to school.

"Sadoi Turkestan" considers itself as a means to guide the future of Turkestan's knowledgeable generation, and it appreciates the diligent efforts of teachers. In particular, an article titled "Education and Knowledge" by Buxoroliq Mirzozoda emphasizes that education is the future of the nation, and hostility towards education is hostility towards the nation.

In the 33rd issue of "Sadoi Turkestan," Mo'minjon Muhammadjonov from Tashkent asks teachers not to be discouraged by any difficulties and to continue their excellent work.

In the article titled "Relationship Between Teachers and the People" by R. Halimboyzoda, *the importance of paying attention to teachers and supporting them from all aspects is discussed, emphasizing that the teachers' mission is to serve our nation with sincere dedication and elevate the spirit of the nation, which should never lag behind.*

The article "Unfortunately, Our Situation" was published under the signature "Liver Kebab from Khoxand" in the early issues of "Sadoi Turkestan." In it, the author expresses regret about the illiteracy of the nation's children and their uncertain future. They refer to those opposing modern schools as "narrow-minded people."

In the 4th issue of "Sadoi Turkestan," there is an article titled "Closure of Schools". It states, "Qudratilla qori Shohakimov, *the Usuli savtiya teacher from Margilan, Mulla Abduqodir, and Mulla Nishonboy, the teachers, applied to Iskobilov, the inspector from Fergana, to request permission for their schools. The teachers said, "We have no permission to open a school. Nobody has ordered us to get permission. If you order us, we will submit an application and obtain permission."* The inspectors replied, 'No, I have closed your schools. First, take permission, then I will renovate the school buildings and reopen them.' They expelled the children from the school and sent them home. As a result, many children were left without schools and wandered the streets."

In general, the authorities strictly controlled the opening of new schools during this period. They were doing everything possible to eliminate the existing modern schools. The newspaper wrote in an article (issue 23) about the importance of promoting literacy in Russian and its practical application in social life. This fact demonstrates the newspaper's dedication to providing education and training to children in national educational institutions.

Supporters of traditional education criticized people who did not send their children to modern schools. The controversy intensified year by year. In 1914, Ulugbek Madrasah publicly declared teacher Sidqiyni as an "infidel." Safizoda ordered the deportation of M. Shermammedov, a cotton grower from Sebzor, to Tashkent.

In issue 8 of "Sadoi Turkestan," an article titled "A page from the Life of Muslims" by Mahmud Bedili is published, stating, *"Once, knowledge made the world tremble, but today*



ignorance prevails." The author emphasizes that young people should not only learn the beneficial aspects of European education but also avoid imitating their vices, trends, materialism, and similar negative influences.

It calls for teaching young people only the beneficial aspects of European education, urging them not to imitate their immorality, fashion, lifestyle, and similar debauchery.

In Turkey, these shortcomings are gradually being overcome because we lack "Teachers of the Nation" who are knowledgeable about the good educational methods and can prepare competent male and female teachers. Other nations have societies that support and assist eager and talented youth in education. Our young people, who have been educated without national upbringing but with European cultural influence, are finally abandoning their nationality and ethnicity, becoming disoriented. If they start learning Russian, most of them would begin to communicate in their national language... Now, in order to compete in the world, we need to first acquire quality education and national upbringing, and then embrace European culture. Otherwise, the world will consider us a nation without competent youth and ultimately discard us." This emphasizes the necessity of creating national educational channels for the future of the nation.

Similarly, if Rauf Muzaffarzoda's article *"We Do Not Give Importance to Education"* (issue 43) focuses on issues of spiritual education, Karim Norbek's article *"National Education for Our Youth"* (issue 43) looks at education and upbringing from a national perspective.

"Sadoi Turkestan" newspaper, without disregarding its short period of activity, fulfills the role of a platform for exchanging ideas for all the peoples of Turkestan with its own name. Particularly, it has given special importance to the development of education and enlightenment in the region.

In the 16th issue of the newspaper, the news article titled "Tea Houses and Schools in Khujand" mentions several crowded tea houses in Khujand and describes their environment and behavior. However, it highlights the necessity of two new educational institutions, emphasizing the role these two places play in shaping the national spirit, calling for the attention of the people in society to focus on the fate of their children and to support their educational activities. In the 19th issue, the article written with the signature "Kazak child" sadly reveals the absence of a modern school in a major city in Turkestan.

As mentioned earlier, the newspaper pays special attention to educational processes throughout Turkestan. For instance, in issue 28 of "Sadoi Turkestan," there is an article titled "Progressive Example among the Kyrgyz," which reports that Gulom Zafariy, invited from Tashkent, taught in a new method at a newly opened school in the Qurshob district of O'sh for five months. In the early centuries, Turkestan Madrasahs completely lost their previous status. The main reason for this was the invasion of colonialism and the seizure of the perennial income sources of the Madrasahs, which were the waqf properties.

As a result, many Madrasahs were left in a dire economic situation. Even the Bukhara Madrasahs, which had waqf properties, had long been outdated due to not being renovated in accordance with modern requirements. Therefore, these Madrasahs were unable to supply staff for the new school system and hindered the opening of new educational courses.



In issue 18 of "Sadoi Turkestan," an article titled "Our Schools and Teachers" by No'shiravon Yovushev was published. It proposed the publication of the "Methodology of Education and Training" booklet since there is a lack of modern Dor ul-Muallimin schools, teacher training courses, and methodology courses in Turkestan. This initiative aimed to address certain shortcomings in teaching methods.

In issue 19 of "Sadoi Turkestan," in N. Yovushev's article "The Modern Madrasah," it advocates for the modernization of Turkestan Madrasahs and the introduction of new methods, including the inclusion of history, natural sciences, and mathematics, as well as the introduction of new books on Islamic law in higher education.

The author invites Turkestani comrades to become familiar with these educational institutions and make use of the available books. In issue 20 of the newspaper, under the headline "Education in Current Madrasahs," it discusses the curriculum of subjects taught in Turkestan Madrasahs and their ability to meet the demands of the present time, emphasizing the necessity of improving the teaching system in these educational institutions.

An analytical discussion is conducted on how teachers in Bukhara, Samarkand, Kokand, Andijan, and Margilan perceive this issue. These facts indicate that the newspaper has taken active steps not only in primary schools but also in the reform of the teaching system in Madrasahs. In issue 46 of "Sadoi Turkestan," Muftizoda from Bukhara also expresses his observations in his article titled "To Our Scholars," saying, **"... If our scholars do not look to the future and do not take action, when will we make progress in our field?"**

In issue 47 of the newspaper, under the signature **"A Young Mullā,"** an article titled **"The State of Our Madrasahs"** is published. It highlights the shortcomings in Madrasah education, the indifference of teachers towards teaching, the lack of classes for students three days a week, and their wasted time. The author suggests that the curricula of the "Husayniya" in Orenburg and the "Oliya" in Ufa should be adopted, and teaching should be carried out in a new manner.

In issue 55 of "Sadoi Turkestan," under the signature "M.Sh.," an article titled "The Intellectual Level of Our Mullahs" is published. The author raises the issue of liberating the nation from ignorance and backwardness. They discuss the low intellectual level of mullahs and their complete detachment from the current era. As a solution, they call for comprehensive reforms in Madrasah education. In Rauf Muzaffar's articles titled "Our Educational Sources," published in issues 56-59 and 62 of the newspaper, the state and methodology of education in Madrasahs are investigated, and the experience of Madrasahs in Qozon, Orenburg, and Ufa is highlighted, concluding that it should be adopted.

In issues 62 and 65 of "Sadoi Turkestan," information is provided about the "Muhammadiya" Madrasah in Qozon. It mentions the various sections of the Madrasah, admission requirements, the employment of graduates from each section, and briefly explains the internal regulations. These materials were published under the section "Ordered Madrasahs" in "Sadoi Turkestan." The newspaper also had a section called "Disordered Madrasahs," in which information about Bukhara Madrasahs was mentioned.



Each material published in the pages of "Sadoi Turkestan" has undoubtedly undergone strict scrutiny by the censor before being published. Therefore, we can assume that in some issues during that period, significant portions were published either empty or filled with censorship markings.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that "Sadoi Turkestan" provided valuable and timely materials on the development of schools and Madrasahs, the competence of teachers, their professional skills, and educational methods. Various news and letters that reached the editorial staff during that period also indicate the significant impact of these articles. Due to economic difficulties, "Sadoi Turkestan" was forced to cease its activities. Its 66th issue, published on April 10, 1915, was its last. However, the newspaper has left its mark in history as one of the brightest stars of Uzbek national press in the early 20th century.

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