**The First Muslim Girls' Schools in the South Caucasus Cultural Environment: Problems, Solutions, Perspectives**

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**Abstract**

The education of Muslim women in Azerbaijan in the 19th century is the major subject of this article. Our purpose is to reveal the struggle to open girls` schools and attrac Muslim girls to school.

In that period, women were deprived of basic rights and freedoms such as literacy and self-determination. It was not uncommon for women to learn to read and write in the traditional Islamic environment, where the communication between male and female was limited to the maximum. It is understandable that women have restricted rights in the patriarchal society structure, which is powered by the past and traditions. Nevertheless in the 19th century, Caucasian Turkish intellectuals were aware that the salvation of the nation depended on women. For this, first of all, it was requisite to educate the woman. Only through new types of schools Muslim Turkish women could become prepared for the conditions of the new century. As a result of the efforts given, new schools were established in Caucasian cities such as Baku, Tbilisi, Ganja, Yerevan, Kazah and Gori. The first school that directly aimed at teaching Muslim Turkish women was the Baku Muslim Girls' School of Hajı Zeynalabidin Taghiyev. After Taghiyev's school, the number of Russian-Tatar girls' schools began to increase in Azerbaijan.

**Key Words :** *South Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Women.*