

## THEORY AND INSTITUTIONS OF EDUCATION

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### EMERGENCE AND FORMATION OF ORPHANAGE INSTITUTE IN AZERBAIJAN

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**Abstract.** The Institute of orphanages is an important institution created for the care of orphans and their education. Established in Azerbaijan, the institute aims to meet the shelter, education, health, social and psychological needs of orphans. The institute set itself the goal of ensuring the survival of children in a safe environment by creating the necessary conditions for their healthy growth and integration into society, and at the same time organized various programs and events for children to grow up as individuals useful to society.

This study highlights initiatives related to children deprived of parental care and the role of civil society and the state in this context, as well as provides information about the Institute of Orphanages, which operates to meet the needs of orphans.

**Key words:** orphans, Institute of Orphanages, education, charitable societies, social support programs.

**Introduction.** It is known that throughout the Middle Ages in Azerbaijan, there were various practices for the care and protection of orphans. During this period, assistance and care for children who lost their parents was primarily provided by endowments and charitable organizations. Endowments were organizations created to meet the various needs of society and were financed through the income of income-generating properties. These revenues were used to provide shelter and educational opportunities for orphans.

In general, in the middle ages, income from some taxes was spent on the needs of the orphans. The use of taxes as an integral part of social welfare was quite widespread in medieval society. In the 8th century, during the reign of Caliph Harun al-Rashid (786–809), “zakat” (alms) tax was collected from livestock, cultivated crops and fruits, and gold and silver crafts. “Zakat” was spent on the needs of the destitute (Nuriyeva, 2015, p. 52).

In the Middle Ages, charitable institutions called “Dar ulitam” (Orphanage) and “Beyt ul-talim” (Education House) operated for orphans in Azerbaijan (History of Azerbaijan, 2007, p. 113). Here, every 10 children were assigned a tutor-atabey. The living, food, clothing, upbringing and education of the destitute fell upon them. Atabeys brought the children to the teachers, took them to their places after school and were involved in their upbringing and studies (Piriyev, 2003, p. 278).

During the reign of Elkhani ruler Ghazan khan, on his initiative, a school called Shanbi-Ghazan was built in Tabriz for children deprived of parental care, and this school also functioned as an orphanage. The annual care, clothing, food and education expenses of the children in the orphanage were covered by the Shanbi-Ghazan endowment. The endowment created by the order of Ghazan khan covered the children's annual holiday and the expenses of the tutors. Here, children who had completed their infancy and acquired the ability to speak and listen (probably from the age of 4–5) were involved in education (A.Najaf, 2018, p. 118). At the school, orphan children were mainly taught knowledge about the Qur'an and religion. 100 volumes of Qur'an were taken to the school every year for children to learn and read the Qur'an. A certain amount of money was allocated annually for mats, rugs and other expenses that would be used at the school. In addition, an additional allowance was

also allocated for gifts to be given to children learning to read and write. At the same time, children were also taught art at school so that children could provide themselves with work after leaving here (Ozgudenli Osman, 2003, p. 166–167).

According to available information, the Shanbi Ghazan orphanage had a large financial base, and all the expenses of the orphanage were paid directly from the lands of Ghazan Khan. Even for the timely regulation and provision of these revenues, a special divan was created and the control of this divan was entrusted to Kur Teymur and Taramtaz, the great Elkhanli emirs (A.Najaf, 2018, p. 118).

A separate dormitory for destitute students also operated in a huge center of science and culture, such as “Rabi-Rashidi”, which is based on Islamic culture. In the “Beytut-talim” department, which is located in the “Rovza” section of the “Rabi-Rashidi” center and is the largest in terms of area, orphaned children were taught the Qur'an. Teachers working here were given 120 Tabriz dinars and 4 loaves of bread a day. 12 dinars and a loaf of bread were given to every orphan who learned the Qur'an. The atabey who led those needy orphans received 60 Tabriz dinars and 2 loaves of bread every day. Another interesting aspect is that it was considered important that the employed atabey be married (Guliyeva, 2021, p. 62, 66).

About a hundred children were taught the Qur'an every month in the orphanage operating during this period, every year on holidays they were circumcised by giving them a holiday gift, and a hundred new orphans were accepted instead of them. Fazlullah Rashidaddin, a prominent scientist, healer and vizier, donated his personal property and land in various regions of Azerbaijan, their property income to the endowment for charity and assistance. Property income from the endowment is intended to cover the costs of establishing and maintaining an orphanage and other public institutions (Guliyeva, 2021, p. 106).

During the Safavid era, efforts were made by the state to meet the needs of orphaned children such as shelter, food, health, education, increasing their employment opportunities and so on. At that time, there were institutions dealing with the care and education of orphaned children. Orphanages were one of the institutions that carried out activities related to children in need of protection. These institutions demonstrated the importance society placed on the education and welfare of children. During the time of Shah Tahmasib, according to his order, a separate school for orphan children was opened in Tabriz and the school was provided with teachers. Maintenance costs of these types of schools were usually paid for by the treasury and endowments. Scholarships were also given to orphans studying here (A.Ahmad, 2022, p. 701–702). This practice was part of the social welfare and education policy at that time.

### **19th century – early 20th century**

Throughout history, there have been various social structures and institutions related to the care of orphans in Azerbaijan. These institutes have a rich history dating back to the end of the 19th century. Its emergence and formation is due to efforts aimed at solving the well-being of children in need of care and protection. Governmental and non-governmental organizations have established relief funds, societies, orphanages and schools to protect the rights of the homeless and improve their current conditions.

Since the second half of the 19th century, our philanthropists such as H.Z. Taghiyev, Sh. Asadullayev, M. Mukhtarov, A.M. Naghiyev have established various support systems for orphaned children, such as social service organizations and foster family services. These institutions made efforts to ensure that children grew up healthy and integrated into society. At the same time, at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, our intellectuals with a democratic spirit took the initiative to create new charitable societies in order to help children who need more attention and care.

The creation of such a society in Azerbaijan, which serves humanistic ideas such as supporting the orphans, the poor, helping children without access to education to study, is associated with the name of the great enlightener Hasan bey Zardabi, who has a special place in the history of public thought of our people.

For the first time among Muslims, Hasan bey created a “Charitable society” in Baku in 1872 to attract poor and destitute children to education and support their education. Hasan bey Zardabi visited the cities and villages of Azerbaijan together with his students Najaf bey Vazirov and Asgaraga Adigozalov (Gorani) and was engaged in appointing members to the “Charitable society”. He deposited 1,600 manats collected during the trip in the bank and used the funds obtained for the education of two poor students. At that time, Hasan bey organizes the boarding house of the society in his house. Later, he entrusts the upbringing and school preparation of orphaned and poor children to his wife Hanifa. Soon the number of children is increased to 10. However, since the number of donors is decreasing, the “Charitable society” closes after two years. In general, Hasan bey always wanted to involve orphaned children in education and support their education. While still working in Tbilisi, Mirza Fatali Akhundzade gave Hasan bey one of his comedy books. Under the leadership and organization of Hasan bey, in 1873, with the help of his students Najaf bey Vazirov and Asgaraga Gorani, the play “Haji Gara” was staged in the hall of the gymnasium. Funds collected from the performance are used for educational expenses of destitute students (A.Ahmad, 2022, p. 33–34).

Hasan bey Zardabi, who continued his struggle to create a charity society to provide financial assistance to destitute children, returned to this issue again at the beginning of the 20th century and this time wrote the charter of the “Baku Muslim Charitable Society” in Russian and Azerbaijani and submitted it to the Caucasus Viceroyalty. The charter was approved on October 10, 1905 in Tiflis by Count Vorontsov-Dashkov, Viceroy of the Caucasus. Thus, the “First Muslim Charitable Society” is established in Azerbaijan. The financing of the society mainly fell on H.Z.Taghiyev and other Baku millionaires. Hasanbey Zardabi and his like-minded people stood guard over the direction of the idea (Aghayev, 2011, p. 12).

Baku Muslim Charitable Society also provided special services to orphaned children during World War I. At the beginning of the war, the society made certain changes in its charter, helped children who lost their parents on the Caucasian front, and did commendable work in this field.

According to some sources, in July 1916, a member of the society, Rovshan bey Efendiyev, brought 32 orphaned Muslim children from Ispir to Tbilisi (Aghayev, 2011, p. 12) and received permission to place these orphans in school. Other documents state that 71 orphaned children, including 31 boys and 40 girls, were placed in the second Muslim orphanage in Tbilisi. The vast majority of children were between the ages of 5 and 14. According to other information, 50 children from the orphanage in Tbilisi were sent to Baku (Naghiyeva, 2012, p. 68).

From the data we have mentioned, it seems that during the war, a special regulation on orphanages was prepared for the placement of orphaned children, and this regulation was approved by the government on July 7, 1916. In 1917, 8750 rubles were allocated for the opening of new orphanages in Nukha, Kagizman, Ahalsikh and Ardahan to help the orphans on the Caucasian front. In the same year, 2,925 rubles were ordered for the maintenance of 130 Muslim orphans in May and June, and 11,700 rubles in the third quarter. Another orphanage of the Baku Muslim Charitable Society was located in Olti. The sources mention that in 1917, 10 employees worked here, and 18 children between the ages of 5 and 15 were kept. Most of these children were from Kars and Olti governorates. Later it became known that 26 girls between the ages of 6 and 14 brought from Kars, Erzurum and Olti provinces of Türkiye were placed in the orphanage in Baku (Naghiyeva, 2012, p. 69).

During the war, special branches of the Baku Muslim Charitable Society operated in dozens of cities. In fact, the society was leaving the framework of a public organization and turning into a state-important body. Members of the Baku Muslim Charitable Society used to go to the areas inhabited by the Turkic people along the entire front to help the destitute. The young poet Ahmad Javad was also closely involved in the activities of the society. He traveled to the North Caucasus, Georgia, Türkiye and other places for charity, and with his help, orphanages for orphaned children were organized (Azizov, 1997, p. 92).

A special dormitory for orphaned children was also established in the “Ismailiyya” building donated by Agha Musa Naghiyev to the Charitable Society. At the beginning of 1917, more than 200 orphaned children brought from the front were placed here. These children were fed several times a day (Javadov, 1999, p. 41).

As it can be seen, the Baku Charitable Society paid special attention and care to orphaned children even during the war.

In addition to the Baku Muslim Charitable Society, charity societies were also established in individual villages of Baku. One of them was the Balakhani Charitable Society. One of the main goals of this society was to ensure free education in vocational schools for orphans (Javadov, 1999, p. 42).

In addition to the Baku and Balakhani Charitable Societies, which care for orphaned children, other such societies were also established. One such society was the Baku Bahayi Society. This society also helped orphans to get primary education. The chairman of the society was Musa Naghiyev. However, at the meeting held on February 9, 1910, Musa Naghiyev was released from the chairmanship due to his illness, and Sheikh Alakbar Kochani was elected as the chairman of the society instead (Javadov, 1999, p. 4).

The first children's charity organization was the “Orphanage”. “Children's Protection Society” also protected orphaned children. H.Z. Taghiyev, A.M. Topchubashov, representatives of Baku industrialists and intellectuals participated in the work of both societies. In general, charitable societies usually provided shelter, education, and health care for orphaned children. At the beginning of the 20th century, a group of doctors and public figures created a charitable society called “Union for the Fight against Child Death”. The society was headed by Dr. Y.Y. Gindes. In 1914, the sanatorium of this society was opened, and the construction of a children's hospital building was started (History of Azerbaijan, 2008, p. 186–187). The purpose of the society was to eliminate the causes of infant mortality, to take care of the physical development of all children, regardless of gender, social origin, nationality and religion. Members of the organization provided medical assistance to children both at home and in hospitals, and placed them in orphanages and sanatoriums. The society organized milk kitchens, free children's canteens, clinics where medicines and milk were provided free of charge. In the institutions under the organization, they gave advice on the care and nutrition of children on the appointed days. From such institutions, babies with gastrointestinal diseases were kept in Balakhani hospitals, and 75 children aged 5–14 years old suffering from tuberculosis were kept in Zagulba (Ibrahimova, 2018, p. 273).

The Baku Muslim Women's Charitable Society, founded on November 21, 1914, was one of the non-governmental charitable societies established to help children and poor families who lost their parents. Its founder was Rahila Hajibababeyova. M.S. Taghiyeva was elected the chairman of the board of society, Rahila Hajibababayova the deputy chairman, Amina Aghayeva the secretary, Pari Topchubashova the treasurer. The society helped orphans and poor children and often held various events. The society continued its charitable activities during the First World War (1914–18). In October 1917, the Baku Muslim Women's Charitable Society, chaired by Mrs. Liza Mukhtarova, opened a vocational school for destitute girls. The school had 4 general education classes and 6 professional sections. Classes were held on Turkish language, arithmetic, crafts, mowing and sewing. During the bloody massacres in March 1918, the school ceased to exist. At the beginning of 1919, the society resumed school work. For the efficient operation of the school, the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic allocated 30,000 manats to the school. The school played an important role in instilling national and moral values in Azerbaijani girls, in making them understand their rights in the family and society (Azerbaijan National Encyclopedia, 2007, p. 253).

“Ganja Muslim Charitable Society”, “Nashri-Maarif”, “Saadat”, “Nijat”, “Sada” and a number of other societies were also established during the mentioned periods. These charitable societies, in addition to serving the education of the population and the development of culture, helped to educate orphans, paid for their education, provided them with clothing and food.

As you can see, most of the intellectuals in the 19th and 20th centuries were activists of charitable organizations and did great work. H. Aghayev, M.A. Rasulzadeh, A.M. Topchubashov, N. Narimanov, S. Huseyn, A. Javad and others participated in various charity works and played an important role in solving the problems of orphaned children.

### **During the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic**

The Institute of orphanages is one of the most important institutions in the social and educational sphere of Azerbaijan. It played an important role in the process of modernization and educational reforms of Azerbaijan, especially during the Republic. The Institute of Orphanages was established for children who were destitute, abandoned or in need of protection and met their basic needs such as shelter, nutrition, education, health services and social activities. At the same time, by creating opportunities for professional and personal development, contributed to their growth as a useful personality.

In the first stages of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, various steps were taken to help orphaned children. These steps generally involved children who lost their families or were protected due to war, conflict or other traumatic events. Various institutions and programs have been established for these children. These include institutions that provide services in various areas such as orphanages, education and health services for orphaned children, social support programs and psychological support services. In addition, social assistance organizations, non-governmental organizations and government-supported programs also worked to meet the needs of orphans.

During the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the Ministry of Foster Care was one of the institutions that performed charity and patronage functions and helped orphaned children. Since its establishment, the Ministry provided orphaned and homeless children with permanent residences, and took important steps in the direction of their social protection and health.

One of the most important works done in this area was the organization, expansion and constant supervision of orphanages for children deprived of parental care with the financial support of charitable societies.

In 1918, the Children's Aid Bureau was established under the Central House Committee (National Encyclopedia of Azerbaijan, 2007, p. 101). The chairman of the bureau was Dr. Yevsey Gindes, and his deputy was Liza Mukhtarova, the wife of millionaire and philanthropist Murtuza Mukhtarov. The main purpose of the bureau was to help orphans. However, at first there were certain difficulties due to lack of funds. In this context, the relevant state structures called on the population to support the work of the bureau. Despite the availability of staff, it was necessary to attract volunteers from among the people. It was necessary for these children to communicate with people, to understand that they belong to the people. Volunteers could better understand the needs and psychology of orphaned children. To expand the work of the bureau, a large meeting was held on November 26, 1918 with members of local public and national organizations. Here a collegial body was established and members of all national, public and charitable organizations were elected. Y. Gindes, A. Leontovich, G. Bron from the Central House Committee, Krylova and engineer Krivoshein from the Russian Charity Society, Y. Varshavsky from the Jewish National Committee, Vasilyevskaya from the Muslim shelter, Liza Mukhtarova from the Muslim Charity Society, Radzinskaya from the "Children's House", Koritskaya and others from "Orphanages" were elected bureau members. Dr. Allahverdiyev undertook the protection of children's health (Baghirova, 2019, p. 116–117).

The bureau had several orphanages at its disposal. In December 1918, orphanages were opened in conditions in which health and sanitary-gigeyena work was established for orphans. In mid-March 1919, the bureau started organizing special children's sections for small children (from 1 to 7 years old) under the "Orphanage". The bureau helped a Muslim orphanage. In addition, also held charity events: organized a party for Muslim children on Novruz holiday. They invited everyone who wants to help orphaned children in any way to the event. And donated the proceeds from the event to the shelter (Huseynova, 1996, p. 22). One of the charity events of the organization was to bake cheap

white bread and use the proceeds from the sale to the shelter. Isa bey Sadigbeyov, Gasim Gasimov, Hanifa Zeynalabdin oglu Taghiyev, Taghi Nagiyev, Baba bey Gojayev, Yusif Abdullayev, Zeynab khanum Salimkhanova and others gave donations to the office. In the summer, the Bureau rented the barge “Nina” and helped to improve the health of about 130 children suffering from tuberculosis. During the typhoid epidemic in Baku in late 1918 and early 1919, the bureau opened Day Care Centers for children in the working quarters of the city. In these houses, children were provided with food from 08:00 in the morning until 18:00 in the evening, medical assistance was provided in case of illness (National Encyclopedia of Azerbaijan, 2007, p. 421).

The Children's Aid Bureau has also created conditions for the education of orphaned children. Reading classes and fun games were organized for them in shelters. At the meeting held on March 4, 1919, the bureau made a decision to establish schools in shelters (Baghirova, 2019, p. 121).

The “Children's Protection Society”, which operated during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, also did important work in the direction of saving children. This society was created on the initiative of Y.A. Gindes. The chairman was Y.A. Gindes, the deputy chairman was Eynulhayat Yusifbeyli (the wife of Nasib bey Yusifbeyli, the head of the 4th and 5th Cabinets of the Azerbaijan People's Republic). The main goal of the society was to study the living conditions of children under the age of 17 living in Baku, to inform the public about their lifestyle and necessary needs. By creating special children's courts, the society was striving to remove orphans from the criminal world, to re-educate them so that they could be brought up as citizens useful to society, to hand them over to safe hands (National Encyclopedia of Azerbaijan, 2007, p. 421).

It should also be noted that the Ministry of Foster Care also provided assistance to orphanages created by local charitable societies for stray and orphaned children. In 1919 alone, 2,114,501 manats were allocated to the homes created by charitable societies for homeless and destitute children (Encyclopedia of the Azerbaijani People's Republic, 2004, p. 458).

Apparently, the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic had set a goal to help orphaned children despite the current economic difficulties. To do this, he took the necessary measures to open the Institute of Orphanages and organize charitable societies. Established for the care and education of children, these institutions aimed to prepare them for a better future by contributing to their social and cultural development.

### **During the Soviet era and the years of independence**

During the years of Soviet rule, various boarding schools and specialized children's institutions were established in our republic in order to take care of children who lost their parents or were deprived of their families, and to integrate them into education and society.

The approval of the “Regulation on Peasant-Youth Schools” by the decision of the Board of the Commissariat of Public Education of the Azerbaijan SSR dated January 6, 1926 played an important role in this field. Young people from 12 to 17 years of age were admitted to village-youth schools. The duration of education in these schools was 3 years. Graduates had the right to be admitted to technikum and the corresponding classes of secondary schools. Boarding-type dormitories were organized for those who were recruited from different villages and studied in those schools. The experience of this type of schools later led to the establishment of boarding schools (Mardanov, 525th newspaper. June 26, p. 11–12).

On September 15, 1956, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a decision on the organization of boarding schools in order to provide assistance to low-income families and create conditions for working mothers. As a result of special attention to the organization of boarding schools in order to create conditions for the living and education of children who have lost their parents and are deprived of parental care, from families with limited health facilities and underprivileged families, already in 1966, 65 boarding schools covering 25.4 thousand students were operating in Azerbaijan. In 1990, more than 63 thousand

children lived and studied in 20 state children's institutions in Azerbaijan (Mardanov, 525th newspaper. June 26.11–12).

Organization of necessary conditions for children to grow up in a healthy environment, improvement of state care for children deprived of parental care, prevention of child neglect, exploitation of child labor, violence against children and other such issues constitute the main directions of state policy.

National leader Heydar Aliyev paid special attention to children deprived of parental care during his leadership in our country, created institutes of orphanages to ensure their healthy growth by taking them under state protection. Orphanages were intended to provide shelter, education and care services to orphans or children who could not be cared for by their families. Heydar Aliyev attached great importance to managing orphanages in a way that would ensure the future of children and meet all their needs. In these homes, children were not only educated, but also encouraged to participate in social and cultural activities. In this way, children were tried to be brought up as individuals better prepared for society.

For the healthy development of children who have lost their parents and deprived of family care and their integration into society, and for the purpose of transferring children from state educational institutions to families, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, signed the order “Transfer of children from state children's institutions to families (De-institutionalization) and Alternative Care State Program” during 2006–2015. The main goal of this program is to form mechanisms for placing children in families in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to ensure their effective operation, to provide alternative care for children to grow up as full-fledged individuals in a happy, affectionate and loving family environment (Garayeva, 2013, p. 14–15).

Caring for orphans helps them grow and develop in a healthy way. Therefore, it is important to make an effort to satisfy their emotional, mental and social needs. Children's institutions can also provide services in areas such as education, psychological support and social activities, in addition to meeting the basic needs of children.

In 2011, there were 4 baby homes, 6 orphanages with 513 members, two boarding schools for 398 orphans and children deprived of parental care, 11 special boarding schools for 2,537 children with disabilities, 267 children for mentally retarded children, 22 general-type boarding houses for 6,395 people. These men were fully equipped. Their health and healthcare services were also regulated by the state of Azerbaijan (Guliyeva, 2021, p. 147).

In 2014, the number of children who lost their parents and were deprived of parental care in boarding institutions was 685. 30 of them were in orphanages, 163 were in special boarding schools for children with disabilities, 40 were in boarding schools for children with disabilities, 452 were in general education boarding schools, and 389 of them were children who lost their parents and were deprived of parental care. In 2014, the number of children's homes in Azerbaijan was 4, the number of places in them was 215, and the number of children was 163. In 2014, there were 6 orphanages, 12 special boarding schools for children with disabilities, and the number of children in them was 2,653. The state of Azerbaijan takes full care of children abandoned by their parents (Guliyeva, 2021, p. 144, 146).

As it can be seen, during the years of independence, more systematic approaches were developed for the care and protection of children deprived of parental care.

**Conclusions.** Thus, we conclude that the Institution of the Orphanage has its roots in ancient times. However, the main stage of the development of the Institute of the Orphanages can be considered the end of the 19th century, when a large-scale campaign was carried out to combat neglect and poverty of children within the framework of state policy. During this period, new orphanages were created, in which children not only found shelter, but also received education, medical care and other social services.

As you can see, orphans have always been taken care of in Azerbaijan. Today there are institutions that carry out important work in the field of their protection. These institutions strive not only to provide orphans with education, but also to guarantee their well-being and social adaptation.

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