

## THE SITUATION OF EDUCATION AND ITS CHANGES IN KHPSR

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**Abstract:** The article shows the changes in the field of education in the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic. Although the new government did not last long, the education system was reorganized on a new basis. In the USSR, special attention was paid to the elimination of illiteracy among the adult population. People between the ages of 17 and 35 were enrolled in schools for the elimination of illiteracy. Literacy courses and schools have been opened in towns and villages. The main attention was paid to eliminating illiteracy among the local population (Uzbeks, Karakalpaks, Turkmens, Kazakhs), conducting cultural and educational work, educating the younger generation in the communist spirit.

**Key words:** KhPSR, Ministry of Education and Culture, illiteracy, RSFSR, education, school, boarding school, courses on the elimination of illiteracy.

Despite the fact that the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic existed for a short time during 1920-1924, the new government actively carried out cultural and educational work. First of all, this is expressed in the reorganization of the education system in the KhPSR on a new basis.

In the spring of 1920, the People's Ministry of Education and Culture was created in the KhPSR under the leadership of Mullah Bekjon Rakhmonov. However, the new government still lacked funds, school buildings and teachers, and most importantly, experience and skills in this area. In the spring of 1920, schools of a new type began to open in the republic. The first elementary schools appeared in Khiva, Novy Urgench, Kat, Darganot. Lessons in these schools were conducted in Uzbek and Turkmen languages. Old school cadres were used due to the lack of teachers. In 1921, 16 of these teachers went to work in Soviet schools. The opening of the folk dorilfun (higher religious school) in Khiva in September 1921 was a major event in the cultural life of the republic.

At the same time, by a special order of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the KhPSR, the curricula of about 1,500 old schools and 130 madrasahs of Khorezm were partially changed, in addition to religious knowledge, teaching of history, geography, arithmetic, the Uzbek language and other secular sciences was entrusted. [3].

In the KhPSR, special attention was paid to the elimination of illiteracy among the adult population. People between the ages of 17 and 35 were enrolled in schools for the elimination of illiteracy among the population. Courses for the elimination of illiteracy, as well as schools, have been opened in towns and villages. In 1921 alone, 410 people learned to read and write in these schools. By 1923, 20 schools for the elimination of illiteracy among the adult population had been opened with 767 students. Similar schools in the Kazakh and Turkmen languages have been opened in Porsu, Khojaili, Kungrad and Alieli districts. In general, over 1800 people were illiterate in the republic from 1920 to 1924. [4]

The government of the KhPSR has increased its funding to the maximum from year to year in order to support public education. If in 1922 42.2 thousand sums were allocated for these purposes, in 1924 it amounted to 253 thousand gold sums [5]. A collection of charitable funds for education in the country has also been created.

The Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the RSFSR to the KhPSR IM Bik and the leaders of the Communist Party of Khorezm did not like the fact that the KhPSR as an independent republic carries out its internal affairs independently [6]. Taking advantage of the difficult political situation in Khorezm at that time, they constantly pursued a policy of coups d'etat and changing leaders. Plenipotentiary Representative of the RSFSR in Khorezm I.M. Bik, in a letter to the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the RSFSR dated November 10, 1921, incorrectly reported: "The current heads of government of the Khorezm Republic are not needed by Khorezm. The government completely passed to Menglihoja Ibniyaminov and Otamakhzum akhun Muhammadrakhimov. Only a few intellectuals are concerned with the national question. The loyalty of the people to the Russians is great and positive, and they believe that only the RSFSR can decide its fate "[7].

However, despite such pressure, in the newly formed KhPSR, since 1920, special attention was paid to education. In addition to the Turkistan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, serious efforts to develop education in Khorezm were made by the neighboring BPSR and Azerbaijan, as well as some specialists from Turkey. In particular, Hussein Ismail and Bahri Kamal (Bahri Faizi) who arrived from Turkey were active in the field of education, opening many modern schools in Khorezm and attracting local students. Bahri Kamal for some time even effectively worked as the people's minister of education and culture of the KhPSR. He tried to increase the number of national schools in Khorezm and recommended teaching students in groups according to their age. On the initiative of Bahri Kemal, a new party school was founded in Khiva, which was later transformed into a Dorilfun [8].

At a meeting of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the KhPSR, held on July 10, 1921, it was decided to open the People's Dorilfun (University) named after the III Communist International under the Central Executive Committee of the KhPSR [9]. To manage the university, a special commission of 5 people was formed: Alpin (chairman), Kaniev, Izatdinov, Bahri, Shodiev (members). The commission was supposed to report on its work on a weekly basis. The protocol of the meeting was signed by chairman Allaberganov and executive secretary Kholmukhamedov [10].

At a meeting in Khiva in August 1921, the plenipotentiary representative of the RSFSR in Khorezm made a report on work in the field of education. The report is devoted to the activities of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the KhPSR. According to him, at that time there were 6 departments in the ministry: 1) the secretariat (organizational department); 2) school; 3) out-of-school; 4) waqf; 5) financial and economic; 6) department of supplements. The ministry was headed by a board consisting of ministers and heads of departments. At that time Bahri Fayzi was an educated and open minister of education in Khorezm, so experienced specialists from the republics of the RSFSR Tatarstan and Kyrgyzstan [Kazakhstan] were sent to the KhPSR [11]. In addition, many specialists from the central regions of the RSFSR and the Turkestan ASSR were sent to Khorezm.

The report focused on the work of the school, out-of-school and waqf departments, which are the three main departments of the ministry:

1) At that time, there were 13 schools in Khiva, in which only 600 students studied. There were about 40 schools across the country with 2,000 students. About 200 teachers worked in these schools. In addition, there was a boarding school at the school department, in which orphans and children from poor families (120 children) studied, the content of which was completely state-owned. Along with their studies at the boarding school, in the workshop children learned carpentry, shoe making and basket weaving. In addition, there were three women's schools (in Khiva, Kungrad and Urgench) with 75 students. In the near future, it was planned to open a teacher's seminary in Khorezm (an analogue of second-level schools).

2) Until then, the out-of-school department did not work, and then its work was resumed. It was planned to organize cultural and educational circles in and around Khiva, give various lectures and talks in the field of political literacy and education, as well stage performances were held.

The department opened 4 schools for the elimination of illiteracy and 4 evening schools for adults in Khiva. They were preparing to open libraries and several reading rooms in Khiva.

There were three groups in Khiva: Tatar, Uzbek and Russian groups, and the question was raised of transferring these groups under Purkhov under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education.

3) The waqf department was responsible for accounting and distribution of various fees from the fund's lands. This income was to be distributed among religious people (mullahs, etc.), as well as teachers, employees and junior mullahs of the madrasah.

In total, there were 57 madrasahs in Khiva, each of which trained about 200 students. There is no exact data on the total number of students [12].

In August 1921, the People's University named after the III Comintern was opened in Khiva. The courses at the university lasted 6 months and were completely public. There were 60 students studying at the university at the time, according to the report. These students were trained as specialists on soviet and party building [13].

From the moment the Ministry of Education was created until mid-1924, it operated without any regulations, that is, without rules. In the summer of 1924, a special Regulation "On the Ministry of Education of the Khorezm NSR" was adopted, which defined the main tasks of the ministry. The Ministry has 4 divisions (departments): 1) Organizational and executive department; 2) Main Directorate of Social Education; 3) Main Directorate of Political Education; 4) Science Center. Each department had a collegium headed by a leader (manager) [14].

Each department within the ministry itself is divided into several departments. For example, the Main Directorate of Social Education consisted of 2 departments: school and preschool education. The Main Directorate of Political Education consisted of three departments: propaganda and agitation; department of courses (schools) for adults; department of the library and clubs. The scientific center combined the State Academic Council (SUC) and a system of scientific programs.

The USSR Ministry of Education paid special attention to the creation of textbooks and teaching aids for the educational process in schools and other educational institutions. For this, in April 1923, a scientific collegium was created under the Ministry of Education of the KhPSR. This college was renamed the Science Center on September 9, 1923 (in some documents it is also called the Academic Center). In the Ministry of Education of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, such work was carried out by the Council for School Reform under the School Administration [16].

On October 17, 1923, the territory of the KhPSR (the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic) was transformed into the Khorezm Soviet Socialist Republic (KHSSR). In April 1924 the territory of 3 regions- Kazak-Karakalpak, Tashavuz (Turkmen), Novy Urgench and the south-western part of the country were given into separate Khiva region. Regions were divided into county councils. In Khorezm, local residents usually called village councils elatkom.

In the newly formed regions, executive committees of regional councils and regional departments of public education (oblonos) have been created. Later, in the districts (okrugs), regional administrations of public education (rayonos) were created. The Ministry of Education issues various guidelines and decisions for the provincial departments that make up it.

In 1923-1924 the Ministry of Education of the KhPSR carried out a lot of work in the republic. As a result, in 1924, 100 teachers worked in schools and other cultural educational institutions of the republic, most of whom were indigenous peoples. On December 1, 1924, on the basis of the New Urgench regional administration of public education, the Urgench district administration of public education was formed.

In 1923, 23 labor schools, 6 boarding schools and other educational institutions were opened in Khorezm. In accordance with the Regulation "On kindergartens" and the Instruction for kindergarten pupils, various manuals were sent to places, and also to the locations of the first kindergartens, nurseries, as well as various camps (pioneer camps, etc) they were given various instructions for organizing their work.

Historical studies published during the Soviet era show that during the more than four years of the Ministry of Education's work, that is, from 1920 to 1924, ministry officials visited all schools in the country, some of which were located far from the capital Khiva. For example, schools in Kungrad (more than 500 km from the capital), Mangit (more than 130 km), Khojaili (300 km), Kilichboy (about 150 km) were far from the center of the republic. Sharif Murtazin, sent to Khorezm from the RSFSR on behalf of the People's Commissar of Education as Deputy Minister of Education of the USSR, did a great job to improve the activities of the schools of Khorezm [18].

The USSR government annually allocated large sums of money for the needs of education and culture. If from January 1 to December 31 in 1922, 42,214 gold rubles, or 5.3 percent of the state budget, were spent on education, then this amount increased in the first budget year of the republic 1923-1924, that is, from October 1, 1923 to September 30, 1924, for 253,000 rubles, or 19% of the state budget.

By May 1923, the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic had 29 primary schools, as well as one folk dorilfun, two teacher training seminaries, eight boarding schools, and three special communes. In Khorezm, three-month courses were opened for training workers for party, soviet, komsomol, trade union, cooperative and "Kushchi" unions, as well as evening literacy courses for adults [20].

According to some archival documents, after the transformation of the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic into the Khorezm Soviet Socialist Republic in October 1923, the Soviet government allocated additional funds for education and social services in Khorezm. As of January 1, 1924, out of the 1 717 545 rubles 91 pennies, 605 272 rubles were allocated to the education sector, from which financial assistance was provided to 9 boarding schools (540 places), 15 first-level schools, 15 schools for elimination of illiteracy, a workers' faculty, a vocational school and an agricultural school, as well as a soviet-party school with 40 cadets [21].

The report of the Minister of Education was heard at the IV Congress of All-Khorezm People's Deputies [22]. In his speech, the speaker focused on the work done in the field of education and culture in the USSR over the past year (September 1922 - October 1923). The report also outlined the tasks that need to be completed in the near future:

1. The work of all bodies of the People's Commissariat of Education (ministry) of the republic this year should be recognized as important and central.
2. To recognize the sphere of preschool education in Khorezm as unsatisfactory, to instruct the Ministry of Education to organize work in this sphere.
3. Since 98% of the population of the Khorezm Republic is absolutely illiterate, the Ministry of Education should open at least 20 local schools for adults. (Taking into account the level of literacy in Khorezm, only those who could speak and write in Russian were taken into account. In fact, in 1923, not only 2%, but also 1/3 of the population of Khorezm were literate).
4. To increase the number of schools among the population of national minorities and provide them with textbooks and manuals written in their native languages.
5. Particular attention should be paid to the training of indigenous people for public education "[23].

In this regard, the work of the first people's minister of education and culture of the KhPSR, Mulla Bekjon Rakhmonov (1887-1929) "[24], is noteworthy, despite the fact that he was a minister, he wrote various textbooks. His books entitled "Folk Literature", "Problem", "Historical Sketch of Khorezm Folk Music" [25] and various textbooks left a deep imprint on the history of Khorezm education.

In conclusion, in the KhPSR from 1920 to 1924 the education system was organized on a completely new basis. The main attention was paid to eliminating illiteracy among the local population (Uzbeks, Karakalpaks, Turkmens, Kazakhs), conducting cultural and educational work, educating the younger generation in the communist spirit. Inspired by their work in a complex ideological and political environment, the educators and teachers of Khorezm strove to preserve the rich experience and basis of the civilization that had formed on this land over the centuries, and defended the interests and ancient values of the nation under the Bolsheviks as much as possible oppression. During the period of the KhPSR, many achievements were made in science, education and culture.

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