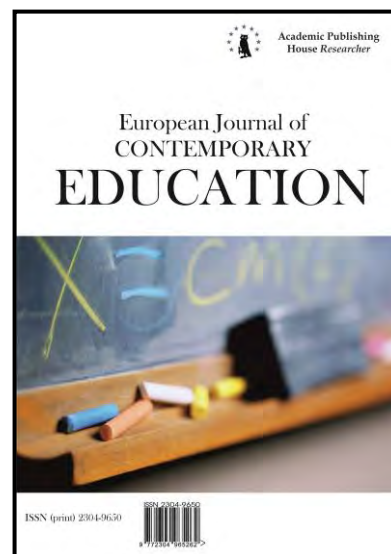




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## **The System of Public Education in Baku Governorate in the Period between the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Part 1**

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### **Abstract**

This work analyzes the system of public education in Baku Governorate in the period between the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This part of the work examines the timeframe 1849–1900, i.e. the period from the creation of the governorate to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The key source used in putting this work together is the annual Reports on Educational Institutions in the Caucasus Educational District, which provide data on the region's schools under the purview of the Ministry of Public Education. Wide use was made of the statistical method. The authors researched the reports for statistical data on the following: the types of the region's educational institutions, the number of schools in the region, the region's library holdings, and the region's student body (information related to student demographics, including ethnicity, religion, social estate, and gender). The use of the statistical method helped identify some of the key distinctive characteristics of the development of the system of public education in Baku Governorate in the period 1849–1900.

The authors' conclusion is that the system of public education in Baku Governorate had markedly distinct characteristics. Above all, this was the case with its private educational institutions, which played an important role in the development of its public education system. By the year 1900, Baku Governorate had in place an entire network of public and private educational institutions, which included six gymnasias, seven lower educational institutions, and

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113 primary schools. Gender-wise, girls comprised just 31% of the region's total student body, which at the time was quite characteristic of areas with a large Muslim population.

**Keywords:** Baku Governorate, system of public education, period between the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ministry of Public Education

### **1. Introduction**

In 1846, the Caucasus Viceroyalty was divided into the Shamakhi, Tiflis, Kutais, and Derbent governorates (Mil'man, 1966: 133). However, in 1859 the capital of Shamakhi Governorate, Shamakhi, was destroyed by a devastating earthquake. The capital was moved to Baku, and the governorate was renamed Baku Governorate. As other regions of the Caucasus, Baku Governorate had a motley population. As of 1886, the region had a population of 712,000, of which 377,000 were Azerbaijanis (approx. 53 %), 134,000 – Tats (19 %), 57,000 – Dagestanis (8 %), and 50,000 – Talyshes (7 %), with ethnic Russians placed fifth – 42,000 (6 %), followed by Armenians – 39,000 (5.5 %). In large part, the region's demographic circumstances are what determined the complexity of organizing its system of public education.

This part of the work examines the making and development of the system of public education in Baku Governorate in the period 1849–1900, i.e. the period from the creation of the governorate to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **2. Materials and methods**

The key source used in putting this work together is the annual Reports on Educational Institutions in the Caucasus Educational District, which provide data on the region's schools under the purview of the Ministry of Public Education.

Wide use was made of the statistical method. The authors researched the reports for statistical data on the following: the types of the region's educational institutions, the number of schools in the region, the region's library holdings, and the region's student body (information related to student demographics, including ethnicity, religion, social estate, and gender). The use of the statistical method helped identify some of the key distinctive characteristics of the development of the system of public education in Baku Governorate in the period 1849–1900.

### **3. Discussion**

In his work on the system of public education in Kars Oblast, scholar T.A. Magsumov notes the following: “Up to now, the system of public education in Kars Oblast in the period 1878–1917 has not been the subject of independent research. What is more, the topic has not been touched upon in research publications even incidentally” (Magsumov et al., 2020: 222). This statement holds true for Baku Governorate too. Nevertheless, there are several summarizing works on the system of public education in other regions of the Caucasus, including Tiflis Governorate (Mamadaliev et al., 2020; Mamadaliev et al., 2020a; Mamadaliev et al., 2020b; Mamadaliev et al., 2020c), Kuban Oblast (Molchanova et al., 2019; Molchanova et al., 2019a; Molchanova et al., 2020), Stavropol Governorate (Natolochnaya et al., 2020; Natolochnaya et al., 2020a; Natolochnaya et al., 2020b), Black Sea Governorate (Cherkasov et al., 2020; Cherkasov et al., 2020a), and Kutais Governorate (Mamadaliev et al., 2021).

In addition, in recent years researchers have expressed keen interest in the study of the system of public education in various governorates within the Russian Empire. Specifically, a team of researchers led by A.A. Cherkasov has explored the system of public education in Vologda Governorate (Cherkasov et al., 2019; Cherkasov et al., 2019a; Cherkasov et al., 2019b; Cherkasov et al., 2019c); A.Yu. Peretyat'ko has researched a similar subject in the context of the Don region (Peretyatko, Zulfugarzade, 2017; Peretyatko, Zulfugarzade, 2017a; Peretyatko, Zulfugarzade, 2019; Peretyatko, Zulfugarzade, 2019a); O.V. Natolochnaya has investigated the system of public education in Vilna Governorate (Natolochnaya et al., 2019; Natolochnaya et al., 2019a); T.A. Magsumov has studied the characteristics of the system of public education in Vyatka Governorate (Magsumov et al., 2018).

### **4. Results**

The network of educational institutions in the Caucasus was divided into the systems of secondary education, lower education, and primary education. The system of secondary education

included male gymnasia and progymnasia, real schools, female gymnasia and progymnasia, and **teacher's institutes and seminaries**. The system of lower education was represented by urban schools, mountain schools, Mariinsky schools, and industrial schools. The system of primary education was comprised of parochial and primary schools (Magsumov et al., 2020: 223).

Naturally, given the region's complex demographic conditions, it was difficult to open new schools in the governorate. One of the first educational institutions in Baku was St. Nina's School for Girls, opened on April 15, 1848. Note that around the same time similar institutions were established in Tiflis (1846) and Kutais (1847) (Otchet, 1899: 166).

### Secondary education

Despite all the problems in the development of the systems of primary and lower education in the region, on January 1, 1874, it became home to its first secondary educational institution for boys – Baku Real School (Otchet, 1885: tables). In September the same year, the governorate became home to its first secondary educational institution for girls as well – Baku Female Gymnasium (Otchet, 1885: 130). Thus, the governorate's residents were now able to have their children attend school without having to travel outside of the region.

Twenty-two years later, on September 1, 1896, the region became home to Baku Male Gymnasium (Otchet, 1899: 6), and on June 9, 1897, St. Nina's School for Girls was reorganized into another female gymnasium (Otchet, 1899: 166).

Table 1 displays the numbers of secondary educational institutions and students in them in Baku Governorate in the period 1884–1900.

**Table 1.** Numbers of Secondary Educational Institutions and Students in Them in Baku Governorate in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: tables; Otchet, 1886: 68, tables, 162; Otchet, 1887: tables, 106-107, 138, 168; Otchet, 1890: № 51, № 80, № 106, № 130; Otchet, 1891: № 51, № 80, № 108, 130; Otchet, 1892: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1893: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1894: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1895: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1896: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1897: 60, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1899: 60, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1900: 60, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1901: 60, 138, 214-215)

Year	Number of educational institutions					Number of students		
	Gymnasia		Progymnasia		Real schools	Boys	Girls	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female				
1874	-	1	-	-	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
1884	-	1	-	-	1	465	250	715
1885	-	1	-	-	1	481	274	755
1886	-	1	-	-	1	491	280	771
1889	-	1	-	-	1	503	324	827
1890	-	1	-	-	1	515	321	836
1891	-	1	-	-	1	542	379	921
1892	-	1	-	-	1	585	402	987
1893	-	1	-	-	1	542	433	975
1894	-	1	-	-	1	596	477	1,073
1895	-	1	-	-	1	640	477	1,117
1896	1	1	-	-	1	1,255	568	1,823
1898	1	2	-	-	1	1,589	1,052	2,641
1899	1	2	-	-	1	1,657	1,103	2,760
1900	1	2	-	-	1	1,777	1,172	2,949

In analyzing Table 1, it is worth noting that, despite the low number of secondary educational institutions in Baku Governorate at the beginning of the period under examination, by 1900 the

region had managed to double their number, with the number of students in them growing 4 times. **An interesting characteristic of the region's system of secondary education was that demand for secondary education in the governorate was very high.** For instance, the male gymnasium in Baku was filled to capacity as soon as it opened. Interestingly, if in 1884 girls accounted for 35 % of the region's total student body, in 1900 the figure was now 40 %.

Table 2 displays the data on the region's student body in terms of ethnicity.

**Table 2.** Distribution of Students in Secondary Educational Institutions in Baku Governorate by Ethnicity in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: tables; Otchet, 1886: tables, 162-163; Otchet, 1887: 106-107, 168-169; Otchet, 1890: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1891: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1892: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1893: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1894: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1895: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1896: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1897: 60-61, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1899: 60-61, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1900: 60, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1901: 60, 138, 214-215)

Year	Ethnic Russians	Georgians	Armenians	Tatars	Mountaineers	Jews	Other ethnicities (Europeans)	Total
1884	377	16	204	43	11	16	18	715
1885	392	20	214	45	16	18	50	755
1886	402	14	230	37	15	21	52	771
1889	393	17	273	51	11	26	56	827
1890	416	24	252	56	11	33	44	836
1891	467	20	265	62	13	39	55	921
1892	472	14	263	56	17	48	66	987
1893	459	14	269	66	11	55	71	975
1894	545	18	276	73	7	73	81	1,073
1895	560	19	280	69	8	82	99	1,117
1896	766	32	647	89	12	149	128	1,823
1898	1,050	73	990	147	12	219	168	2,641
1899	1,077	74	1,045	142	14	246	180	2,760
1900	1,152	75	1,140	132	12	282	163	2,949

As evidenced in Table 2, at the time the ratio of boys to girls among ethnic Russian students in the region's secondary educational institutions was almost 1:1. Specifically, in 1900 ethnic Russian students in the region numbered 569 boys and 583 girls. Among the region's Georgian students, the sex ratio was two boys to one girl, with a similar figure recorded among its Armenian students. Compared with their Armenian counterparts, it was quite rare for the region's Muslim residents to enroll their children in secondary educational institutions. Specifically, of the region's approximately 3,000 students, Muslims accounted in 1900 for just 114 people, with just six of these being girls. Prior to 1896, virtually no Muslim girls in the region attended a secondary educational institution. As far as the region's mountaineers, the figure ranged in said period from seven to 17 people, and only once, in 1893, there were two mountaineer girls attending a secondary educational institution.

Prior to 1896, ethnic Russians accounted for the majority of students enrolled in the region's secondary educational institutions, However, starting in 1898, ethnic Russian students virtually evened up with Armenian ones in number.

Of significance is also the distribution of students in the region at the time by faith (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Distribution of Students in Secondary Educational Institutions in Baku Governorate by Faith in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: tables; Otchet, 1886: tables, 162-163; Otchet, 1887: 106-107, 168-169; Otchet, 1890: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1891: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1892: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1893: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1894: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1895: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1896: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1897: 60-61, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1899: 60-61, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1900: 61, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1901: 61, 138, 214-215)

Year	Orthodox Christians	Armenian Gregorian Christians	Catholics	Protestants	Jews	Muslims	Other faiths	Total
1884	389	192	19	41	16	54	4	715
1885	410	206	22	34	18	61	4	755
1886	414	214	18	47	21	52	5	771
1889	408	257	24	45	26	62	5	827
1890	433	242	13	42	33	66	7	836
1891	480	253	13	55	39	75	6	921
1892	482	247	20	61	49	73	6	987
1893	501	253	21	65	55	75	5	975
1894	560	259	22	75	73	80	4	1,073
1895	577	269	25	83	82	77	4	1,117
1896	787	620	37	115	144	101	19	1,823
1898	1,122	947	50	149	216	141	21	2,641
1899	1,152	1,140	55	160	241	138	14	2,760
1900	1,213	1,095	58	158	276	130	17	2,949

As evidenced in Table 3, Christians accounted in the region’s secondary educational institutions for nearly 87 %, followed by Jews (approx. 10 %), and then Muslims.

Table 4 displays the data on the student body in Baku Governorate’s secondary educational institutions in said period in terms of social estates.

**Table 4.** Distribution of Students in Secondary Educational Institutions in Baku Governorate by Estate in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: tables; Otchet, 1886: tables, 162-163; Otchet, 1887: 106-107, 168-169; Otchet, 1890: № 80, № 130, Otchet, 1891: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1892: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1893: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1894: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1895: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1896: № 80, № 130; Otchet, 1897: 60-61, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1899: 60-61, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1900: 60, 138, 214-215; Otchet, 1901: 61, 138, 214-215)

Year	Nobles*	Persons of ecclesiastical status	Distinguished citizens and merchants of the first guild	Members of other urban estates	Peasants	Members of the lower ranks and Cossacks	Foreigners	Total
1884	394	23	252	18	1	27	715	
1885	442	17	247	24	1	24	755	
1886	436	12	265	31	11	16	771	

\* As used herein, the term ‘nobles’ means hereditary nobles, personal nobles, and functionaries.

1889	423	12	5	323	41	1	22	827
1890	424	9	7	340	27	10	19	836
1891	470	10	6	370	34	8	23	921
1892	458	10	9	381	39	5	35	987
1893	462	15	35	381	38	15	29	975
1894	494	17	44	438	38	17	25	1,073
1895	518	20	29	447	48	28	27	1,117
1896	653	38	65	861	142	30	34	1,823
1898	871	55	140	1,294	187	50	44	2,641
1899	891	56	135	1,385	212	45	36	2,760
1900	978	72	164	1,419	258	69	39	2,949

As evidenced in Table 4, in 1884 nobles (the children of nobles and functionaries) accounted for 55 % of the region's total student body. However, by 1900 this group had lost its prevalence in the region, coming to account for just 33 % of its total student body, with first place going to members of the urban estates – nearly 50 % of the total student body in the region's secondary educational institutions.

By tradition, major significance in the education system was attached at the time to the school library. As mentioned earlier, most secondary and lower educational institutions in the region had the following two separate library sections in place – fundamental (for teachers) and discipular (for students).

In 1884, Baku Real School had a library stock of 2,320 items in the fundamental library section and 1,003 items in the discipular one (Отчет, 1885: таблицы). As far as the library stock of Baku Female Gymnasium, it is to be noted that common practice in the Caucasus at the time was that where there was in place a male educational institution it would house a large fundamental library to be used by teachers from all educational institutions in town. The same was the case in Baku, where the fundamental library in the female gymnasium was secondary in significance and held just 204 items, with the discipular library holding 734 items (Отчет, 1885: 132). Thus, in 1884 the region's secondary educational institutions had a combined library stock of 4,261 items.

Fifteen years later (by 1900), secondary educational institutions in Baku Governorate had the following library stock: Baku Male Gymnasium – 4,566 items in the fundamental library section and 3,077 items in the discipular one (Отчет, 1901: 8); Baku Real School – 4,057 items in the fundamental library section and 1,820 items in the discipular one (Отчет, 1901: 111); Baku Female Gymnasium – 4,119 items in the fundamental library section and 3,568 items in the discipular one (Отчет, 1901: 170). St. Nina's Gymnasium for Girls had 702 items in the fundamental library section; it had no discipular section (Отчет, 1901: 170). Overall, in 1900 the region's secondary educational institutions had a combined library stock of 21,909 items, an increase of more than 5 times.

### Lower education

Lower education in Russia was represented at the time by urban schools, mountain schools, female Mariinsky schools\*, and industrial schools.

The region's first lower educational institution, Shamakhi Urban School, was opened in the same year as its first secondary one – 1874 (Отчет, 1885: tables).

In 1881, the governorate became home to Baku Nautical School (Отчет, 1885: tables).

On November 8, 1888, the region became home to Baku Tradesman's Specialized School (Отчет, 1890: № 241).

On September 1, 1889, the governorate became home to its second urban school – Baku Urban School (Отчет, 1890: № 185).

On September 1, 1896, Baku Tradesman's Specialized School was reorganized into Baku Tradesman's School. In addition, on the same day the region became home to a lower technical school (Отчет, 1897: 426). Two years later, in 1898, they opened in Baku another urban school,

\* Mariinsky schools were female educational institutions under the purview of the widowed Empress Maria Fedorovna. There were no Mariinsky schools in Baku Governorate.



subsequent to which the two institutions were named ‘first urban school’ and ‘second urban school’, respectively (Otchet, 1899: 295).

Table 5 illustrates the dynamics of the numbers of lower educational institutions in Baku Governorate and students in them.

**Table 5.** Number of Lower Educational Institutions in Baku Governorate in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: 218, 238; Otchet, 1886: 192, 210-211, 244; Otchet, 1887: 198, 218-219, 232, 254-255; Otchet, 1890: № 185, № 203, № 241, № 259, № 271, № 282; Otchet, 1891: № 184, № 202, № 240, № 258, № 270, № 281; Otchet, 1892: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1893: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1894: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1895: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1896: № 200, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1897: 327, 418, 462; Otchet, 1899: 329, 406, 442; Otchet, 1900: 296, 362, 456, 492; Otchet, 1901: 296, 362, 456, 492)

Year	Number of educational institutions				Number of students*
	Urban schools	Tradesman's specialized schools (lower technical schools)	Tradesman's schools	Nautical schools	
1884	1	-	-	1	205
1885	1	-	-	1	205
1886	1	-	-	1	193
1889	2	1	-	1	403
1890	2	1	-	1	470
1891	2	1	-	1	482
1892	2	1	-	1	499
1893	2	1	-	1	537
1894	2	1	-	1	579
1895	2	1	-	1	631
1896	2	1	1	1	700
1898	3	1	1	N/A†	937
1899	3	1	1	N/A	987
1900	3	1	1	N/A	1,058

As evidenced in Table 5, lower education in Baku Governorate was provided at the time only to boys. Both secondary and lower educational institutions in the region were divided by gender, meaning that boys and girls were taught separately. The governorate did not have separate lower educational institutions for girls. In the period 1884–1900, the number of lower educational institutions in the governorate rose 2.5-3 times, while the total student body in its lower educational institutions increased 5 times.

Another area of interest is the ethnic composition of the student body in the region's lower educational institutions at the time (Table 6).

\* The student body was comprised of boys only.

† The Reports on Educational Institutions in the Caucasus Educational District stopped carrying data on the nautical school in 1898.

**Table 6.** Distribution of Students in Lower Educational Institutions in Baku Governorate by Ethnicity in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: tables, 239; Otchet, 1886: 210-211, 244-245; Otchet, 1887: 218-219, 254-255; Otchet, 1890: № 203, № 259, № 282; Otchet, 1891: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1892: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1893: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1894: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1895: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1896: № 200, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1897: 327, 418, 462-463; Otchet, 1899: 329, 442; Otchet, 1900: 362, 492; Otchet, 1901: 362, 492)

Year	Ethnic Russians	Georgians	Armenians	Tatars	Mountaineers	Jews	Other ethnicities	Total
1884	39	1	116	45	-	-	4	205
1885	42	7	107	46	-	-	3	205
1886	42	2	84	62	-	1	2	193
1889	156	6	119	100	1	10	11	403
1890	180	6	144	120	1	9	10	470
1891	194	10	138	111	-	17	12	482
1892	243	15	123	83	-	21	14	499
1893	256	16	150	74	2	23	16	537
1894	280	12	170	71	1	23	22	579
1895	312	9	186	77	1	34	12	631
1896	283	10	241	124	2	23	17	700
1898	293	16	320	250	4	32	23	937
1899	294	15	324	285	7	38	29	987
1900	308	11	332	319	15	51	27	1,058

As evidenced in Table 6, if in 1884 Armenians accounted for 56% of the total student body in the region’s lower educational institutions, by as early as 1900 the way was now led by as many as three ethnic groups: ethnic Russians (29%), Armenians (31%), and Tatars (30%). With that said, in the period under examination the number of ethnic Russians rose nearly 8 times, Armenians – almost 3 times, and Tatars – 7 times. Growth was posted by other ethnic groups as well, including the region’s mountaineers.

Let us now move on to the religious composition of the student body in the region’s lower educational institutions at the time (Table 7).

**Table 7.** Distribution of Students in Lower Educational Institutions in Baku Governorate by Faith in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: tables, 239; Otchet, 1886: 210-211, 244-245; Otchet, 1887: 218-219, 254-255; Otchet, 1890: № 203, № 259, № 282; Otchet, 1891: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1892: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1893: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1894: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1895: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1896: № 200, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1897: 327, 418, 462-463; Otchet, 1899: 329, 443; Otchet, 1900: 363, 493; Otchet, 1901: 363, 493)

Year	Orthodox Christians	Armenian Gregorian Christians	Catholics	Protestants	Jews	Muslims	Other faiths (schismatics)	Total
1884	30	102	3	15	-	45	10	205
1885	37	91	2	17	-	46	12	205
1886	35	77	1	8	1	62	9	193
1889	121	109	1	19	10	101	42	403
1890	145	136	1	14	9	121	44	470
1891	164	127	1	20	17	111	36	482



1892	226	113	4	19	22	83	32	499
1893	245	137	6	23	23	75	28	537
1894	260	157	11	24	23	72	32	579
1895	294	158	4	28	35	78	24	631
1896	267	219	3	33	23	125	30	700
1898	323	303	4	28	32	304	43	937
1899	312	218	9	26	52	181	21	987
1900	281	304	9	37	51	334	43	1,058

As evidenced in [Table 7](#), in 1884 **Christian students in the region’s lower educational institutions** accounted for 73 % (Orthodox Christians – 14.6 %; Armenian Gregorian Christians – 49.7 %). However, by 1900 the way was now led by Muslims (31.5 %), followed by Armenian Gregorian Christians (28.7 %), and then Orthodox Christians (26.5 %). With that said, it is to be **noted that the number of Muslims in the region’s lower educational institutions was not steady** – it kept fluctuating significantly.

The description of the student body in Baku Governorate’s lower educational institutions will be concluded with a look at its distribution by estate ([Table 8](#)).

**Table 8.** Distribution of Students in Lower Educational Institutions in Baku Governorate by Estate in the Period 1884–1900 ([Otchet, 1885: tables, 238; Otchet, 1886: 210-211, 244-245; Otchet, 1887: 218-219, 254-255; Otchet, 1890: № 203, № 259, № 282; Otchet, 1891: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1892: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1893: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1894: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1895: № 202, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1896: № 200, № 258, № 281; Otchet, 1897: 327, 418, 462-463; Otchet, 1899: 329, 443; Otchet, 1900: 363, 493; Otchet, 1901: 363, 493](#))

Year	Nobles	Persons of ecclesiastical status	Distinguished citizens and merchants of the first guild	Members of other urban estates	Peasants	Members of the lower ranks and Cossacks	Foreigners	Total
1884	43	6	107		48	1	-	205
1885	42	9	122		28	2	2	205
1886	59	8	102		25	4	-	193
1889	80	14	11	211	68	14	5	403
1890	93	23	7	261	58	21	5	470
1891	86	22	9	271	64	23	7	482
1892	75	15	20	261	86	38	9	499
1893	62	11	25	266	118	45	10	537
1894	67	23	15	287	119	59	9	579
1895	71	15	15	307	154	61	8	631
1896	92	19	15	368	137	69	-	700
1898	70	33	9	505	158	38	19	937
1899	70	11	5	512	181	37	1	987
1900	93	39	17	563	241	95	10	1,058

As evidenced in [Table 8](#), in 1884 members of the urban estates accounted for more than 50 % of **the total student body. By 1900, the trend of this group dominating the region’s system of lower education** persisted – 53 % of the total student body. This group was followed in 1900 by peasants, a group that in said period increased 5 times. Placed third was the Children of Nobles and

Functionaries group, which increased just 2 times. Another category that is worthy of mention is the Children of Members of the Lower Ranks and Cossacks group, but the figure kept fluctuating significantly.

**A few words will now be said about the library holdings of the region's lower educational institutions at the time.**

By 1884, Shamakhi Urban School had the following library stock: 1,058 items in the fundamental library section and 349 items in the discipular one ([Otchet, 1885: tables](#)). Baku Nautical School had only a fundamental library section, which held 182 items ([Otchet, 1885: 220](#)). Overall, in 1884 the **region's lower educational institutions had a combined library stock of 1,589 items.**

**In 1900, the region's lower educational institutions had the following library stock: First Baku Urban School – 1,066 items in the fundamental library section and 2,006 items in the discipular one; Second Baku Urban School – 58 items in the fundamental library section and 487 items in the discipular one; Shamakhi Urban School – 2,434 items in the fundamental library section and 802 items in the discipular one ([Otchet, 1901: 300](#)); Baku Lower Technical School – 373 items in the fundamental library section and 587 items in the discipular one. The lower tradesman's school at the technical school did not have a library of its own ([Otchet, 1901: 458](#)).** Overall, in 1900 **the region's lower educational institutions had a combined library stock of 7,813 books, an increase of 5 times.**

### **Primary education**

The network of primary educational institutions in the region was represented by private, ministerial (schools under the purview of the Ministry of Public Education, including zemstvo and community schools), and parochial schools.

### **Private primary schools**

**Baku Governorate's network of private educational institutions is worthy of special consideration, as education was highly in demand in that region, which was quite uncharacteristic of the Caucasus, where private education was generally not very common. In 1900, Baku Governorate ranked second in the number of private educational institutions in the Caucasus, behind just Tiflis Governorate, and that is considering that the former had two private gymnasia versus the latter's one ([Otchet, 1901: 518](#)).**

In 1884, the governorate had just four private primary schools (one male and three mixed), of which only one was housed in a building in satisfactory condition and had satisfactory furniture and textbooks ([Otchet, 1885: 283](#)). **In 1885, out of the region's four private primary institutions** (all mixed), two had satisfactory buildings, furniture, and textbooks ([Otchet, 1886: 283](#)). In 1886, the governorate now had eight private institutions (one lower and seven primary), all of which had satisfactory buildings and furniture, but only five had satisfactory textbooks ([Otchet, 1887: 305](#)). In 1889, the region had 10 private educational institutions (one lower and 9 primary) ([Otchet, 1890: № 288](#)). In 1890, the region no longer had in service the lower private educational institution; it had in operation nine primary institutions ([Otchet, 1891: № 307](#)). In 1891, the region became home to another three educational institutions, one of which being a male gymnasium ([Otchet, 1892: № 309](#)); two educational institutions ceased operation. In 1892, one new educational institution was opened in the region; three educational institutions were closed. Among the private educational institutions in operation were one male gymnasium and seven primary schools ([Otchet, 1893: № 310](#)). In 1893, the governorate became home to another five private institutions; one institution was closed. Among those in operation were one male and one female gymnasia, as well as 10 primary schools ([Otchet, 1894: № 310](#)). In 1894, no private institutions were opened in the region; one primary school was closed ([Otchet, 1895: № 310](#)). In 1895, the region became home to another five educational institutions. It now had in operation 16 private educational institutions – one female and one male gymnasia and 14 primary institutions ([Otchet, 1896: № 310](#)). In 1896, it became home to another six institutions; one institution was closed. The status of the male gymnasium was lowered to that of a lower educational institution. Overall, there were one female gymnasium, one male lower educational institution, four male primary schools, one female primary school, and 14 mixed primary schools ([Otchet, 1897: 488](#)).

In 1898, the region became home to another seven private educational institutions; no institutions were closed. Nevertheless, in 1898 the governorate did not have a single private

gymnasium in service, with the status of the female gymnasium lowered to that of a lower female institution; there were in operation 12 male primary, two female, and 16 mixed schools (Otchet, 1899: 468).

In 1899, Baku Governorate now had in operation 37 private educational institutions (six were opened and one was closed). Overall, there were in operation two lower (male and female) and 35 primary schools (10 male, seven female, and 18 mixed primary schools) (Otchet, 1900: 518).

**In 1900, in a year's time the governorate closed two and opened two schools, with the overall figure, thus, remaining the same.** However, there were substantial qualitative changes. Specifically, the region became home to two female gymnasia, two lower male schools, a female lower school, and 32 primary schools (nine male, six female, and 17 mixed) (Otchet, 1901: 518). Overall, **the region's private educational institutions had a combined enrollment of 2,432 students** (Otchet, 1901: 528). In this case, it is not possible to divide the student body across levels of education, as in the Reports on Educational Institutions in the Caucasus Educational District the data on the entire student body in the region's private educational institutions are provided in a single consolidated table.

In addition, in Baku Governorate there were Muslim and Jewish educational institutions, classified as ecclesiastical institutions. Specifically, in 1886 the governorate had in operation 249 Muslim educational institutions, in which students were taught the fundamentals of the Holy Quran, with a combined enrollment of 3,855 boys and 482 girls (Otchet, 1887: 312). In addition, that same year the region had in operation 17 Jewish educational institutions, with a combined enrollment of 201 boys and 14 girls (Otchet, 1887: 313).

### Ministerial schools

The first school in the territory of the future Baku Governorate that would subsequently be under the purview of the Department of Public Education was opened back during the Caucasian War of 1817–1864 (Otchet, 1890: № 299).

Subsequently, the process of opening new primary schools continued, with the number of primary schools in the region reaching 11 by 1880 (Otchet, 1901: 543) and as many as 31 by the end of 1884 (Otchet, 1885: 256-257, 276). Table 9 illustrates the dynamics of the development of the network of primary educational institutions in Baku Governorate in the period through to 1900 (Table 9).

**Table 9.** Distribution of Primary Schools under the Ministry of Public Education in Baku Governorate in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: 256-257, 276; Otchet, 1885: 262-263, 284; Otchet, 1887: 272-273, 296; Otchet, 1890: № 296, 311; Otchet, 1891: № 315, № 330; Otchet, 1892: № 317, № 332; Otchet, 1893: № 318, № 333; Otchet, 1894: № 318, № 333; Otchet, 1895: № 318, № 333; Otchet, 1896: № 318, № 333; Otchet, 1897: 507, 536; Otchet, 1899: 486-487, 516; Otchet, 1900: 536-537, 566; Otchet, 1901: 536-537, 566)

Year	Two-grade schools			One-grade schools			Total schools	Number of students		
	Male	Female	Mixed	Male	Female	Mixed		Boys	Girls	Total students
1884		5			26		31	1,339	338	1,677
1885		5			26		31	1,362	361	1,723
1886		7			30		37	1,395	473	1,868
1889	3	-	-	17	1	19	40	1,404	302	1,707
1890	3	-	-	17	-	20	40	1,276	322	1,598
1891	3	-	-	19	-	19	41	1,482	338	1,820
1892	3	-	-	18	-	21	42	1,564	308	1,872
1893	4	-	-	20	-	11	35	1,495	181	1,676
1894	4	-	-	20	-	9	33	1,545	212	1,757

1895	4	-	-	20	-	9	33	1,596	277	1,873
1896	5	-	-	21	2	13	41	2,105	401	2,506
1898	4	1	3	29	5	24	66	2,976	1,015	3,991
1899	5	1	2	30	5	30	78	3,345	1,169	4,514
1900	4	1	3	36	5	32	81	3,786	1,321	5,107

As evidenced in [Table 9](#), in the period 1884–1900 the number of primary educational institutions in the region rose more than 2.5 times. With that said, the number of students in them rose 3 times. Gender-wise, the ratio was just one girl for every three boys, with the figure remaining virtually the same throughout said period.

It is now also worth taking a look at the ethnic composition of the student body in the region’s primary schools at the time ([Table 10](#)).

**Table 10.** Distribution of Students in Primary Schools in Baku Governorate by Ethnicity in the Period 1884–1900 ([Otchet, 1885: 279; Otchet, 1886: 288-289; Otchet, 1887: 300-301; Otchet, 1890: № 314; Otchet, 1891: № 333; Otchet, 1892: № 335; Otchet, 1893: № 336; Otchet, 1894: № 336; Otchet, 1895: № 336; Otchet, 1896: № 336; Otchet, 1897: 542-543; Otchet, 1899: 522; Otchet, 1900: 572; Otchet, 1901: 572](#))

Year	Ethnic Russians	Georgians	Armenians	Tatars	Mountaineers	Jews	Other ethnicities	Total
1884	1,219	-	137	273	-	21	27	1,677
1885	1,265	5	204	212	1	15	21	1,723
1886	947	2	621	219	13	51	15	1,868
1889	1,045	5	272	266	40	40	38	1,707
1890	904	6	303	297	2	44	42	1,598
1891	1,066	4	280	333	36	52	49	1,820
1892	1,121	6	275	365	26	35	44	1,872
1893	1,020	4	159	413	32	23	25	1,676
1894	977	5	164	495	38	24	54	1,757
1895	1,017	5	161	588	41	39	22	1,873
1896	1,289	5	204	854	64	60	30	2,506
1898	1,824	12	921	964	77	64	129	3,991
1899	2,073	12	1,086	1,095	70	82	146	4,514
1900	2,163	19	1,331	1,239	61	137	157	5,107

Of interest are the data in [Table 10](#), in which it is evidenced that the system of primary education in Baku Governorate was in both 1884 and 1900 heavily dominated by ethnic Russians. Specifically, in 1884 ethnic Russians accounted for 72 % of the total student body, followed by Tatars (16 %), and then Armenians (8 %). By 1900, ethnic Russians accounted for 42% of the student body, followed by Armenians (26 %), and then Tatars (24 %). In the period 1894–1900, the region witnessed a significant increase in the number of Jewish students – from 21 people in 1884 to 137 people in 1900.

**It is now worth taking a look at the religious composition of the student body in the region’s primary schools at the time ([Table 11](#)).**

As evidenced in [Table 11](#), in 1884 the way by a significant margin was led by the Other Faiths group. During the period under review, this group implied schismatics, who in 1884 accounted for **48 % of the total student body in the governorate’s primary schools, i.e. one in two students.** By 1900, the figure remained virtually the same, i.e. schismatics had initially enrolled a large **number of children in the region’s primary schools. In 1900, the situation changed radically.** The way was now led by Muslims (25 %), followed by Armenian Gregorian Christians (24.8 %), and then Orthodox Christians (24.2 %), with schismatics ranking fourth (18.4 %).

**Table 11.** Distribution of Students in Primary Schools in Baku Governorate by Faith in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: 278-279; Otchet, 1886: 288-289; Otchet, 1887: 300-301; Otchet, 1890: № 314; Otchet, 1891: № 333; Otchet, 1892: № 335; Otchet, 1893: № 336; Otchet, 1894: № 336; Otchet, 1895: № 336; Otchet, 1896: № 336; Otchet, 1897: 542-543; Otchet, 1899: 523; Otchet, 1900: 573; Otchet, 1901: 573)

Year	Orthodox Christians	Armenian Gregorian Christians	Catholics	Protestants	Jews	Muslims	Other faiths	Total
1884	415	136	6	22	21	273	804	1,677
1885	500	165	5	55	15	213	770	1,723
1886	426	528	7	101	51	252	523	1,868
1889	346	220	7	84	100	306	643	1,707
1890	330	242	4	100	108	299	515	1,598
1891	352	221	1	105	135	369	637	1,820
1892	339	222	2	84	35	398	792	1,872
1893	460	158	2	9	23	455	569	1,676
1894	451	164	6	11	24	533	568	1,757
1895	443	161	5	11	39	632	582	1,873
1896	654	204	9	6	60	918	655	2,506
1898	985	739	7	277	64	1,041	878	3,991
1899	1,168	984	3	185	82	1,165	922	4,514
1900	1,241	1,270	6	212	137	1,300	941	5,107

Of interest is also the distribution of students in the region’s primary schools at the time by estate (Table 12).

**Table 12.** Distribution of Students in Primary Schools in Baku Governorate by Estate in the Period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: 278; Otchet, 1886: 288-289; Otchet, 1887: 300-301; Otchet, 1890: № 314; Otchet, 1891: № 333; Otchet, 1892: № 335; Otchet, 1893: № 336; Otchet, 1894: № 336; Otchet, 1895: № 336; Otchet, 1896: № 336; Otchet, 1897: 542-543; Otchet, 1899: 523; Otchet, 1900: 573; Otchet, 1901: 573)

Year	Nobles and functionaries	Persons of ecclesiastical status	Members of the urban estates	Peasants, members of the lower ranks, and Cossacks	Foreigners	Total
1884	112	21	339	1,188	17	1,677
1885	120	17	484	1,087	15	1,723
1886	134	36	880	815	3	1,868
1889	109	16	489	1,039	3	1,707
1890	92	16	493	994	3	1,598
1891	87	21	533	1,176	3	1,820
1892	90	33	589	1,150	10	1,872
1893	92	27	519	1,020	18	1,676
1894	110	27	499	1,105	16	1,757
1895	129	31	558	1,151	4	1,873
1896	146	43	711	1,594	12	2,506
1898	171	54	1,544	2,204	18	3,991

1899	186	53	1,410	2,846	19	4,514
1900	221	64	1,910	2,902	10	5,107

As evidenced in [Table 12](#), in said period the number of students in the region’s primary schools rose 3 times. In 1884, the way was led by the Peasants, Members of the Lower Ranks, and Cossacks group (70.8 %), followed by members of the urban estates (20.2 %), and then nobles (6.6 %). By 1900, the rankings remained the same, with the percentages changing only: peasants – 56.8 %, members of the urban estates – 37.3 %, and nobles – 4.3 %. With that said, the number of peasants rose 2.4 times, members of the urban estates – 5.6 times, and nobles – just 2 times. While there was a threefold rise in the number of children of persons of ecclesiastical status, their number was still minimal.

A few words will now be said about the library holdings of the region’s primary schools at the time.

By 1884, the region’s 31 primary schools had a combined 30 libraries, with a combined library stock of 3,755 items, or 125 items per library ([Otchet, 1885: 267](#)). By 1900, the region’s 81 primary schools had a combined 81 libraries. Baku Governorate led the way in the Caucasus in the number of libraries in primary schools, followed by Black Sea governorate, and then Kuban Oblast ([Otchet, 1901: 554](#)). The combined library stock was 41,758 items, or 515 items per school. It is fair to note that the richest libraries in the Caucasus were in Kuban Oblast – an average of 1,056 items per library ([Otchet, 1901: 554](#)).

### Parochial schools

In Baku Governorate, where the majority of the population was Muslim, Orthodox Christian parochial schools were not common. Specifically, in 1884 there were no parochial schools in the region, while in 1889 it had only one parochial school in operation ([Otchet, 1890: № 319](#)). This was another special characteristic for the education system in Baku Governorate.

[Table 13](#) illustrates the accomplishments of the system of public education in Baku Governorate in the period 1884–1900.

**Table 13.** The System of Public Education in Baku Governorate in the Period 1884–1900 ([Otchet, 1885: 285](#); [Otchet, 1886: 295](#); [Otchet, 1887: 307](#); [Otchet, 1890: № 292](#); [Otchet, 1891: № 311](#); [Otchet, 1892: № 313](#); [Otchet, 1893: № 314](#); [Otchet, 1894: № 314](#); [Otchet, 1895: № 314](#); [Otchet, 1896: № 314](#); [Otchet, 1897: 496](#); [Otchet, 1899: 476](#); [Otchet, 1900: 526](#); [Otchet, 1901: 526](#))

Year	Schools under the Ministry of Public Education (MNE)							Students		
	Secondary		Lower		Primary		Total	Boys	Girls	Total
	MNE-run	Private	MNE-run	Private	MNE-run	Private				
1884	2	-	2	-	31	4	39	2,122	658	2,780
1885	2	-	2	-	31	4	39	2,166	738	2,904
1886	2	-	2	1	37	7	49	2,266	860	3,126
1889	2	-	4	1	40	9	56	2,564	740	3,304
1890	2	-	4	-	40	9	55	2,523	788	3,311
1891	2	1	4	-	41	9	57	2,861	859	3,720
1892	2	1	4	-	42	7	56	2,988	822	3,810
1893	2	2	4	-	35	10	53	3,067	965	4,032
1894	2	2	4	-	33	9	50	3,225	1,075	4,300
1895	2	2	4	-	33	14	55	3,783	1,191	4,974
1896	3	1	5	1	41	19	70	4,897	1,692	6,589
1898	4	-	4	2	66	30	102	6,515	2,801	9,316



1899	4	-	4	2	78	35	123	7,152	3,152	10,304
1900	4	2	4	3	81	32	126	7,891	3,655	11,546

As evidenced in Table 13, by 1900 Baku Governorate had gone a substantial way in its journey toward the making of its system of secondary education (both male and female). In that period, the number of public and private gymnasia in the region rose 3 times, the number of lower educational institutions grew 3.5 times, and the number of primary educational institutions increased 3 times. The period 1884–1900 witnessed an increase of more than 4 times in the number of students in the region, with the figure growing 3.7 times with boys and as much as 5.5 times with girls. Of major significance to the development of female education were private educational institutions, where there was virtually a parity between boys and girls in enrollment (1,270 boys and 1,162 girls in 1900) (Otchet, 1901: 526).

## 5. Conclusion

The system of public education in Baku Governorate had markedly distinct characteristics. Above all, this was the case with its private educational institutions, which played an important role in the development of its public education system. By the year 1900, Baku Governorate had in place an entire network of public and private educational institutions, which included six gymnasia, seven lower educational institutions, and 113 primary schools. Gender-wise, girls comprised just 31% of the region's total student body, which at the time was quite characteristic of areas with a large Muslim population.

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