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## THE REGIONAL INFLUENCE OF “SHARG GADINI” MAGAZINE IN THE TURKISH WORLD

### Abstract

The reasons that necessitated the creation of the magazine “Sharg gadini” (*trans.* “Eastern Woman”) published in 1923 were investigated. It has been shown that the creation of the magazine was influenced by popular magazines published in Russia from the middle of the 19th century to the 20th year of the 20th century. At the same time, there was the influence of the Ottoman state, which was considered one of the sources of power in the Muslim world of that period. Thus, the approaches of women's magazines published in the same period as “Sharg gadini” were similar in terms of the problems faced by Ottoman Turks and Azerbaijani Turks, and the same difficulties in the process of upbringing and education. Also, shortly after the publication of the “Sharg gadini” magazine, its influence spread to Turkestan and Tatarstan. The First Turkological Congress held in Baku had an exceptional impact on this process. The “Sharg gadini” magazine had a great influence on the publication of magazines such as “Maarif və oktuçi” and “Saodat” women's magazine published in Uzbekistan after 1925 and “shining in the artistic and literary environment to eliminate illiteracy and cause the light of enlightenment to burn brightly”.

**Keywords:** “Sharg gadini”, journal, publication, education, mother, child, morality, article, author, information

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### “Şərq qadını” jurnalının türk dünyasına regional təsiri

#### Xülasə

Bu məqalədə 1923-cü ildə nəşr olunan “Şərq qadını” (“Şərq qadını”) jurnalının yaradılmasını zəruri edən səbəblər araşdırılıb. Jurnalın yaranmasına 19-cu əsrin ortalarından 20-ci əsrin 20-ci ilinə qədər Rusiyada nəşr olunan məşhur jurnalların təsir göstərdiyi aşkar olunmuşdur. Eyni zamanda, o dövrün müsəlman dünyasında güc mənbələrindən biri sayılan Osmanlı dövlətinin də təsiri var idi. Belə ki, “Şərq qadını” ilə eyni dövrdə çıxan qadın dərgilərinin yanaşmaları Osmanlı türkləri ilə Azərbaycan türklərinin üzləşdiyi problemlər, tərbiyə və təhsil prosesində eyni çətinliklər baxımından oxşar idi. Həmçinin “Şərq qadını” jurnalının nəşrindən az sonra onun təsiri Türkünstan və Tatarıstana yayıldı. Bu prosesə Bakıda keçirilən I Türkoloji Qurultay müstəsna təsir göstərmişdir. 1925-ci ildən sonra Özbəkistanda nəşr olunan “Maarif və oktuçi” və “Saodat” qadınlar jurnalı kimi jurnalların da nəşr olunmasında “Şərq qadını” jurnalının böyük təsiri olmuşdur.

**Açar sözlər:** “Şərq qadını”, jurnal, nəşr, təhsil, ana, övlad, əxlaq, məqalə, müəllif, məlumat

#### Introduction

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, with the weakening of the political situation in Tsarist Russia, the people's struggle for the right to self-determination began. However, as a result of the invasion policy carried out for years, the people of Azerbaijan fell into superstition and ignorance and fell far away from education and civilization. At the center of the

political events in Azerbaijan at that time was the intellectual class of the people of Azerbaijan who had progressive ideas and prepared the people to fight for freedom and rights. They unequivocally emphasized the importance of education and school on this path.

Those who had the right to receive education from among the people were the children of families belonging to the agha-bey class, to whom the state gave special privileges. Since getting an education was a financially difficult process, not every wealthy family chose this path. At that time, students from Azerbaijan mainly studied at Kazan, Moscow, and Petersburg universities in Russia, and at Paris and Ottoman Istanbul universities in France. Many of the students who went to study abroad got married there and in most cases did not return home, and those who returned faced severe condemnation from the Muslim community. They did not want to marry women from their own nationality. The reason for this was that women were isolated from public life and engaged in housework in harsh domestic conditions. Well-known intellectuals of the time saw the way out of this problem in the opening of girls' schools in Azerbaijan, and in the activity of a press agency that would ensure women's rights and freedoms. But the opening of girls' schools was not easy. From tsarist officials to the tsar, even though they were asked to open girls' schools in Azerbaijan, they received refusals. In addition to the obstacles of the tsarist administration, religious figures in Azerbaijan and ignorant people who followed superstitions also seriously hindered this process. On September 7, 1901, the first Muslim girls' school, which was opened with the initiative and funding of Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev, became an important turning point in the way of solving the big problem. The opening of these schools soon covered the regions, girls' schools were opened in Karabakh, Ganjabasar and other places. Thus, the process of transformation of women into public life in Azerbaijan began. Numerous articles about the importance of women's education were published in newspapers and magazines - "Molla Nasreddin", "Dabistan", "Rahbar", "Maktab" and "Irshad", "Hayat", "Kaspi" newspapers, which were published due to great difficulties. started After prominent women writers such as Hanifa Malikova, Khadija Aghayeva, Medina Vakilova, and Shafiga Sheikhzadeh, there were women writers who were involved in publishing, such as Mina Aslanova, Sakina Akhundova, Buyukkhanim Hajibeyova, Zara Aghayeva, Adila Shahtakhtinskaya, Nabat Narimanova, and Shafiga Efendizadeh. Thus, the number of women writers began to expand in the direction of supporting women's education, defending women's rights and freedoms.

In a short period of time, great steps were taken in the field of women's freedom and rights in Azerbaijan. Women began to integrate from public social life to public-political life. Of course, thanks to this, healthy thinking youth began to grow in the country. Factors of gender equality in families were increasingly arranged in terms of women's preferences.

### **1. The first guarantor of women's rights in the East - Azerbaijani woman**

It is no coincidence that on May 28, 1918, in the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first democratic republic in the East, the issue of education, education and women's education was in the foreground (Mardanov, 2003: 88). Starting from the beginning of the 20th century, the topic of family, household and women has been one of the most urgent issues widely discussed by intellectuals. Different political and social thinkers could come to a common point with problems related to women's rights and freedoms. Therefore, this issue is legally reflected in the historic Declaration of Independence: "The Azerbaijan People's Republic guarantees political rights and the right to citizenship to all its citizens living within its borders, regardless of nationality, sect, class, race and gender" (Republic of Azerbaijan Government Laws and Institutions Compilation, 1919; Gasimova, 2019: 93).

The implemented legal and political issues gradually brought Azerbaijani women back to their freedom and rights. Azerbaijan elected a woman for the first time in the Muslim East and got the right to be elected. The government of Azerbaijan took more progressive steps in this field and acted as a guarantor of gender equality and women's rights in the country. However, the bitter judgment of fate led to the downfall of our independent state. After the establishment of Soviet power in Azerbaijan, these processes slowed down a bit. The way of liberation of the Azerbaijani woman was revealed in the example of the Russian woman. K. Aghayeva notes in her book "Gender

Issues in Azerbaijan" that Russian women did not have the right to vote before the revolution. In general, despite the fact that the Azerbaijani woman is fundamentally different from the Russian woman in all respects, many moments in the life of women in Azerbaijan are closely related to the events in Russia (Aghayeva, 2014: 153). Thus, after a while, the place of national thought was replaced by Bolshevik thought. Since the new structure seemed somewhat open to education and enlightenment, the Azerbaijani intellectuals, intellectuals, who took advantage of this opportunity, did great work in the direction of attracting the people of Azerbaijan to education and enlightenment. In addition to the involvement of women in education, important work should be done in the direction of shaping the young generation, instilling household culture and environmental culture.

## **2.Reasons for the creation of the "Sharg gadini" magazine**

It was during such a period that the "Sharg gadini" magazine took over these works. That's why the magazine "Sharg gadini" was a cultural and educational magazine and carried a political burden in itself. Although the editor-in-chief of the magazine was the Bolshevik Ayna Sultanova, thanks to many of the writers working in the magazine, the magazine turned the unfinished dreams of the founders of the republic into its mission. The process of equality of rights and freedoms between men and women and the elimination of discrimination based on gender, which started from the republic period, has become the front page of the "Sharg gadini" magazine. Of course, the events that took place in Russia and the Ottoman state had a direct impact on the publication of this magazine in Azerbaijan. In the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, under the influence of a number of social and economic factors, revivals began in the literary environment of women in Russia. The discussion of women's issues in the periodical press, the emergence of Russian feminism, the development of women's education are reflected in the topics of the women's press.

"Рассвет" (1859-1862), "Русская хозяйка" (1861-1862), "Женский вестник" (1866-1868), "Друг женщины" (1882) in terms of women's rights and freedoms, moral education, and the formation of domestic culture -1884). "Женщина" (1907-1917), "Дамский мир" (1907-1917), "Женское дело" (1910-1918), "Журнал для хозяек" (1912-1918), "Мир женщины" (1912-1917), "Журнал для женщин" (1914-1918) and other magazines can be mentioned (Smeyukha, 2011: 107; Simonova, 2008: 16).

Magazines that were published one after another were not limited to the task of educating women, but aimed at changing their mentality. The magazine "На помощь матерям" ("Help for mothers"), published in 1894, is considered the first-level pedagogical publication of women's magazines published in Russia (Smeyukha, 2011: 107). Of course, the influence of educational magazines published in Russia on the social and public processes existing in the Azerbaijani society was very high. Well-known intellectuals of the time applied for permission to open such magazines and newspapers in Azerbaijan. Even though the petitions received negative responses, they did not withdraw from the struggle. On the contrary, proposals for the magazine to be published in the future to be more advanced and more effective were becoming more mature.

## **3. The influence of the women's magazines of the Ottoman state on the "Sharg gadini" magazine**

The people of Azerbaijan, under the rule of Tsarist Russia since 1828, felt the influence of the progress of the Ottoman state in the direction of enlightenment. Therefore, the influence of the current situation of the Ottoman state in terms of the approach to women's education and women's rights played a major role in the formation of the "Sharg gadini" magazine.

At the beginning of the 20th century, some of the Azerbaijani intellectuals were formed under the influence of Ottoman education. Therefore, the socio-political processes taking place in Azerbaijan were viewed from the same angle as the Ottoman elite. The Ottoman environment also had its influence on the creation and formation of the "Sharg gadini" magazine. In general, every action taken by women in the Ottoman period to make their voices heard and to prove their existence has been discussed from the perspective of feminist thought in almost all women's studies.

In this review, when talking about women's magazines, the main idea is that the purpose of publishing these magazines is to struggle with women's identity in a feminist direction (Malkoch, Yılmaz, 2019: 665). As in the Ottoman period, women fought for their rights, to be able to read and write, to vote and to be elected. Women's magazines, like other written materials, were considered important sources of information about the changing value of society. After the declaration of the republic, various magazines published articles advocating the equality of women and men and the granting of political rights to women (Mutlu, 2009: 60).

After the declaration of the Republic, "Firuze" magazine, which was published at the same time (1924) as "Sharg gadini" magazine, covered more women's education, protection of women's rights, world women's movements, women's consciousness, Turkish women's political movement, hygiene and nutrition culture, and other topics. articles were published (Shahin, 2018: 97; Malkoch, 2019: 2142).

It is known that the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic has given special importance to education after declaring its independence. Invited by the Ottomans, Khalil Fikret Kanad (1892-1974), who taught pedagogy and psychology at Baku State University in 1923-1926, wrote a large number of articles in the "Sharg gadini" magazine on the topics of children's education and education from the pedagogical aspect, which is the author's relationship with the Ottomans. It shows that the problems in Azerbaijan are the same (Gungor, 2013: 22).

#### **4. The sphere of influence of "Sharg gadini" magazine**

The political and revolutionary events in Azerbaijan and Russia, as well as the Ottoman environment, influenced the creation of the "Sharg gadini" magazine. At that time, the illiteracy of the population in Turkestan, especially women, was dominant. The repressions carried out by Tsarist Russia in Turkestan, keeping the Turkestan people away from education and knowledge in order to keep them in obedience, had their effect. In his work, Ebubekir Güngör shows that political and military resistances and uprisings against the Russian invasions in Turkestan for centuries did not bring anything except the loss of life and the increase of oppression of the local people. Faced with the policy of Tsarist Russia against the Turkic and Muslim peoples, intellectuals found a solution in cultural unity against the enemy. This merger took place on the basis of the Jedi movement. Through Cedit schools and publications, the spread of Islamic-Turkish consciousness in Turkestan manifested itself in the form of public education. Islamism, Turkism, and modernism, reflecting the innovative ideas of Turkestan intellectuals, formed the main ideology of the liberation war in order to liberate and ensure the civilized development of the Turkestan local people, who were subjected to unjust actions during the tsarist period. As he directly led the political, social and economic development of the period, he also played an important role in the formation of today's Turkestan (Rustamov, 2013: 144-145).

According to the decision of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan dated June 27, 1924, the new alphabet was considered mandatory and the state alphabet. In order to speed up the implementation of this work, the magazine "Sharg gadini" noted that the realization of enlightenment will be strong as long as reading and writing with the Azerbaijani alphabet with Latin script will be done. It was noted that the Arabic alphabet contained superstition and ignorance. Although the need for Turkestan and other Turkic-speaking countries to switch to the Latin alphabet was noted, this process was slow. The acceleration of this work was greatly influenced by the participation of a large number of scientists from Azerbaijan, Turkestan, Tatarstan, Dagestan and other Turkic countries at the First Turkological Congress held in Baku from February 26 to March 5, 1926 (First Turkological Congress: visible and invisible sides. Materials of the scientific session, 2016: 100).

"Unity in language, thought, deed" of Ismayil Bey Gaspirali, who said that the unity of the Turkic world passed through education, both with alphabet reforms and with the effects of enlightenment. The impact of magazines published in Azerbaijan with the influence of his idea has also affected Turkestan. Halid Said, an Uzbek orientalist who worked as a teacher at Baku State University in 1922-1937, wrote in his memoir "My Old Memories and Feelings on the New

Alphabet Paths" that "Education and Oktuchi", "Revolution" published in Uzbekistan since 1925 "Gülüstan" and "Alanga" magazines shone in the artistic and literary environment and became a voice for the elimination of illiteracy and the bright burning of the light of enlightenment (Hojayev, 2006: 43).

It would be appropriate to mention the influence of the magazine "Sharg gadini" separately. Because there was no education for women in Uzbekistan at that time. Their social skills were incomparably poor compared to men. Zeynabidin Abdirashidov notes that in the first years of the establishment of Soviet power, girls in Turkestan were generally far from education. Women's schools, like schools, did not exist before in Turkestan. Usually, the girls gathered at the mullah's wife from time to time. Educated women were called "bibi khatun", "bibi aunt" or "biatin" (Abdirashidov, 2011: 69). The biggest innovation created in Uzbekistan due to the influence of the magazine "Sharg gadini" is the publication of the "Saodat" magazine, which was founded for Uzbek women on December 1, 1925. Published 8 times a year, the magazine attracted women to literacy by providing special articles and information in the fields of literature, culture, art, science, education, and sports.

### Conclusion

The analysis of the period before and after the creation of the magazine "Sharg gadini" shows that women's education, protection of rights and freedoms were of global importance at the same time in the enlightenment movement that started in Azerbaijan at the beginning of the 20th century. We can say that the columns and sections in the magazine "Sharg gadini" are similar to the problems posed in women's magazines published in Russia at the time. The fact that women's problems were the same in the magazines published at the same time as "Sharg gadini" in the Ottoman state suggests that the struggle for women's rights and freedom in the Muslim world was equally important for both nations. As an example, Khalil Fikret, a scientist who came from the Ottoman Empire, wrote a large number of articles on children's education in the magazine "Sharg gadini" in 1923. With the publication of the magazine "Sharg gadini", a new light shone in the Turkish world. The flame of light has spread from Tatarstan to Turkestan. After the Turkological Congress held in Baku in 1926, a new enlightenment movement began in Turkestan, Uzbekistan. Uzbek Turk Halid Said Hojayeve emphasized the influence of Azerbaijan in the creation of publications promoting women's rights and freedoms and enlightenment in Uzbek society. Thus, the "Saodat" women's magazine, published since 1925, was created directly as the "Sharg gadini" magazine. Thus, the 100-year-old magazine, published in 1923, fulfilled its mission well and did great services not only in Azerbaijan, but in the entire Turkic world.

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