

Illiterate in Tetovo and its area and the forms for its solution in the period 1945-1951

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Abstract

The subject of this paper is evaluation of the situation of learning to read and write of illiterate people in Tetovo and its area in the period 1945-1951. This period is important, because immediately after the liberation were overtaken the measures for opening schools in Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish language, as an important issue for resolving the situation with illiterate people.

After the end of Second World War, Macedonia inherited a big number of illiterate people, which made nearly 80 % of population. Both communities, Macedonians and Albanians were presented with high numbers of illiterate. Illiterate women were around 95 %. After the war, the problem with illiterate people was present yet in Tetovo and its area.

After the end of Second World War, one of the most important measures that have been undertaken in Macedonia was the development of education and resolving the issue of illiterate. In the conditions general educational and cultural non development in Tetovo and surrounding area as a necessary measure was approved the organization of courses for teaching people to read and to write, and also courses for preparing educators who will organize educational process. Because there was not enough educational staff, there were involved peoples with different levels of education and qualification for organizing education process in new opened schools in Tetovo and surrounding area.

Keywords: education, illiterate, schools, Tetovo, development of culture alphabetism.

Forms of eradicating illiteracy

Education for a general development of a society definitely plays a major role. It enters in a directive which is the most important factor in the formation and development of human being and has an impact on the transformation of the population, the economy and the society. Due to the close link between education and development in all spheres of social life, the problem of education can not be observed isolated in an autonomous manner, but only in a range of other cultural, social, economic and political factors¹.

After the end of the Second World War, one of the most important actions taken in Macedonia was the development of education and the eradication of illiteracy. In conditions of general educational and cultural backwardness, in Tetovo and its surroundings as an indispensable measure was imposed the opening of courses for eradicating illiterate, as well as courses for training of educational staff that will lead the teaching. Because of the small number of educational staff, people with diverse education and qualifications for teaching in the newly opened schools in Tetovo and Tetovo were engaged.

In schools with Albanian and Turkish language of teaching, there were a lack of persons with higher qualifications, there were persons with low qualifications such as (lower secondary school) with a class of secondary school, or religion schools. Among them there were many people with completed four-year primary school. Therefore, between 1945 and 1953, in Tetovo and its surroundings, there were teachers such as Ahmet Hadziasani, Vehap Kadriu, Cevehir Vejseli, Gani Yahya, Hirem Hajrullahu-Tresi, Kemal Hajrullahu, Ziya Sadiku, Abeddin Kafjani, Hikmet Kasapi, Sejdi Idrizi, Hysni Abdulahu and others².

¹ Hivzi Islami, Studime demografike, Prishtinë, 2008, fq. 177.

² Shoqata e pedagogëve shqiptarë Tetovë, Veteranët e arsimit shqip në Tetovë dhe rrethinë prej 1940-1960, Monografi, Tetovë, 2000.

KESLIJ ARSIMUER
ПРОСВЕТЕН ОДБОР

per Okolin e Tetovës
по Округу

Nr. 8 me 8. II. 1947
Ep. 04

DËFTESË
СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВО

Leshue shkolul, shoqes
Ученик на училиште

Mustafa Xhaferi

Në bazë të ndjekjes së tij, sëj në kursin e parë, i cili analfabetik në
по основу на учебу тој тај го добиле, а нешто порано тој се добиле со
1. 27. VI. 1946 deri me 15. II. 1947

gjatë kohës për
до време на

Udhë e mbarot me sukses
успешно завршил со учебу.

Kryetar i kështit Arsimuer
Председател на просветног одбора

Drejues i kursit
Преподавач на учебу

Ne bazë të pikës 7, artikulli 6 të ligjit të taksave, ashtu si shkaktohet prej pagimit të taksave
по основу на члену 7, ст. 6 од Закона за даноци, одговорно да платат на данок.

Fig. 2. A final language course for writing, reading Albanian language in 1946-47 (owned by Mustafa Xhafer Mustafai)³.

³ Qazim Kurtishi-Arnori, Llaca në rrjedhën e moteve, Ilko Gostivar, Tetovë, 2012, fq. 203.

The abolition of illiteracy in Tetovo was done prepared and in detail. In rural areas education was spread mostly through analytical courses. Although in very difficult conditions, the goal was very clear - to open as many courses as possible, as one of the main forms of abolition of this experience. In order to organize a greatest education as possible, initially consultations were organized with the responsible representatives of the education departments, and then with other employees in the education.

Also, a lot of groups were informed about the importance of eradicating illiterate, as well as the obligatory contribution that the education employees should give in the active participation in this work

In terms of contribution that should teachers give, in the press of that time (Rilindja, Prizren, no. 21, 1946), among other things, stated: "The fight against illiteracy and cultural should be increased by all of us, the most advanced intellectual elements of our society are teachers who are great ones that spread the knowledge for every nation."

After the end of the war, schools and courses against illiteracy were opened everywhere, mostly in private houses of the residents itself, in church buildings and in mosques, as well as in other objects temporarily modified for classrooms. In the first years of the opening of the courses, religious dogmatism also appeared as the main problem, which greatly delayed this process. In the awareness of the Albanians, traditional values were still present with the idea that education would have a negative impact on people. Albanian intellect and highly developed Albanian spiritual persons, despite the fact that a small number of them, managed to go through into all environments, to spread the importance of education⁴.

Illiteracy among the female population and measures for its reduction

The fight against illiteracy in Tetovo and its surroundings (1945-1952) opened another problem that was associated with attracting more girls and women in the education process. The courses were held separately for women and men. Women were taught by women teachers, and the same happened with men. This was particularly factual for the Albanian population where the patriarchal mentality existed while the same did not relate to the Macedonian population where the patriarchal mentality was not prominent as in the Albanian population.

In those places where teachers lacked, teachers were persons who were known and accepted by the environment. Due to the old traditional beliefs, the abolition of illiteracy in the ranks of the Albanian woman was made more difficult. After the Second World War, the percentage of illiteracy was 95 % of the total number of female population.

The Law on obligatory Primary Education enabled the education of the Albanian woman. However, this opportunity, especially with the opening of Albanian schools after the liberation, remained unrealized for many of the Albanian girls in Tetovo and its surroundings.

Despite the necessary measures that were taken by that time government, the inclusion of the Albanian woman with the educated measures encountered numerous difficulties. As a result of the conservative environment, the occurrence of interruption of schooling was common in the early years of primary education. In order to eliminate this phenomenon, despite the major obstacles, almost every village started organizing literacy courses.

Although the Macedonian population, as we mentioned earlier, the patriarchal mentality was not preserved to the same extent as in the Albanian population, the Macedonian woman also faced various obstacles, difficulties and problems in her education. In the total percentage of illiteracy in Tetovo are also woman from the Macedonian population.

⁴ Asllan Selmani, Popullsia e Maqedonisë, Logos-5, Shkup, 2004, c.166.



Fig. 2. Illiteracy courses in Tetovo after the Second World War

General overview of the eradication of Illiteracy in Tetovo and its surroundings

In the five-year period (1947-1952), the Government of the Republic of Macedonia undertook a series of measures to eliminate illiteracy. The level of illiteracy after the war was very high, because the previous education was low. From an ethnic point of view, illiteracy was more present in the Albanians than the Macedonians.

On 18.2.1947, the Government of the People's Republic of Macedonia, on the proposal of the Minister of Education, Nikola Minchev, adopted Decree on the illiteracy courses⁵.

According to the Rulebook, the right to establish course had: local or city, regional public boards, cultural associations and trade union organizations. the illiteracy course lasted 90 working hours. The plan and course program were prescribed by the Ministry of Education. After the examination of the courses, a certificate was issued. The forms of certification were signed by the Ministry of Education⁶.

	City	Number of population (1948) ⁷	Predicted by Plan	Covered	Literated					Literate with %
					Mac	Alb	Tur	Other	Total	
1.	Tetovo	21.598	855	1042	35	558	/	/	593	69.3 %
2.	Tetovo local	62.144	4690	5560	503	307	/	/	358	76.3 %
1948/49										
1.	Tetovo	21.598	911	556	5	235	/	/	240	26.3 %
2.	Tetovo local	62.144	5000	5630	315	3267	/	/	3582	71.6 %

Table 1. Table overview of the number of envisaged in the plan for literacy, number of covered, literate for Tetovo and locals in Tetovo 1947-1949

⁵ Државен архив на Македонија (понатаму: ДАРМ), Фонд 0170, 1.170.34.1/1-2.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ State Statistical Office Republik of Macedonia. Population Censuses in the Republik of Macedonia 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 And 1994. Population of the Republik of Macedonia According to declared ethnic affiliation. Data by municipalities and settlement places according to administrative teritorial division from 1996. Book IX. Skopje, April, 2002.

Table 1 shows that the campaign to eradicate analphabetism in the period 1947-1949 had more success than the first two years after the liberation, involving 1042 people in Tetovo, while in Tetovo their number was 5560. According to the nationality, in Tetovo there were trained 35 Macedonians, 503 in the rural areas, while the Albanian population is larger than the Macedonian population, which had already acquired education in Serbian schools before the war. In the Albanians, the number of illiterate people was higher, because there were no schools in the rural areas⁸.

During 1948-1949, the number of people who followed the analytical courses was smaller compared to the previous years, ie from 1042 people decreased to 556 persons. Empowered in such courses, according to ethnicity, in Tetovo there are 5 Macedonians and 235 Albanians, while in the Tetovo region there are 315 Macedonians and 3267 Albanians out of a total of 5630 people. There is no data for the Turkish population.

City	Number of population	Courses	To literate					Opened courses		
			Mac.	Alb	Tur	Other	Total	What workin	Finish	Unusable
Tetovo	21.598	50	/	1550	/		1550	/	47	3
Tetovo Local	62.144	194	373	5627	/	/	6000	/	191	3

Table 2. A summary review of the fight against illiteracy according to nationality 1945-1950⁹

From the table no. 2 it can be seen that the action against analphabetism began with a greater intensity throughout the whole territory. 50 courses were opened in Tetovo, while in the local area 194, which included more students. The graph shows that the majority of illiterate students who need to be enrolled in the courses are Albanians, about 7177 in total. While among the Macedonians, the number was about 373, mostly from the rural areas of this region. From the current research, there is a lack of data on the Turkish population in these areas.

City	Number of population	Gender			Opened courses				
		M	F	Total	By population				
Tetovo	21.598	204	791	995	Mac	Tur	Al	Other	Total
Tetovo	62.144	1200	4651	5851	364	/	5487	/	5851

Table 3. A summary review of the fight against illiteracy according to nationality and gender 1949-1950

According to the gender in Tetovo, 204 were male, while 791 women, which means that the number of women who did not know how to read and write was larger. There were more illiterates in Tetovo, where the number of males was 1200, while for 4651 women, which means that the number was five times higher than the city of Tetovo.

According to the nationality, the literacy courses in Tetovo and the surrounding area numbered 395, while the Albanians were 6450, which means that the number of analgesics in the Albanian population was higher.

⁸ ДАРМ, Фонд 0170, кут, 0036, 1.170.36.24/156-169.

⁹ ДАРМ, Фонд 0170, кут, 0036, 1.170.36.30/177-208

Macedonian			Turkish			Albanian			Gender			Total			%	Opened courses		
M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All		M	F	Ce
/	4	4	/	/	/	88	590	678	20	27	47	108	621	729	83.6	73	155	208
20	236	256	/	/	/	1194	3570	4764	/	/	/	1214	3806	5020	47	/	831	831

Table 4. Described by nationality and gender 1949/1950¹⁰

The table shows the results achieved during the action taken to eradicate analphabetism in 1949-1950. Satisfactory results, because in just one year, the number of those who learned to write and read reached up to 5749 people. Most of them were women, both Macedonians and Albanians. The success was great thanks to the 194 literacy courses that covered all the villages of this region.

In 1951, the campaign to eradicate analphabetism was completed, when the writing and reading skills were transferred to primary education, which this year was obligatory for the entire territory of Macedonia. However, the problem of illiteracy has remained current. One of the main reasons for this is based on the fact that with the elementary schools, all settlements were not evenly covered. Due to the incomplete inclusion of children in schools, the problem of illiteracy continued until the sixties of the 20th century.

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¹⁰ ДАРМ, фонд 0170, кут, 0036, 1.170.36.30/177-208.