Extended Summary

Teacher Training Experiences In Diyarbakir

Cemal Aküzüm, Hasan Akgündüz

Introduction

Due to its location and rich history, Diyarbakir is one of the most important cities that reflect the politics of teacher education programs for both urban and rural areas during Westernization period of Ottoman Empire and Republican period of Turkey. When it comes to teacher training in Turkey, we need to look at teacher training schools that also mirror cultural and educational developments in Diyarbakir.

Reforms in Teacher Training in Ottoman Empire in 19th Century

In Ottoman Empire, First Constitutional Monarchy period (1878-1908) marked a departure from traditional teacher training in Classical Ottoman Era. With reform efforts aimed at adopting western ideas, Ottoman thinkers also intended to replace traditional teacher training that only originated in Istanbul with more decentralized and liberal based schools. To achieve these ends, teacher training schools, known as Darulmuallimin and Darulmuallimin-i Sibyan, were opened and instructors for these schools were sent from Istanbul to the heartland of Anatolia.

Just after the declaration of Republic of Turkey in 1923, teacher training programs were re-designed to be more centralized in line with the new nation state’s ideals. Diyarbakir teacher training school (Darulmuallimin) were reopened in 1924 and but were closed in 1930. Other teacher training schools for women teacher candidates, known as Darulmuallimat, were also opened in the building of now known as Ziya Gokalp Elementary School.
Teacher Training Schools in Diyarbakir during Early Republican Period

Dicle Village Institute

Dicle Village Institute in Diyarbakir was opened as part of the new nation state’s ambitious project to make education available for people who were devoid of opportunities to send their children to schools in rural Turkey. Dicle Village Institute, now known as Ergani Anatolian Teacher High School, is a microcosm of politics of educational reforms during both early republican period and now.

Ziya Gokalp Faculty of Education

Ziya Gokalp Faculty of Education was named after the great thinker Ziya Gokalp who were from Diyarbakir at Dicle University. Ziya Gokalp Faculty of Education was first established as two-year long program on Istasyon Street in 1982. It is now affiliated with Dicle University and has nine departments and 17 program areas in its new building on the campus of Dicle University. (www.dicle.edu.tr).

Conclusion

In the light of documents about teacher schools in Diyarbakir in late 19th century Ottoman period, we see Teacher School for elementary teachers (Darülmuallimin-i Sıbyan) after 1882, Teacher School for middle school teachers (Darülmuallimin-i Rüşdiye) during Second Constitutional Monarchy (1908-1923) and Teacher School for women teachers (Darülmuallimat) during Republican period in 1930s.

Teacher training schools in Diyarbakir reflect the transformation of teacher training as well as that of the political climate of Turkey from late Ottoman Empire and Republic of Turkey. Male and women teacher training schools (Darülmuallimin ve Darülmuallimat respectively) in Ottoman era; Dicle Village Institute and Ziya Gokalp Faculty of Education are all milestones of this transformation in the history of education in Diyarbakir and Turkey.