

## THE SİBYÂN MEKTEPS (PRIMARY SCHOOLS) AND POPULATION IN BİLÂD-I SELÂSE (THREE TOWNS: ÜSKÜDAR, GALATA AND EYÜP) IN THE EARLY PART OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

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### Abstract

The first stage of regular educational institutions in Ottoman Empire was called “*sıbyân mektebi*”. The reliable statistical information on the numbers of *sıbyân mektebis* in The Ottoman Empire was of scarce. A document in the Ottoman Archives dated H 1123/ A.D. 1711 referred to the names of *sıbyân mektebi* in Bilâd-ı Selâse (three towns: Üsküdar, Galata and Eyüp) which were located next to Istanbul. We do not have the certain population information regarding to the 18<sup>th</sup> century but, some population forecasting have been made. In this article, population forecasting of that period is examined, the details of the *sıbyân mektebi* in the above mentioned document were presented and also the population in those dates were estimated based on the number of the schools and on the information obtained 100 years later from some documents.

**Key Words:** Ottoman, Scutari, Galata, Eyüp, education, primary schools, sıbyân mektebi, population of İstanbul.

### Öz

#### 18. YÜZYIL BAŞLARINDA BİLÂD-I SELÂSE’DEKİ SİBYÂN MEKTEPLERİ VE NÜFUS

Osmanlı Devleti’nde düzenli eğitim-öğretim kurumlarının ilk kademesine “*sıbyân mektebi*” adı verilmektedir. Osmanlı Devleti’nde sıbyân mekteplerinin sayısı hakkında sağlıklı istatistiki bilgiler mevcut değildir. Osmanlı Arşivi’nde bulunan H 1123/ M 1711 tarihli bir belge, o tarihte İstanbul’un bitişiğindeki Bilâd-ı Selâse (üç belde: Üsküdar, Galata ve Eyüp) adı verilen üç kazasında bulunan sıbyân mekteplerinin adlarını vermektedir. 18. Yüzyıla ait kesin nüfus rakamları elimizde bulunmamaktadır, fakat bazı nüfus tahminleri yapılmıştır. Bu yazıda, o dönemle ilgili nüfus tahminleri incelenmiş, anılan belgedeki sıbyân mekteplerinin dökümü verilip mekteplerin sayısından ve yüz yıl sonraki bazı belgelerdeki bilgilerden hareketle bu kazaların o tarihteki tahmini nüfusu da hesaplanmaya çalışılmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Osmanlı, Üsküdar, Galata, Eyüp, eğitim, sıbyân mektebi, İstanbul’un nüfusu.

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## Introduction

Islam greatly emphasizes the importance of gaining knowledge and education by constantly encouraging all human beings in general and Muslims especially to do so. The first verse of Quran starts with “*iqra*’ = *read*” and also there are many verses in Quran and words and practices of The Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) fostering learning, thinking, reasoning. Besides, the practices of The Prophet also encourage Muslims into this way. Therefore, from the very first days of Islam, houses and mosques also served as educational institutions. By the time of progress, more formal and systematic educational institutions were established. These institutions were named variously depending on the time and geography.

While primary school level institutions generally called “*küttab*”, in the Ottoman Empire, they were also called commonly “*sıbyân mektebi*” or Sübyan Mektebi<sup>1</sup>. They were called likewise as Daruttalim, Darulilim, Muallimhane, Mektep and Mektephane also<sup>2</sup>. Although we do not have precise information about when the first *sıbyân mektebi* started in the Ottoman Empire, it is known from the sources that “*medrese*”, upper level of education, started in Hijri 731 (A.D. 1330-1331) during the ruling of Orhan Gazi<sup>3</sup>. Although they may not be called *sıbyân mektebi* yet, reason requires assuming that there were schools that provided primary level education before these dates. In addition, it is known that, through the history of Islam, certain courses had been taught primarily in mosques and then in the houses of teachers, masters and wealthy people. It is not a far-fetching possibility to think the presence of such foundation from the beginning of Ottoman Empire.

We do not have rigorous information about the numbers and specifications of educational institutions regarding to periods in Ottoman Empire; but, there is an increase in the studies about them which has shed some light on this topic. A document<sup>4</sup> that was found in Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives (BOA), provides

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<sup>1</sup> Osman Ergin, *Türkiye Maarif Tarihi*, Eser Matbaası, İstanbul 1977, I, 82-96.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, I, 82.

<sup>3</sup> Ahmed İsamüddin Taşköprülü-zâde, (Mecdi translation): *Hadâ'ıku's-Şakâik (Şakâik-i Nu'mâniye ve Zeyilleri, I)*, publisher: Abdülkadir Özcan, İstanbul 1989, p. 27; İsmail Hakkı Uzunçarşılı: *Osmanlı Devleti'nin İlmiye Teşkilâtı*, Ankara 1988, p. 1; Mustafa Bilge, *İlk Osmanlı Medreseleri*, İstanbul Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi Yayınları, İstanbul 1984, pp. 5-6, 11-12; Cahid Baltacı: *XV-XVI. Yüzyıllarda Osmanlı Medreseleri*, İstanbul 1976, p. 15.

<sup>4</sup> BOA, D.HMH. nr. 108-A/21464.

the numbers and names of the *sıbyân mektebis* in the year of 1123/1711 in “*Bilâd-ı Selâse*”<sup>5</sup> (*Üsküdar, Galata and Eyüp*).

In this document, the number of “*sıbyân*” (students) in *sıbyân mektebis* were given for Galata, but for Üsküdar and Eyüp only the numbers of schools were given, the numbers of students were not provided. There were 161 schools in total in these three locations; 41 in Üsküdar and related districts, 30 in Eyüp and related districts, 90 in Galata and related districts.

The names of districts were not mentioned for Üsküdar and Eyüp but the schools were presented under the titles of “*Schools in Üsküdar and related districts*” and “*Schools in Eyüp and surrounding districts*”. For Galata, the schools were listed under separate titles for five districts as; Galata, Kasımpaşa, Tophane, Fındıklı and Beşiktaş and the numbers of the students in each school was also provided. The reason for this is that the settlement in Galata was more intense since it was inside the city walls and the population in other towns were more scattered since they were far away.

There were 416 students in 14 schools in Galata, 738 students in 30 schools in Kasımpaşa, 547 students in 14 schools in Tophane, 369 students in 11 schools in Fındıklı, and 503 students in 21 schools in Beşiktaş.

The average numbers of students in a school in Galata and related districts were; 30 in Galata, 25 in Kasımpaşa, 39 in Tophane, 34 in Fındıklı and 24 in Beşiktaş. The general average numbers of students in Galata was 29 students.

The number of students in a school in Kasımpaşa (Şeyhülharem Hasan Ağa Mektebi) and Tophane (Topçubaşı Osman Ağa Mektebi) were not stated in the document. In order to obtain the total number of the students in the districts, the average number of students in Kasımpaşa which was 25 and Tophane which was 39 were added by us. These numbers are presented in the tables on the following pages.

In order to grasp the significance of the number of the schools and the ratio

<sup>5</sup> The term Istanbul is used only for the actual city surrounded by the walls. Üsküdar, Galata and Eyüp (Ebû Eyyûb el-Ensari) regions are altogether called “*Bilâd-ı Selâse*” (3 towns) in the administration structure after the conquest of Istanbul until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. For detailed information on *Bilâd-ı Selâse* please see: Necdet Sakaoğlu, “*Bilâd-ı Selâse*”, *Diünden Bugüne İstanbul Ansiklopedisi*, İstanbul 1994, II, 228-229; R. Ekrem Koçu, “*Bilâd-ı Selâse, Bilad-ı Selâse Kadırları, Bilad-ı Selâse Kadılıkları*”, *İstanbul Ansiklopedisi*, V, 2764-2765; Mehmet İpşirli, “*Bilad-ı Selâse*”, *DİA*, VI, 151-152.

of schooling regarding to population, it is required to know the population of that era. Therefore it was considered to be useful to review the information about the population of Istanbul.

### About The Population Of Istanbul

The administration of the Ottoman Empire placed great emphasize on inventory and register<sup>6</sup>. But since these inventory works mostly aimed on the tax assessment, the census was based on the land use, not the population<sup>7</sup>. Therefore, when it is required to determine the population of a location in Ottoman Empire, it is possible to estimate it using the data about land census. The reliable information about the population of Ottoman Empire in general and Istanbul in specific could be found after the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

There was no information about the population of Istanbul in travel books of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>8</sup>. The travel book written by Evliya Çelebi<sup>9</sup> who had travelled many locations of Ottoman Empire setting off from Istanbul, presented vast of information on Istanbul, but did not provide population for Istanbul and Bilâd-ı Selâse. Evliya Çelebi had written a title for the population of Istanbul but he had left it blank with no information<sup>10</sup>.

About the sîbyân mektebis in Istanbul, Evliya Çelebi had a title in his travel book as “*Here states the numbers of daruttalim and ebcedhân sîbyân mektebi in Istanbul*” and stated that “*All Sultan and Vezir Mosques had a sîbyân mektebi*” and

<sup>6</sup> Enver Ziya Karal, *Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nda İlk Nüfus Sayımı-1831*, TÜİK, Ankara 1995, p. 6.

<sup>7</sup> Ömer Lütfi Barkan, “Türkiye’de İmparatorluk Devirlerinde Nüfus ve Arazi Tahriri”, *İktisat Fakültesi Mecmuası*, II/1 (1940-41), 20-39; Karal, pp. 6-7.

<sup>8</sup> There is no number about the population of Istanbul in the travel book of Jean de Thevenot titled “*Voyages de Mr. De Thevenot en Europe, Asie, et Afrique*”, which was translated to Turkish by Reşat Ekrem with the title of “*1655-1656’da İstanbul ve Türkiye*” (Çığır Kitabevi, İstanbul 1939); in the book of Cosimo Comidas de Carbognano who was born in Istanbul and also known as Kosmos Kömürçüyan, “*İstanbul’un Tarihi Topografyası*” which was presented to the King of the Two Sicilies Ferdinando IV in 1794 and translated to Turkish by Erendiz Özbayoğlu with the title of “*18. Yüzyılın Sonunda İstanbul*” (Eren Yayınevi, İstanbul 1993); in the work of P. G. İnciciyan titled “*XVIII. Asırda İstanbul*” (İstanbul Fethi Derneği İstanbul Enstitüsü Yayınları, İstanbul 1956) and in the article of Necdet Sakaoğlu titled “*Bilâd-ı Selâse*” (*Dünden Bugüne İstanbul Ansiklopedisi*, II, İstanbul 1994, 228-229).

<sup>9</sup> Evliya Çelebi, *Günümüz Türkçesiyle Evliya Çelebi Seyehatnamesi*, 1st Book and 2nd Book, Editors Seyit Ali Kahraman - Yücel Dağlı, Yapı Kredi Yayınları, İstanbul 2011<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> Evliya Çelebi, p. 668.

then he presented only the names of six schools. None of these schools contained a Sultan name. For one of these schools that he provides information; he states that “*The number of students in Ağakapısı School near Süleymaniye was not less than 300-400*”<sup>11</sup>. After providing information about these six schools, he left 10 lines blank. Evliya Çelebi left many blank lines like that in his travel book in order to provide more information later on. It was understood that he was intended to give more information about the schools but then he could not have the chance. In another chapter where he provided the numbers about İstanbul, Evliya Çelebi stated that there were 1993 Sıbyân Mektebi in İstanbul<sup>12</sup>, also he reserved a new title for the districts in Tophane but did not provide any information<sup>13</sup>.

In the encyclopedias, which were mentioned in the footnote above, there were no numbers for the population in “Bilad-ı Selase”. For the population of İstanbul before the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some researchers provide information and numbers that were not based on solid information: Ömer Lütfi Barkan estimated the population of İstanbul in 1520-1535 as 400.000<sup>14</sup> but his estimation was criticized since “*it was based on personal prediction not the census registrations*”<sup>15</sup>.

Kemal Karpaz stated without based on any source that the general population of İstanbul in 1776 was 870.000 and 243.000 of the whole were Non-Muslims<sup>16</sup>. In the population estimations in Ottoman Empire<sup>17</sup> prepared by Cem Behar, the numbers for the population of İstanbul before the 19<sup>th</sup> century were as follows: In 1477: 97.956, in 1520-1530: 400.000, in 1571-1580: 700.000<sup>18</sup>. Since there are no precise population numbers for the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it could be possible to utilize the numbers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to estimate the numbers for the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>11</sup> Evliya Çelebi, p. 273.

<sup>12</sup> Evliya Çelebi, p. 467.

<sup>13</sup> Evliya Çelebi, p. 401.

<sup>14</sup> Ömer Lütfi Barkan, “Tarihi Demografi Araştırmaları ve Demografi Tarihi”, *Türkiyat Mecmuası*, X, pp. 1-26. The same paper was published also by İstanbul Üniversitesi in Ömer Lütfi Barkan, *Osmanlı Devleti'nin Sosyal ve Ekonomik Tarihi*, II, editor Hüseyin Özdeğer, İstanbul 2010, pp. 1402-1427.

<sup>15</sup> *Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nun ve Türkiye'nin Nüfusu 1500-1927*, editor Cem Behar, Devlet İstatistik Enstitüsü, Ankara 1996, p. 4.

<sup>16</sup> Kemal Karpaz, *Osmanlı Nüfusu (1830-1914): Demografik ve Sosyal Özellikleri*, Translation Bahar Tırnakçı, Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları, İstanbul 2003, p. 124 (This work of Kemal Karpaz was published by Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları in 2003 and by Timaş Yayınları in 2010. Two edition of this book was used for this study and the edition dates are stated in brackets).

<sup>17</sup> It is stated in the preface by the editor that most of the numbers in this book are not precise but estimations. See. Behar, p. XX.

<sup>18</sup> Behar, p. 5.

The available information regarding to the 19th century is as follows:

The population of Istanbul in the 19<sup>th</sup> century had a major transformation in terms of number, ethnic, social and religious structure. Based on the information provided by Karpat, there were 455 districts in Istanbul in the beginning of the century; 318 of them were in the city and 137 of them were outside the city walls. Kasımpaşa, Hasköy, Pera, Tophane, Fındıklı, Üsküdar, Eyüp and their peripherals were outside the city walls<sup>19</sup>. Although the names of the all districts in 1711 were not mentioned in the document we have published, it was considered that there were not so many districts in Üsküdar, Galata and Eyüp. In this document, the names of five districts related to Galata were mentioned. In fact, in the census in 1830, eight districts were registered related to Tophane County only. In addition, it was not certain that the districts that related to Tophane were limited to eight. Therefore, the major transformation of the population of Istanbul in the 19<sup>th</sup> century can be concluded by the comparison of these data.

It is known that various attempts were made for partial or general census in the Ottoman Empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>20</sup>. Karpat stated that at least six census were conducted in Hijri 1246, 1254, 1260, 1273, 1298 and 1301 (A.D. 1830-31, 1838, 1844, 1856, 1882 and 1885)<sup>21</sup>.

The first known census in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was conducted by Mahmud II, after the abolishment of Yeniçeri Ocağı (Guild of Janissaries) in 1826 – this event also known as Vak‘a-i Hayriyye (The Auspicious Incident) – before the war with Russia in 1828<sup>22</sup>. The chronicler of that era, Ahmed Lütfi Efendi mentioned censuses in three different locations at that time. Firstly, when there was a grain famine in 1244/1828-29 during Russian war, the people in İstanbul and Bilad-ı Selâse were counted to deliver bread and the population was 359.089<sup>23</sup>. Here, it was said that a census was conducted in 1288/1872 and the population was four times larger. Therefore the population of Istanbul in 1872 was around 1.400.000. There was no data on how many of these people were living in Bilâd-ı Selâse.

In another reference<sup>24</sup> Lütfi Efendi mentioned that a census was conducted

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<sup>19</sup> Karpat, p. 132.

<sup>20</sup> Karal, p. 7.

<sup>21</sup> Kemal Karpat, *Osmanlı Nüfusu (1830-1914): Demografik ve Sosyal Özellikleri*, Timaş, İstanbul 2010, p. 213.

<sup>22</sup> Ahmed Lütfi, *Tarih-i Lütfi*, III, Matbaa-i Amire, İstanbul 1292, 142; Karal, p. 8.

<sup>23</sup> Ahmed Lütfi, II, İstanbul 1291, 62-63.

<sup>24</sup> Ahmed Lütfi, III, 142.

in Istanbul after The Auspicious Incident but it could not happen to be conducted country wide due to Ottoman-Russian War in 1828-29. This must be the census in Istanbul and around that was mentioned above. Also in another reference<sup>25</sup> it was mentioned that another census was conducted in 1253/1837-38.

The census conducted in 1829-30 in Istanbul and peripherals, was considered to be “the first modern census” since it was conducted only to determine the population<sup>26</sup>.

It is a common opinion that the first known *general census* was conducted by Sultan Mahmud II in H. 1246 (A.D. 1830-31).<sup>27</sup> Only men were counted in the census in 1830-31<sup>28</sup>. There were numerous people who were not counted in this census due to various reasons. A wild guess is that fifty percent of the population was not counted<sup>29</sup>.

The preparations for this census was begun in June in 1830, and completed in the second half of 1830 and the first half of 1831. Anatolia and Rumelia regions were targeted in the census while Egypt and Arabia were excluded<sup>30</sup>. Although it was the first general census and as understood by the data above that it was not the first census in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As a matter of fact, in the orders given by Sultan Mahmud II for the census in 1830-31, it was requested the use old methods for the census<sup>31</sup>. This fact indicated that a census was conducted before and there was a methodology for that.

It was estimated that the population of Istanbul around 1820 was 600.000<sup>32</sup>. As it is clear now this estimation was very far off from the estimation of Lütü Efendi.

Karpat stated that in the census in 1826, only the male population in Üsküdar and Galata and probably only the head of the families were counted and the Catholic population were not counted, but he did not state any resource

<sup>25</sup> Ahmed Lütü, V, İstanbul 1302, 109.

<sup>26</sup> Sedat Bingöl, “İstanbul’da 1829 Nüfus Sayımı ve Bazı Mahallelerin Müslüman Nüfusu Üzerine Bir İnceleme”, *Ankara Üniv., DTCF Tarih Araştırmaları Dergisi*, XXIII/36 (Temmuz 2004), 43-60, p. 45.

<sup>27</sup> Behar, s. XIX; Karpat (2003), p. 63; Bingöl, p. 44.

<sup>28</sup> Karpat (2003), p. 8; Karpat (2010), s. 67; Behar, p. XIX.

<sup>29</sup> Karpat (2010), p. 70.

<sup>30</sup> Bingöl, p. 44.

<sup>31</sup> Karpat (2010), p. 64-65.

<sup>32</sup> Behar, p. 22.

for that or any reason for the exclusion of Catholic population. The statement of Karpat for this census was as; “*The administration of Ottoman Empire conducted a survey in the main city which was Üsküdar and Galata about the males living there. (Catholics were not counted in this census). According to the results of this census which of course had inadequacies and only comprised the head of the families ...*”<sup>33</sup>. The phrase “main city” which was used for Üsküdar and Galata was a misuse and did not belong to the author and probably that was a translation error.

Michoff, who conducted research on the population of Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria, also stated that a census was conducted in 1829<sup>34</sup>.

In addition, Mahir Aydın mentioned another census after the war. In this census, only Muslims in the Rumelian region were counted for military purpose but the census could not be completed<sup>35</sup>.

Sedat Bingöl, who studied this topic in the lights of registers of Tophane Town of Galata court records and many other documents, stated that an attempt for a census was made in 1828 but it could not be completed however it was completed in 1829 only for Istanbul and Bilâd-ı Selâse and also in 1830, a census for the whole country was conducted. According to Bingöl, Anatolia and Rumelia were counted in that census but Egypt and Arabia were not counted<sup>36</sup> and the census was completed in 1831.

The census of İstanbul and Bilad-ı Selâse was thought to be started in August 1829 beginning from the Muslim population in Galata and Kasımpaşa and then Üsküdar and Boğaziçi. After the completion of counting Muslim population there, the census to count for Non-Muslims was started<sup>37</sup>. We do not possess the total results of these censuses too. We hope that detailed information can be obtained through increasing classification studies and more research on the Ottoman archives.

The Muslim male population in eight districts in Tophane Town of Galata

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<sup>33</sup> Karpat (2010), s. 128.

<sup>34</sup> Karal, ibid, p. 57 (Dr. Nicolas V. Michoff, *La Population De la Turquie et de la Bulgarie*, Sofya 1915, p. 17 and 70 by transfer).

<sup>35</sup> Mahir Aydın, “Sultan II. Mahmut Döneminde Yapılan Nüfus Tahrirleri”, *Sultan II. Mahmut ve Reformları Semineri Bildirileri (28-30 Haziran 1989)*, pp. 81-109.

<sup>36</sup> Bingöl, p. 44.

<sup>37</sup> Bingöl, p. 50.



in Istanbul in mid-1829 was 1313, and 1506 in mid-1830<sup>38</sup>.

In another study, it was stated that the population of Istanbul was around 100.000 towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century<sup>39</sup>, it reached 400.000 in the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century making Istanbul one of the biggest cities in the world. It was 500.000 in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, 800.000 in the beginning of 18<sup>th</sup> century and reached 875.000 in the end of the 19 century<sup>40</sup> but references for that information was not provided.

A clear but missing piece of information about this topic can be found in three documents published by Yahya Akyüz<sup>41</sup> which belong to the era of Mahmud II, 100 years after the 1711 dated document that we have published. According to the documents<sup>42</sup> in the Ottoman Archives dated 1223/1809, the students of sîbyân mektebi in Istanbul were carried to Babiali (The Office of The Grand Vizier) in certain times, so they were offered meals (rice and a dessert called zerde) and some allowance for each student.

In the first document it was stated that, by the order of Padishah, the students were offered rice and a dessert called zerde and each student was paid One Rubu (1/4 of 1 Kurus which is 10 Para) and 3.000 Kurus was given for that. In the second document, it was stated that, 2.000 Kurus was paid for 70 schools in the second day. Since 1/4 Kurus was paid for each student, it was understood that 8.000 students had meal and allowance on the second day. Therefore, since there were 8.000 students in 70 schools, the average numbers of students make 114 students. Considering the fact that 3.000 Kurus was delivered on the first day, it was understood again 12.000 students had meal and allowance. When this number was divided by 114, which was the average number, it can be accepted there were approximately 105 schools. As a result, 20.000 sîbyân mektebi students from 175 schools by average 114 numbers of students were provided meal and allowance.

In this document, it was not obviously stated that all the students in Istanbul benefitted that practice. However, when the data in this document is

<sup>38</sup> Bingöl, p. 57, 59, (Table 2).

<sup>39</sup> Sedat Murat, *Dünden Bugüne İstanbul'un Nüfus ve Demografik Yapısı*, İstanbul Ticaret Odası, İstanbul 2006, p. 5.

<sup>40</sup> Murat, p. 25.

<sup>41</sup> Yahya Akyüz, "İstanbul Sıbyan Mekteplerinin 1809'daki Durumuna İlişkin Bir Belge", *Eğitim Bilimleri Fakültesi Dergisi*, XVI/2 (1983), 1-10.

<sup>42</sup> BOA, Cevdet -Maarif, order no: 3987; the date of the document Selh-i Zilhicce 1223 / 15 February 1809 and 2 Muharrem 1234 / 17 February 1809.

assessed considering that all students benefitted, then it occurs that there were 20.000 sıbyân mektebi students in total from 175 schools by average 114 number of students.

It appear that this number does not reflect all of the schools in Istanbul. Because, according to the document dated Hijri 1123/1711, that we have published in this paper, there were 90 sıbyân mektebi only in Üsküdar, Galata and Eyüp. Until the end of the twentieth century, the population of the center of Istanbul always was larger than the total of these three towns. Thus, the number of sıbyân mektebis in Istanbul in 1123/1711 could be between 100 and 200. Therefore, the total number of Sıbyân Mektebi in Istanbul and Bilad-ı Selâse in 1123/1711 could be estimated to be 200 to 300. In 1809, the population of Istanbul must be larger than the population in 1711. As far as is known, the population of Istanbul was constantly on the rise, therefore it can be said the number of schools in 1809 was also increased. Based on this, we can state that the number of the students given in the document dated 1809 did not reflect all the students in Istanbul. Besides, there was no explicit information in the documents that it is the number of all students in Istanbul.

In addition, it is a known fact that not all the documents in the Ottoman Archives could reach today in a proper way; and some of them were disappeared and some of the documents that were required to be attached together were somehow separated. Also, the document we have published which possess the date of 1123/1711 and the code number of BOAD.HMH. 108-A G.S. No: 21464, contained the schools only in Üsküdar, Galata and Eyüp; it is not the list of the schools in whole Istanbul. However, we hope that the documents that contained the schools at that date will be found by the progress of classification studies in the archive.

According to Yahya Akyüz who had assessed the document dated 1223/1809 before, the population of Istanbul must be around 350.000 in 1809; because the historian Ahmed Lütfi stated the population of Istanbul as 359.089 in 1828-1829<sup>43</sup>. Based on this, the sıbyân mektebi students which were estimated as 20.000, constituted 5,7% of the overall population. According to Akyüz, when the Christian population is subtracted from the Muslim population, it is estimated that more than 6% of the Muslim population attended to sıbyân mektebi<sup>44</sup>.

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<sup>43</sup> Ahmed Lütfi, II, 62-63.

<sup>44</sup> Akyüz, p. 5.

As it has been all through the History of Islam, in the Ottoman Empire, schools were not the only place for the primary education but also mosques and houses were used for this purpose. Therefore, the ratio of obtaining education and training must be higher than the schools.

### **The Sibyân Mekteps In Üsküdar, Galata And Eyüp**

In the document dated 1123/1711 that we have published in this paper, the number of students in each school in Galata was stated but the number of students in each school in Üsküdar and Eyüp was not stated. The average number of students in central Galata was 30, in Kasımpaşa 25, in Tophane 39, in Fındıklı 34, in Beşiktaş 24 and in Galata and related districts the average number of students was 29. It is possible to estimate the total number of sibyân mektebi students in three towns as 4627 students by multiplying the number of schools in Üsküdar and Eyüp by the average number in Galata which was 29.

The summary of the information in the document is listed in the table below:

**Table 1**  
**The Schools And Students in 3 Towns in The Document Dated 1711**

Districts		The number Of schools	The number of Sibyan (students)	The average number of students	Estimated Number Of students
Üsküdar		41	not specified		(41x29=) <b>1.189</b>
Eyüp		30	not specified		(30x29=) <b>870</b>
<b>Galata</b>		14	416	30	
	Kasımpaşa	30	738	25	
	Tophane	14	547	39	
	Fındıklı	11	369	34	
	Beşiktaş	21	503	24	
<b>Total of Galata</b>	<b>90</b>		2.568	29	2.059
<b>Grand Total</b>		161	(2568+2059=) <b>4.627</b>		

According to the document, there were 161 schools in total as; 41 in Üsküdar, 30 in Eyüp, 90 in Galata. The distribution 90 schools to the districts was as; 14 in central Galata, 30 in Kasımpaşa, 14 in Tophane, 11 in Fındıklı and 21 in Beşiktaş.

### The Schools in Üsküdar

When the list of the schools in Üsküdar was provided, the term of “*muallimhane*” was used in the title. Right underneath this title, the term “*Muallimhane-i Piri Bey = Muallimhane of Piri Bey*” was used for primary school and the term “*mekteb*” was used for the following schools. Here it is understood that the term “*muallimhane*” was also used for “*mekteb*”. The Bulgurlu District had a mektep and also The Bulgurlu Village had a mektep. At that time there were

a district and a village by the name of Bulgurlu.

The first school in Üsküdar was called “*Valide Sultan Mektebi*”. The term “*Valide Sultan*” was used for the mother of the Padishah. This phrase implies the “*valide sultan*” of that time. Here, it is Gülnuş Emetullah Valide Sultan who was the Başhaseki of Mehmet IV and the mother of Sultan Mustafa II and Sultan Ahmet III. She became Valide Sultan after accession to the throne of his son Mustafa II in 6<sup>th</sup> of February 1695. Her Valide Sultan period lasted for twenty years when she passed away in 1715 in Edirne where she had gone with his son. Gülnuş Emetullah Valide Sultan Mosque and Social Complex which was also known as Yeni Cami (The New Mosque), is located in Üsküdar in the intersection of Hâkimiyet-i Milliye Street and Üsküdar Square. Kayserili Mehmet Ağa who was the chief architect of the Tulip Era, was the architect of this complex as well.

Mihrimah Sultan, who had a sıbyân mektebi in Üsküdar, was the daughter of Kanuni Sultan Süleyman and she married to Rüstem Paşa who was a grand vizier and a Croatian origin statesman. Right after Mehmed, she was born in 1522 as the daughter of the Ottoman Padishah Süleyman I and his spouse Hürrem Sultan and passed away in 25<sup>th</sup> January of 1578. She was buried to his father’s mausoleum. She had a mosque built in Üsküdar and a mosque in Edirnekapı.

Çavuşbaşı Ahmed Ağa had built two schools. Six of the schools in Üsküdar were built by women. Three of them were mother or spouse of Padishahs, one of them was a daughter of Padishah and two of them were common women.

As it is known, the budget for education was not provided by the state in the Ottoman Empire. Since the schools were funded by foundations, they were mostly named after their founders. By studying the title of those names, it is possible to obtain an insight about the social status of the persons who have found these foundations for the purpose of education and other types of services. Although all of the titles did not exactly introduce the person, at least 19 of 41 schools in Üsküdar were built by persons who were not officials or higher ranks of population; they were built by persons with titles like; hoca, efendi, debbağ, şeyh, çelevi, hacı, hatun,.

In addition, four of these persons have not owned any titles. It is strongly possible that they were also from the same group. Similarly, five schools that bore the names of villages and districts can be accepted in this group. As a result, 28 of 41 schools which were two thirds of them were built by middle class citizens who

represented people who did not get a direct salary from the State. In other words, it means that they got those schools built by using their own income.

This fact also showed that the people made a huge contribution to education in Ottoman Empire. A list of titles in the name of schools was provided below:

**Table 2**  
**The Titles In The Name Of Schools In Üsküdar**

<b>Title / Profession</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Title / Profession</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Ağa	6	Şeyh	2
Hoca	4	Çelebi	2
Valide ve Hanım Sultan	4	Hacı	2
Karye (village)	4	Hatun	2
Efendi	3	İşçibaşı	1
Paşa	3	Mahalle	1
Debbağlar	3	Unidentified	4
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>

### **The Schools In Eyüp**

When the titles of people who had built schools in Eyüp were examined, it is seen that 19 of them were middle class people, (Hoca, Müezzin, Hatun, Dede, Hacı, Emir Buhari, Çelebi, Baba Haydar, Topçular, Nazperver, Merkez Efendi) or these schools were affiliated with a district or a Mosque (Mahalle, Karye, Mescid) This is two thirds of 30 schools.

**Table 3**  
**The Titles In The Name Of Schools In Eyüp**

<b>T i t l e / Profession</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>T i t l e / Profession</b>	<b>Title/ Profession</b>	<b>Title/ Profession</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Hoca	3	Hekîm	1	Müezzin	1
Sultan	2	Efendi	1	Hatun	1
Paşa	2	Çavuş	1	Dede	1
Ağa	2	Bey	1	Battalzâde	1
Hacı	2	Kızıl Mescid	1	E m i r Buhari	1
Çelebi	2	Baba Haydar	1	Topçular	1
M a h a l l e (village)	2	Nâzperver	1	M e r k e z Efendi	1

### **The Schools In Galata And Related Districts**

45 of schools in Galata and related districts were built by middle class people (Hoca, Katip, Hacı, Efendi, Molla, Nalçacı, Reis) or these schools are connected to a district or a Mosque. When seven people whose titles or professions (e.g. Sakkabaşı and Kalçancı) could not be identified were added to this group, it is determined that 54 of 90 persons were from the middle class of society.

**Table 4**  
**The Titles In The Name Of Schools In Galata And Related Districts**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Galata</b>	<b>Beşiktaş</b>	<b>Fındıklı</b>	<b>Tophâne</b>	<b>Kasımpaşa</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bey	1					1
Hoca	3	8		3	3	17
Unidentified	2	3			2	7
Efendi	2	4	4	5	5	20
Ağa	3	2	4	1	2	12
Mahalle	1					1
Cami	1					1
Hacı	1	2			1	4
Kethüda		2			1	3
Kapudan		1				1
Sultan Bayezid		1	1			2
Paşa		5			3	8
Hanım, Hatun		2	1			3
Nalçacı			1			1
Sekban			1			1
Çarşı			1			1
Defterdar			1			1
Kapıcıbaşı				1		1
Kaliçeci				1		1
Valide sultan					1	1
Hazinedarbaşı					1	1
Reis					2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>90</b>



### **Conclusion**

In this article, the information in a document in Ottoman Archive, dated Hijri 1123 /A.D. 1711, about the primary schools in Bilad-ı Selâse (Üsküdar, Galata and Eyüp towns) have been evaluated in light of the information from other sources and population forecasting has been made. The population of Istanbul and Bilâd-ı Selâse on this date is not known exactly.

On this date, the average number of the students at primary schools in Galata was 29. In another Ottoman Archive document, 100 years after this date, in H. 1223 / A.D. 1809, it is seen that the average of primary schools in Istanbul was about 114. This huge difference should have been stemmed from two reasons: Firstly, the average of schools in Galata should be below the one in Istanbul, but the difference should not be this much. Secondly, in 100 years the population of Istanbul had increased but the number of the schools had not increased at the same proportion due to wars and financial difficulties, and this in turn had caused the average number of students in the schools increase.

In H. 1223 / A.D. 1809, the schooling rate was observed around 6%. If we assume that this rate was 5% in Hijri 1123 /A.D. 1711, this forecasting can be made about the population of Bilâd-ı Selâse: Üsküdar 23780, Eyüp 17400, Galata center 8320, Kasımpaşa 14760, Tophane 10940, Fındıklı 7380, Beşiktaş 10060, total population of Galata 51460, total population of Bilâd-ı Selâse 90540 (Üsküdar, Galata and Eyüp districts). The population figures are estimated and may be accepted as approximate figures until more precise information is found.

When the titles in the names of the schools are studied, more than half of the persons who had those schools built were from among middle class citizens in terms of status and income. This fact indicates that the contribution to education by people in Ottoman Empire was high.

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**The Transcribed Version of the Document  
Numbered BOA, D.HMH. 108-A G.S. No: 21464**

*Medine-i Üsküdar'da ve Tevâbiinde Vâki' Olan el-Yevm Ta'lim-i Sıbyân Olunan Mekteplerdir ki Zikr Olunur. 12 cemaziyel evvel 1123 (The schools that provide education for children in Üsküdar and related districts at the present time. 28 june 1711)*

Devletlü İsmetlü Mekteb-i Valide Sultân Hazretleri, aded:1  
Merhûm ve mağfûrun lehâ Valide Sultân-ı atık Mektebi, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Merhûm Valide Sultân-cedid, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Merhûme Mihrimâh Sultân, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Merhûm eş-Şeyh Mahmud Efendi, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Merhûm eş-Şeyh Silâhî Efendi, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Merhûm Kapu Ağa Yakub Ağa, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Çavuş Başı Ahmed Ağa (yazılmamış) (unwritten)  
Def'a Mekteb-i Çavuş Başı Ahmed Ağa, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Süleyman Paşa, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Arakıyyeci el-Hâc Cafer, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Merhûm Ramazan Ahmed Efendi, aded:1  
Mekteb-i İşçi Başı, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Mirahur Hüseyin Ağa, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Emir Hoca, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Ebubekir Efendi, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Hâce Hatun, aded:1  
Taş Mekteb, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Kefce, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Hamza Çelebi, aded:1  
Mekteb-i el-Hâc Bedel, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Mehmed Paşa, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Mumcu Başı, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Kâtib Hüseyin Çelebi, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Süleyman Ağa, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Debbağlar, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Devâtî Hoca, aded:1  
Mekteb-i İsfendiyar, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Toygar Hamza, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Gülfam, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Abdulhalim Efendi, aded:1

Mekteb-i Kerde (?), aded:1  
Mekteb-i Mahalle-i Bulgurlu, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Bağdâdî Hoca, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Boynik (Bonik ?) Ahmed Ağa, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Mücellid Hoca, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Sinan Paşa, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Karye-i İstavis(?), aded:1  
Mekteb-i Karye-i Kadı, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Karye-i Cengâr, aded:1  
Mekteb-i Karye-i Bulgurlu, aded:1  
Yekûn-i Mekteb, aded: 41 (The sum of Mektebs/ Schools is 41 pieces)

***Medîne-i Hazreti Ebî Eyyûb Ensarî'de Ve Tevâbiinde Vâki' Ta'lîm-i Sıbyân Olunan Mekteplerdir. (The Schools That Provide Education For Children In Ebî Eyyûb Ensarî And Related Districts)***

*13 Cemaziyelevvel 1123 (June 29th 1711)*

Hocazâde Seyyid Hoca Mektebi  
Ebu Suûd Efendi Mektebi  
Hakîm Kutbeddin Mektebi  
Memi Efendi Mektebi  
Şah Sultân Mektebi  
Muharrem Hoca Mektebi  
Çavuş Kasım Mektebi  
İslam Bey Mektebi  
Abdullah Hoca Mektebi  
Kızıl Mescid Mektebi  
Nişancıpaşa'da Rami Paşa Mektebi  
Baba Haydar Mektebi  
Nâzperver Mektebi  
Kasım Paşa Mektebi  
Davud Ağa Mektebi  
Mihrimâh Sultân Mektebi  
Müezzîn Süleyman Halife Mektebi  
Dâye Hatun Mektebi  
Nakkaşzâde el-Hâc Mehmed Efendi Mektebi  
Edhem Dede Mektebi  
Fethi Çelebi Mektebi

Hacı Hüsrev Mektebi  
Battalzâde Mektebi  
Emir Buhârî Mektebi  
Topçular Mektebi  
Merkez Efendi Mektebi  
Kasaba-i Hasköy'de Keçeci Mahallesi Mektebi  
Kasaba-i Mezburede Abdusselam Mahallesi İmamı Ahmed Efendi  
Mektebi  
Kasaba-i Mezkurede Sütlüce'de Mahmud Ağa Mektebi  
Kasaba-i Mezkurede Kiremitçi Ahmed Çelebi Mektebi  
Yekun-ı Mekteb adet: 30 (The sum of Mektebs/ Schools is 30  
pieces)

***Mahruse-i Galata Ve Tevabiinde Vaki' Olan Muallimhanedir Ki  
Zikrolunur. (The Muallimhanes/Schools That Provide Education For Children  
In Galata And Related Districts)***

Muallimhane-i Pîrî Bey, sıbyân: 18  
Mekteb-i Hasan Hoca, sıbyân:30  
Şa..nan, sıbyân:29  
Mekteb-i Kâtib Mehmed Efendi, sıbyân:35  
Dârusaâde Ağası, sıbyân:40  
Mekteb-i Abdullah Hoca, sıbyân:28  
Mekteb-i Hoca Mehmed Efendi, sıbyân:60  
Bereketzâde Mahallesinde Mekteb, sıbyân:21  
Mekteb-i İbrahim hâne(?) zade(?), sıbyân:40  
Mekteb-i Tersane Kethûdası Hasan Ağa, sıbyân:30  
Mekteb-i Cami-i Cedîd, sıbyân:55  
Mekteb-i el-Hâc Ağmâ, sıbyân:10  
Mekteb-i Gümrük Emin-i Hasan Ağa, sıbyân:10  
Mekteb-i Mehmed Efendi, sıbyân:10  
Yekûn: 14 (Sum: 14)

***Kasımpaşa'da (In Kasımpaşa)***

Mekteb-i el-hâc Ahmed, sıbyân:20  
Mekteb-i Kethûda-i Tersane, sıbyân:15  
Mekteb-i Sandalcızâde, sıbyân:30  
Mekteb-i Hoca Halil Efendi, sıbyân:30

- Mekteb-i Hoca Mustafa Efendi, sıbyân:15  
Mekteb-i Hoca Ahmed Efendi, sıbyân:34  
Mekteb-i Hoca Mehmed Efendi, sıbyân:21  
Mekteb-i Hoca Seyyid Mehmed Efendi, sıbyân:20  
Mekteb-i Hoca Mehmed Efendi, sıbyân:31  
Mekteb-i Molla Fenari, sıbyân:70  
Mekteb-i Şaban Kapudan, sıbyân:20  
Mekteb-i Başhasan Efendi, sıbyân:21  
Mekteb-i Süruri Efendi, sıbyân:23  
Mekteb-i Sultân Bayezid, sıbyân:45  
Mekteb-i Uzun Piyale Paşa, sıbyân:7  
Mekteb-i Sefer Kethuda, sıbyân:25  
Mekteb-i Ahmed Efendi, sıbyân:36  
Mekteb-i Kulaksız Ahmed, sıbyân:35  
Mekteb-i Hüseyin Ağa, sıbyân:25  
Mekteb-i Ali Paşa, sıbyân:30  
Mekteb-i Belkıs Hanım, sıbyân:5  
Mekteb-i Piyale Paşa, sıbyân:23  
Mekteb-i Hasan Paşa, sıbyân:15  
Mekteb-i Piyale Paşa-i Kebir, sıbyân:25  
Mekteb-i Pazaragidenzâde, sıbyân:15  
Mekteb-i el-hâc Ferhat, sıbyân:10  
Mekteb-i İbrahim Hoca, sıbyân:15  
Mekteb-i Kamer Hatun, sıbyân:25  
Mekteb-i Çakırizade (?) Ahmed Efendi, sıbyân:27  
Mekteb-i Şeyh-ül Haram Hasan Ağa, sıbyân: (unwritten)

**Der Tophâne (In Tophane)**

- Mekteb-i Şeyh-ül Haram el-Hâc Hasan Ağa, sıbyân: 30  
Mekteb-i Ali Efendi, sıbyân: 25  
Mekteb-i Ferhad (?) Ağa, sıbyân: 60  
Mekteb-i Mehmed Efendi, sıbyân: 22  
Mekteb-i Kâtib Mustafa Efendi, sıbyân: 50  
Mekteb-i Defterdar Ebû Fazl, sıbyân: 45  
Mekteb-i Karamân-ı Kebîr, sıbyân: 35  
Mekteb-i Sultân Bâyezîd, sıbyân: 35  
Mekteb-i Mustafa Efendi, sıbyân: 21  
Mekteb-i Sekkân (?) Başı, sıbyân: 120  
Mekteb-i Nalçacı, sıbyân: 15

Mekteb-i Osman Ağa, sıbyân: 30  
Mekteb-i Topcubaşı Osman Ağa, sıbyân: (unwritten)  
Mekteb-i 'Anber Hatun, sıbyân: 20

**Der Fındıklı (In Fındıklı)**

Mekteb-i Kapıcıbaşı, sıbyân: 32  
Mekteb-i Molla Çelebi, sıbyân: 40  
Mekteb-i Mukâbeleci Ahmed Efendi, sıbyân: 61  
Mekteb-i Avni Efendi, sıbyân: 25  
Mekteb-i Hüseyin Ağa, sıbyân: 20  
Mekteb-i Mehmed hoca, sıbyân: 42  
Mekteb-i Mehmed Efendi, sıbyân: 52  
Mekteb-i Hattat Hocaşâde, sıbyân: 15  
Mekteb-i Kalçancı (?), sıbyân: 30  
Mekteb-i Abdi Efendi, sıbyân: 22  
Mekteb-i Hüseyin Efendi, sıbyân: 30

**Beşiktaş'da Olan Mektepler (The Schools In Beşiktaş)**

Mekteb-i Hacı Odabaşı, sıbyân: 28  
Mekteb-i Vişnezâde, sıbyân: 2726  
Mekteb-i Vâlde-i Cedîd, sıbyân: 50  
Mekteb-i Hazînedârbaşı, sıbyân: 45  
Mekteb-i Sinan Paşa, sıbyân: 20  
Mekteb-i Abdurrahman Hoca, sıbyân: 22  
Mekteb-i İshak Hoca, sıbyân: 8  
Mekteb-i Terlikçi Mustafa Efendi, sıbyân: 10  
Mekteb-i Mustafa Hoca, sıbyân: 24  
Mekteb-i Abbas Ağa, sıbyân: 26  
Mekteb-i İbrahim Efendi, sıbyân: 23  
Mekteb-i Kapı Ağası, sıbyân: 25  
Mekteb-i Ali Kethüda, sıbyân: 42  
Mekteb-i Ebubekir Efendi, sıbyân: 9  
Mekteb-i Osman Peyker, sıbyân: 26  
Mekteb-i el-Hâc Osman Reis: 31  
Mekteb-i Kethüdâ-i Mehmed Paşa-i Atık, sıbyân: (unwritten )  
Mekteb-i Sinan Paşa, sıbyân: 8  
Mekteb-i Abdurrahman Efendi, sıbyân: 17  
Mekteb-i Mehmed Efendi, sıbyân: 14  
Mekteb-i Derviş (?) Reis, sıbyân: 25  
YEKÛN: 90 (sum: 90)

**Yalnız doksan mektebdir.** (Total quantity of schools is 90 in Galata)



Appendix

The document in the Ottoman Archives dated H 1123/ A.D. 1711 referring to the names of sibyân mektebis in that date in Bilâd-ı Selâse (three towns: Üsküdar, Galata and Eyüp)  
BOA, D.HMH. 108-A, Genel Sıra No: 21464.

