

MODEL INSTITUTION VEFA HIGH SCHOOL, THE FIRST SCHOOL TO TEACH IN TURKISH MEDIUM

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Abstract

The reason why I chose Vefa High School in Fatih district is that it is the first high school to provide education in Turkish and it contributed to Turkish education to a great extent. While new Republic was being established, this important institution Vefa High School, which has had profound contributions to the establishment of Turkish education system, became a school in the national education system.

Moreover, I think this paper showed the characteristics of Vefa High School with its changes from 1933 to 2006 in the education and training, curriculum, the quality education and valuable graduates and its status, name and place changes, and that it is the first private school educating in mother tongue in our education history.

Vefa High School who see their history and how important stages they passed, and that the young students who will study this school would keep the success level of their school at high degree. I have seen during the study that the graduates from Vefa High School show loyalty lifelong. Vefa High School is an education institution of us with the education, officials and students. I wish this model behavior to be for other schools in our country as well...

Keywords: Education, Teaching, Model School, Vefa High School

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Türkiye’de İlk Türkçe Öğretim Yapan Model Okul Vefa Lisesi

Özet

Fatih ilçesinde bulunan Vefa Lisesi Türkçe ile eğitim ve öğretim yapan ilk lisedir. Bu nedenle Türk eğitim tarihinde önemli yere sahiptir. Yeni cumhuriyet kurulurken; Türk milli eğitim sisteminin kökleşmesinde büyük hizmeti olan bu önemli kurumun eğitim ve öğretim sistemi içinde bir ekol olmuştur. Vefa lisesi. muzunları Türkiye’nin kaderinde rol oynayan Vefalılar içinde başbakan dahil çok sayıda bakan, devlet adamı, akademisyen, sanatçı, gazeteci, yazar ve diğer önemli meslek erbabı kişiler Türkiye’nin ilerleyip kalkınmasında önemli rol oynamışlardır.

Bu çalışmada Vefa Lisesinin 1933 yılından 2009 yılına kadar eğitim ve öğretiminde meydana gelen değişiklikler, ders programları, verdiği kaliteli eğitim ve yetiştirdiği değerli mezunları ile toplum hayatımızda her alanda varlığını hissettirmiştir. Vefa Lisesi’nin eğitim tarihimizdeki “ana dille” öğretim yapan ilk sivil lisedir.

Vefa Lisesi bir marka olmuştur. Bu da diğer okullarımız için bir örnek ve modeldir. Vefa Lisesi eğitimi ve çalışan ve öğrencileriyle birlikte örnek bir eğitim kurumumuzdur. Bu örnek tutum diğer okullara bir model olacak nitelikte görülmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Eğitim, Öğretim, Vefa Lisesi, Model Okul

Introduction

Education is an effect that is carried out by mature generations to those who are not ready to social life. The aim of education is to sustain social life by preparing people to it. Everyone has right to be educated in legal frame. In accordance with Article 26 of “Human Rights Universal Declaration” accepted on 10 December 1948 in Paris, that the declaration of educational right of people is an indispensable basic principle accepted

by governments has been written in the Constitutions of countries. The right of education in Turkey is mentioned in the Article 42 of 1982 Constitution. In addition to the Constitution, education right is also emphasized Article of National Education Basic Law No 1739. Government is responsible for providing the citizens with the right to education.

Successful works in the developments of education, history of thought, economy and technology make the government stronger and the nation happy. The nations that supported their educational and cultural structure with scientific information and synthesizes with national and ethic values sustain their existence from generation to generation healthily. Developing and changing world conditions distracted people towards different searches. Today, education is no longer given by certain institutions and completed in certain period of time. Especially, rapidly changing technology causes deficiency in meeting the knowledge and skill levels of people, which can only be overcome with a continuous and dynamic education system. No matter how advanced education you receive, you will need more after a period of time.

Lifelong continuous education, which is a field for acquiring, developing and applying knowledge and skill, has significant function since the very commencement of the humanity. In addition, experiences that help us lead quality life are carried to the generations by means of education. Hence, throughout history, the development of information and technology and advancement of culture and civilization can only be at the rate in which education is made widespread. It is observed that the nations that focus more on the education are seen to be more developed and powerful comparing to those who are rich in economy only. However, the investments in educational sector show their impacts later but are far more permanent. As a matter of fact, the most significant investments are those made to the education of human beings.

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The First Civil High School to Teach in Turkish

The reason why I chose Vefa High School in Fatih district is that it is the first high school to provide education in Turkish and it contributed to Turkish education to a great extend. While new Republic was being established, this important institution Vefa High School, which has had profound contributions to the establishment of Turkish education system, became a school in the national education system. The graduates of Vefa such as prime minister, many ministers, statesmen, academicians, artists, journalists, writers and other important businessmen played important role in the development of Turkey. Most comprehensive study about Vefa High School is an unpublished postgraduate thesis named “The place and importance of Vefa High School in our education history” by Hayriye Muhammedi in 2006. (Istanbul University Social Sciences Institute History Department Postgraduate Thesis, Istanbul, 2006.)

Belated Hasan Ali Yücel, who became the minister of education for a long time of 9 years in the history of Turkish Republic, graduated from Vefa High School. Once again, our poet of the Turkish National Anthem Mehmet Akif Ersoy graduated from Vefa High School. The graduates of Vefa High School have had deep impact on the improvement of Turkish science, art and history. Some of them are Yahya Kemal Beyatlı, Semsettin Giinaltay, Huseyin Cahit Yalgn, Peyami Safa, Siddik Sami Onar, Kazim Ismail Gurkan, Suheyl Unver, Adnan Adivar, Mithat Cemal Kuntay, Yusuf Ziya Ortac, Ekrem Akurgal, Tank Minkari, Abdulhalik Renda, Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi, Nihat Sami Banarlı, Toktamis Ates, Haluk Yavuzer, Hikmet Uğisik, Erol Manisah, Sabahattin Zaim, Orhan Okay, Ahmet Karadeniz, Cevat Babuna, Kemal Aydmoglu, Riistem Eyiipoglu, Oktay Duran, Turan Oflazoglu, Feridun Fazil Tulbentgi, Turan Yazgan, Ahmet Altan, Fuat Miras, Tmaz Titiz, Aytakin Kotil, Ahmet Tan, Ugur Diindar, Islam Cupi, , Abdiilkadir Yiicelman, Elif Naci, Tefvik Gelenbe, Gazanfer Ozcan, Kemal Sunal, Şener Sen, Mujdat Gezen, Erol Buyiikburc, Ersan Erdura, Sadettin Teksoy, Yusuf Kurcenli, Ruhi Ayangil, Memduh Un...

In order to examine the position and importance of Vefa High School more comprehensively taken place in the education foundations of the Ottoman State in XIX century, firstly it is necessary to examine the development and change in educational periods of the Turks during history.

The Innovations in the Educational Field in Reformation (Tanzimat) Period

The innovations, al called as reform, in the education field was only paid attention to during the reign of Sultan II. Abdulhamid. After 1876, II. Abdülhamid continued spreading and developing the innovation movements in the educational field. He spread the education to all far places and suburbs of Istanbul. At this period, the number of private high schools increased because of tax. 3 While the prevalence of the education increased, the quality of it increased too. Between the years 1868-1909, the number of literates in Ottoman State's population increased ten times. There were also significant developments in arts in this period, the museums opened and the libraries were arranged.

The education reform did not aim at making synthesis of the western and eastern civilizations and reached to a higher civilization until Atatürk's period. The purpose to modernize the education as Atatürk said, is to store in brains neither some information of East nor West origin and nor is it an ornament or domination tool, but only to make the education a tool for success and useful apparatus in life.

The Reformation was proclaimed between the years 1839 to 1869. General Education Regulation was published; this unsystematic manner seen in the education field in the late periods was a result of rapid change and development wave towards westernization brought by the Reformation. The Regulation published in 1869 became a beginning point in Turkish education history and our education had a certain system... one of the most important results of this period was about changes in high school education on 18 August 1873. This high school is the first private high school in our education history.

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The Change Darûlmaarif School (foundation) to High School and Vefa High School

With the announcement of Tanzimat Decree, a mental change in all fields of social life was effectuated and the importance of western type of structure was realized. Among the established schools, the one with the highest status was Darûlmaarif. Darûlmaarif was a school between the schools training parallel to the high schools and higher schools and it was a school which educated students as officials to Babiali and Darülfünun (Science schools). As a middle school this school was called Darûlmaarif School. Darûlmaarif continued its activities until 1873 with a developed program and education and became a high school after the date... Darûlmaarif is the first high school in Istanbul.

Darûlmaarif building was constructed at the field near Sultan II. Mahmud's Tomb at Divanyolu by destroying Esmâ Sultan Palace upon the request of Abdûlmead's mother, Bezmiâlem Valide Sultan.¹¹ It was built by Bezmiâlem Valide Sultan Foundation. The name of Bezmiâlem Valide Mektebi was given to the school and later changed by Meclis-i Vâlâ to Darûlmaarif. Today at this building Cagaloğlu Anatolian High School is giving education. A lithography machine was brought from Europe to publish the books to be prepared by Encümen-i Daniş (Advisers' Committee) serving in the modernization. It was consisted of forty members. The books to be published for Darûlmaarif (high school), Darülfünun (science school) and Darülmualimin (Teachers' school). According to the General Regulations of the Ministry of Education it has been thought that the high schools over four-year schools were converted to three-year middle schools but this was applied to the high school of Darûlmaarif teaching in Turkish language on 18 December 1873. On 18 August 1873 Darûlmaarif, the origin of Vefa High School, was organized as the firsts private high school.

Ottoman State wanted to spread the education and increase the education level and train students for Sultanis and Darülfünun and provided education to the youth of different race, language and religion

in the Ottoman territory. For this purpose, the Ministry of Education, an official message on 6 Kanunuevvel 1289 (19 December 1873) to the Prime Ministry, suggested that the high schools must be opened firstly as a model in Istanbul. It was necessary to open high schools. After having adequate number of teachers, private high schools could be opened in the places in which there were military high schools and for that reason the teachers in Darümuallimin must have been educated. With the permission Sultan gave to his children and orphans to be educated, many schools in Istanbul and in the other Ottoman provinces were opened.

The First Private High School: Darülmaarif High School

With the general regulations of education Turkish education system was realized in the modern manner and the education was commonly divided as the primary, middle and higher education. Furthermore in the regulation the new education institutions as high schools took place. Establishments of the high schools were realized after four years. In 1873 Darülmaarif was changed to high school and the first private high school was opened.

The basic purpose of Darülmaarif İdadisi was to train the students in the private higher schools such as Mekteb-i Mülkiye-i Şahane, Mekteb-i Sultanı and Darülfünun and military higher schools. In order to realize the purpose, Ahmet Cevdet Pasa, the Minister of Education established a committee consisted of officials of the ministry and some military personnel and officers had prepared high school programs and necessary books.⁵ The purpose of the establishments of high school have already been stated. In order to train the doctors, judges, engineers, soldiers needed in the Schools of Political Science the lessons were programmed. In the high schools the foreign languages would be studied but regular education would be done in Turkish. Accordingly, Darülmaarif High School is the First High School and at the same time it is the first high school taught in Turkish language. In some sources this school was called as Vefa High School later. Besides on 18 August 1873 it is declared that Darülmaarif, the base of Vefa High School²⁰ was

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organized as a private high school. On 18 December 1873 Danilmaanf Private High School was established as the middle school teaching in Turkish language in Istanbul. 21 This school continues its education as Vefa High School today. We see the high schools in yearbooks of the state in 1290 (1873-1874).

The Change of Place of Vefa High School and its Activities

From 1900-1901 academic year, the name of Dersaadet High School was mentioned as Vefa High School based on the records of the district and there is a phrase around Şehzadebası near it. In the 1900-1901 school year, the school manager was Abdi Bey. According to official records, the name of the school was Vela Mekeb-i İdadi-i Mulki-i Şahanesi in 1903-1904 academic year. The school, from 1900-1901 school year to 1913-1914 school year, in which it became Vela Sultanisi for thirteen years, was called Private Vela High School and Vefa Mekteb-i İdadi-i Mülki-i Şahanesi. In 1936-1909 school year in Istanbul, there were Vefa, Kabataş, Mercan, Numunemi Terakki, Üsküdar, Bakırköy (Markiköy) High Schools. On 14 October 1911, a high school was opened for the girls. The building of Vela Mekteb-i İdadi-i Mülki-i Şahanesi was assigned to the homeless people because of the big fire occurred in Vela quarter in 1910 and Vefa High School was moved to Saffet Pasha Mansion used as Private İstiklal High School till 1914. In 1912 during Balkan War, the school building was transferred to Hilâl-i Ahmer (the Red Crescent) till 1917, was used for the treatment of war victims as Hilâl-i Ahmer Vefa Hospital.

Education: In 1900-1901 academic year both Vefa High School and Dersaadet High School, according to the regulations book published on 13 June 1891, emphasized on the published time table and curriculum as well as selected and assigned text books by the ministry. Besides, the education and training matters such as exams, rewards and punishments and preparation of the diplomas effectuated in accordance with the decisions taken in 1891.

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In 1328-1339 (1910-1911) school year, the jobs and skills of the guardians of the students of Vefa High School	Present
Merchant	28
Literate people	25
Religious class	
Officials	154
Scientists	28
Craftsmen	43
Farmers	5
Other classes	113
Total	339

In 1329-1330 (1911-1912) academic year, the nationalities/religion of the students from all high schools.

Nationality / Religion	Paid	Free	Total	%
Muslim	921	5.809	6.810	97.9
Greek	9	48	57	0.8
Armenian	13	62	75	1,1
Jewish	2	15	17	0.2
Other nations	6	5	11	2
Total	951	6.019	6,970	100.0
%	13.60	86.40	100.00	

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Vefa Boys' High School and Vefa Anatolian High School

One of the novelties of Republican era occurred in the administrative and educational fields are the scientific meetings. Those meetings were held three times in the years 1923, 1924 and 1926. In the first scientific committee in 1923, the name of the general middle education institutions changed from Sultani to high school and high schools were divided into two categories. The high schools were divided into two groups in the Republic period, the first stage was called as middle school and the second became high school. Vefa Sultanisi took the name of Vefa Boys' High School after the first meeting in and the length of education was specified as seven years. During the Turkish National Struggle for Independence, a reform was done in the middle education institutions first. According to this at the beginning of the declaration of the Republic, there were high schools with single term and high schools with two terms. As general principle the secular education base became one of the subjects the education of Republic focused on more. Furthermore, strengthening the national culture is the target that is emphasized on. Hence, Turkish and Turkish history takes an important place in the curriculum. Besides, in Republic period, the establishment of the laboratories was given importance in order to practice the positive sciences rather than being just theoretical. In the Republic period, 189 full laboratory sets were obtained and the school libraries were enriched. At this period, the religious lessons were removed from all schools. After alphabet revolution, Arabic and Persian lessons were removed from the curriculum. In 1923-1924 academic year, 346 students studied in Vera Boys' High School, 5 officials, a deputy and 41 teachers.

Vefa Middle School, Vefa High School and Vefa Night High School:

With the establishment of the republic system, the second of the scientist meeting was held in Ankara in 1924 in order to discuss the educational affairs and cultural problems. At this meeting it was decided to make the middle and high schools three years and thus the middle education became total six years from seven years and the single term high schools

were the middle schools. Education council was organized between the years 1930-1935 in order to examine the instructions of the institutions and their curriculum and investigate the education plans and basis. After scientists meetings were ended in 1926, the council met eight times in various dates. Because of the lack of students in 1925 some high schools and the second term of Vefa Boys' High School were closed and changed to the middle school and became Vefa Middle School. Vefa Middle School was changed to high school in 1933 again, became a full term high school and transferred to Ahmet Muhtar Pasha Mansion in Vera quarter in September 1933. Osman Horasanlı became the director. The school has been providing education since 1933.

In 1933-1934 academic year, it continued education as Vera Boys' High School.³⁴ Thus, the number of formal high schools reached to 11. In the 1933-34 school year, in Istanbul there were 10 private high schools, 1 Jewish, 4 Rum, 4 Armenian High Schools, 12 Foreign High Schools.³⁵ At the end of 1933-1934 school year, in Istanbul there were total 40 high schools; 9 formal, 10 private, 9 minority and 12 foreign. The school became Vefa Boys' High School, changed from middle school to high school, and graduated the first students in the 1935-1936 school year. The school continued as Boys' High School for long years, a short time at the early 1950s, after coeducational period, it again became Boys' High School in the 1953-1954 academic year.

It is seen that in the Istanbul Schools Guide in 1937, the number of the official schools in Istanbul was 11. Those were Istanbul Boys', Istanbul Girls' school, Penevniyal Boys', Cumhuriyet Girls', Vefa Boys', Galatasaray Boys', Kabataş Boys', Erkenkoy Girls', Haydarpaşa Boys', Kandilli Girls' and İnönü Girls' High Schools. ³⁷ It is worth mentioning that five of the schools were girls' school, which thus illustrates how much importance was given to girls' education in Atatürk's period. In the same education year, besides official high schools, there were 7 private, 8 minority and 12 foreign high schools. The total number of high schools was 38. In 1940-1941 school year, the total number of official high school was 44. In 1940 - 1941 school year classical classrooms were

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opened in the first year of three high schools in order to increase their numbers in the future. In those classrooms latin was read besides the foreign languages.

In 1945-1946 academic year, the number of official high schools in Istanbul reached to 15.39 The building in the garden of the school used as Vefa High School Girls' Pension was built by the famous architect of the date Mimar Kemalettin and completed in 1938. This building was assigned to Teachers' of Higher School. The building of Higher School teachers moved to this new building from Darülfünun building.⁴⁰ This school continued its education in this building till 1949. In 1949 upon the abolishment of those schools this building was assigned to Vefa High School, from that date on wards it continued its education in this building of Higher School Teachers and in Mütercim Rüşdü Pasha Mansion.

Within the same structure, the first night high school in Istanbul as Vefa Night High School was opened with 580 students in 1958. Without limiting age this school accepted all the graduates from the middle schools and educated them for four years from 8:15 to 21.15 five days a week continued till 1976 and then was transferred to Pertevniyal High School in 1976, Şehremini High School in 1989, and Davutpaşa High School in 1992. The archives of Vefa Night High School are now in Davutpaşa High School. The ministry of Education, while Hasan Ali Yücel was in term from 1940 to 1947, according to the 28th article of "Discipline Instructions" the books under the name of Honor Roll were published for the students of high school, teachers' school and the middle schools.

The situation of Teachers: The number of permanent, paid and charged teachers worked in Vefa High School from 1933-1934 school year was as follows. It is stated below the teachers of Vefa.¹

School Year	Bo y	Girl	Total
1984-1985	30	25	55
1986-1987	41	25	66
1987-1988	39	25	64
1990-1991	45	26	71
1991-1992	51	24	75
1992-1993	53	25	78
1993-1994	49	23	72
1994-1995	45	25	70
1995-1996	41	24	65
1996-1997	38	26	64
1997-1998	30	30	60
1998-1999	34	29	63
1999-2000	32	27	59
2000-2001	26	26	52
2001-2002	30	24	54
2002-2003	30	20	50
2003-2004	32	20	52
2004-2005	29	19	48
2005-2006	30	23	53
2006-2007	79	62	141
2007-2008	67	81	148
2008-2009	78	101	179

¹ Vefa High School Record

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High School from 1984 to 2009 in the Register of the school.

Years	Woman	Men	Total
2006 – 2007	356	360	716
2007 – 2008	320	302	621
2008 - 2009	332	290	622
2006 – 2007	62	79	141
2007 – 2008	81	67	148
2008 - 2009	101	78	179

Library: There are no old records about the library of Vefa High School. It was learned that valuable handwritten books in the library were transferred to Süleymaniye Library by the administration of Vefa High School and this was confirmed by the management of Süleymaniye Library. It was determined that there were about 1500 books written in the Ottomans in the library and the administration of the school applied to the Ministry of Education with a written application in 2002 for transferring those books to Istanbul University, however they received no positive response yet.

Vefa Anatolian High School

Vefa High School became Anatolian High School providing education in foreign language in 1989- 1990 school year by the Ministry of National Education. Vefa Foundation established in 1989 (later its name became Vefa high School Education Waqf) and especially Cengiz Tuncer, the waqf chairman, an ex-minister of Communication contributed significantly to the change of status. After that date the name of the school was changed to “Vefa Anatolian High School”. Anatolian High Schools are the schools that were established to 'teach foreign language to follow modern, scientific and technologic developments” and to meet the needs of the people in regard to foreign language in 1983 and has been accepting the students with exams. The first student acceptance

to Vefa High School in the Anatolian High School status took place in 1990-1991 school year by taking total 244 students to 4 Preparatory Classrooms. At the same school year, Istanbul National Education Board recorded 37 Anatolian High Schools students moving from out of province to Vefa Anatolian High School ensured 4 Preparatory classrooms and 16 classes to educate. From that date the general high school students have not been accepted to Vefa High School. The middle and high school students of Vefa High School have been graduated in 1995-1996 school year, and then the school completely got Anatolian High School status. In 1990-1992 school year the students began to 6th grade were graduated in 1995- 1996 school year.

17 August 1999 Earthquake and the Adaptation Project to 2000s: On account of the earthquake that occurred on 17 August 1999 in Vefa High School Girls' Pension, there were cracks at upstairs and walls, and on 13 September 1999 the Middle Building (Mütercim Rüşdü Pasha Mansion) because of the cracks at walls, were closed by the Administration of Public Works. With the aids from Istanbul Stocks Exchange (IMKB) on March 2000, the Pension Building and in September 2001 the Middle Building were opened with the reinforcement in line with the projects prepared by ITU. Meanwhile, Vefa High School was decided to be modernized after a meeting of leading graduates and Sakin Öner, the chairman of the school on 4 May 2000 and 2006 with a project named "adaptation to 2000s".

In this project context, in 2000- 2001 and 2001- 2002 school years, Vefa High School was modernized by Istanbul Commercial Exchange, Vefa High School Education Waqf, Vefalılar Association, The School Protection Association, The School Family Association and the graduates of Vefa. In this context, the conference hall, Sports Hall, Kitchen, Pension, Foreign Languages Department, Administrative rooms, canteen, the teachers' cafeteria were renewed; computer laboratories, Science Laboratories, Cinema Hall, Art Atelier, and Music Class were rebuilt. The school had an assessment center with the help of Istanbul

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Municipality in 2004-2005 academic year. Vefa High School, now, has all the facilities of modern educational technologies.

The Change of School's Name to its Historical Name

The graduates from Vefa High School together with Vefa foundations such as Vefa High School Education Foundation, Vefalilar Association, Family Association of School and School Protection Association, and Teachers' Committee requested from the Ministry of National Education in 2001 to change the name of "Vefa Anatolian High School" to its historical name of Vefa High School showing the similar case of that of Galatasaray High School, Istanbul High School, Kabataş High School, Pertevniyal High School and Haydarpaşa High School. Their historical names remained and they formed their traditions, and besides there were successful schools, however could not be attain model school quality.

The name of the school was changed to "Vefa High School" with the decree of the ministry dated on 6 November 2001 and numbered 19343. Vefa High School has been providing education with an Anatolian High School status. Vefa High School has been serving with 4 managers, 43 teachers, 2 permanent, 1 approved and 4 contractual officials, 1 permanent and 1 contractual repairer of central heating unit, 1 driver, 8 permanent and 1 contractual employees, 1 permanent cook, 4 contractual personnel in the kitchen since the 2005- 2006 academic year, and there are 750 regular students at 27 classrooms in the school.

In the 2005- 2006 school year, the ministry of National Education reorganized the middle education. According to this organization, the high schools having foreign language education were closed and some parts of them were changed to Anatolian High School. Meanwhile, preparatory year of Anatolian High Schools were closed and those high school became four-year schools. The education of the general high schools increased to four years from three years. Only Galatasaray High School, Istanbul High School and Kadıköy Anatolian High School stayed as five-year schools (Preparatory year+4 year). So some Anatolian High Schools using the status of those schools that applied to the ministry of

National Education to be the permanent five-year schools. The ministry of National Education Council assessed the demands and decided, with the decree dated on 1 February 2006 and ten numbered that Vefa High School, Kabataş High School and Cagaloglu Anatolian High School would be the five-year (Preparatory year + 4 year) Anatolian High Schools. Hence, Vefa High School will go on educating with this status from the 2006- 2007 school year.

Loyalty from Vefa High School to Graduate: “Hasan Ali Yücel”

The Loyalty of Vefa Graduates in Two Memories

1-The martyred Teacher Ahmet Rıfki Bey from Vefa

In a period in which rumors that enemy landed to Çanakkale were heard for miles, in Istanbul many intelligent, well-educated were seeking to go to Çanakkale rushing and surging in crowds as volunteers; universities were empty, the old teachers could not find any student to educate in the classrooms. Of the high schools, the students of the last classrooms, the teachers in groups used to stand in the line in front of the local draft offices at early mornings; they were getting excited to go to Çanakkale.

At that time, French teacher Ahmet Rıfki Bey who was 30 years old and had mother, only prepared on May of 1915 as usual entered into the school with his bag. His lesson was in the 1st class of high school. All the students in classroom were hanging their heads in shame and neither they looked at nor did they return his greeting.

Ahmet Rıfki Bey said “Please one of you, speak”... Ömer sitting at back desk stood up:

- “Sir, our elder brothers in our school and quarters who are physically sound and strong went to Çanakkale as volunteers. But you are still here! We want to go too but we are not old enough” said he...

- “Dear, as in all period of humanity, at this period at that day you need the education and training much more, could not I teach national and civil good manners?” those words were going out of his mouth hoarsely.

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Avni sitting in the front desk: - “Mr. Teacher, if dear Istanbul is lost, will the education you gave be useful? Could you say?” Ahmet Rifkı Bey was exhausted to speak made necessary preparations and went to Çanakkale... and martyred.

(Source: Ahmet Belada, Tarihe Yön Verenler; www.ilkadimlardergisi.com)

2-The Success Secret of Vefa Graduates!

I finished my high school education in Vefa High School. Vefa High School is one of the oldest and the most fundamental institutions in our education world. Our teachers are well-learned and experienced as to write book in their subjects; like Turan Tanın, Lütfü Öztabag. Our literature teacher was Ali Nusret Bey, son-in-law of Ziya Gökalp. Our very old teacher in dark suit came to lesson on time; we were filled with admiration and love for him. He would give 5 TL to the monitor, the deceased Sabit sitting near him and want him to buy new published books from Sahaflar Çarşısı (Bookstore). Our teacher used to read all new books and shared them with the class. Thus, we learned that reading book was necessary to speak and write rhetorical and fed the mental power. We began to buy books and share them with our friends by turns. We discussed the books after reading and assessed from our point of view.

At that time the most successful teams at the debates among the classrooms and schools were the reading teams.

Our generation continued to read the book in the university years. We needed to read about 40 sources beside the textbook for the sociology and philosophy while getting ready for a certificate exam (Haluk Yavuzer, Gençleri Anlamak, Remzi Kitabevi, 2.Baskı. Istanbul 2005,p.12).

Upon the article of Prof. Dr. Haluk Yavuzer, a lecturer of Hasan Ali Yücel Education Faculty of Istanbul University, he mentioned the secret of Vefa on the success: “Vefa High School was a family, reading, studying and thinking with teachers and students. The biggest secret on

our successes was that all teachers were expert in their professions as much as lecturers of a university. More than 80 % of the graduates in 1960-1961 academic year succeeded at Istanbul Technical University: The others, as they wanted, succeeded at other universities. I think there were a few people who failed. I give a lecture to the students going to the school at the opening week of Vefa high School every year. No one graduated from Vefa forgets loyalty.” May the same good fortune also come to other schools of us...

Some of the Vefa High School graduates are Mehmet Akif Ersoy, Hasan Ali Yücel, Yahya Kemal Bcyatlı, Şemsettin Gûnaltay, Hüseyin Cahit Yalcın. Peyami Safa, Sıddık Sami Onar, Kazım İsmail Gürhan, Süheyl Ünver, Adnan Adıvar, Mithat Cemal Kuntay, Yusuf Ziya Ortaç, Ekrem Akurgal, Abdulhalik Renda, Ekrem Hakkı Ayverdi, Nihat Sami Bunarlı. Toktamış Ateş, Haluk Yavuzer, Erol Manisalı, Sabahattin Zaim, Orhan Okay, Tunca Toskay, Ahmet Karadeniz, Cevat Babıma, Feridun Fazıl Tülbentçi, Turan Yazgan, Ahmet Altan, Tınaz Titiz, Aytekin Kotil,, Ahmet Tan, Uğur Dündar, İslam Cupi, Elif Naci, Tevfik Gelenbe, Gazanfer Özcan, Kemal Sunal, Şener Şen, Müjdat Gezen, Erol Büyükburç, Sadettin Teksoy, Memduh Ün...

CONCLUSION, ASSESSMENT AND SUGGESTION

With the announcement of Tanzimat, social life of us has been changed and transformed. Our education system has also been affected by this process. The modernization affairs beginning in the military education-training field in 18th century commenced to be developed and spread with Tanzimat. The modern education institutions which are seen in the military field have been started to be established in the civil fields. But spreading of the modern education institutions have not been realized in a certain system. In 1869 with the regulations published by the ministry of Education they tried to discipline disarrayed and unsystematic manner in education. With the regulations, the education became three graded as primary, middle and higher education. The primary school consists of children's schools; the middle school consists of high schools

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THE FIRST SCHOOL TO TEACH IN TURKISH MEDIUM

and Sultaniye (royal schools) and darülfünun (higher schools). But while this development was going on, the madrasas in which mostly the religious sciences were studied carried out their educational activities. The primary and high schools began their education before this regulation. Galatasaray Sultanisi which is the first Sultani School till 1911 was founded in 1868. The high schools which were foreseen in the regulation to be established prepared the students to the School of Political Science and Medical School. The independent civilian high school is the changed part of Darülmâarif School which was founded by Bezmialem Valide Sultan in 1830 in four years after regulation in 1873. Darulmearif High School which was founded in order to prepare the students to higher education was abolished later because the high education classrooms belonging to higher education institutions were increased and united with Political High School founded in 1887. This school, after a while, became Dersaadet Political High School in 1884 taking the name of the province where it is located in. At this time the high schools which are in the other cities took the name of the province where they are located in...

Dersaadet Private High School belonged to Grand Vizier Sadrazam Mütercim Rüşdü Pasha in 1894 and later the mansion in Vefa quarter inherited to Ahmet Muhtar Pasha was bought by the Ministry of General Education it obtained a stable building. This foundation period in the dark of Vefa High School was become known with the information got from the records in yearbooks of the Prime Ministry Ottoman State and Education yearbook.

Upon the increase of the high schools in Istanbul when the names of quarters are given to those Dersaadet Private High School became Vefa High School from 1900-1901 academic year. To this, the school has been bearing the name of Vefa for 106 years. In 1914 when some high schools were changed to Sultaniye schools Vefa High School became Vefa Sultanisi. This name change continued after foundation of Turkish Republic too, with the law of Tevhid-i Tedrisat (combination of education) accepted on 3 March 1924 it became Vefa High School. After

one year, it with some high schools was closed and only it became the middle schools and became Vefa Middle School. Between 1925-1933 years this school got the name of Vefa High School in 1933-1934 school year again and won high school status. It is seen that Vefa High School changed its place many times from its foundation to 1933- 1934 school year.

This study is a detailed work about Vefa High School done using postgraduate thesis Hayriye Muhammedi made about Vefa High School in Istanbul University in 2006. I am sure this became a model study for researching the educational institutions in other provinces and districts. Moreover, I think this paper showed the characteristics of Vefa High School with its changes from 1933 to 2006 in the education and training, curriculum, the quality education and valuable graduates and its status, name and place changes, and that it is the first private school educating in mother tongue in our education history.

I hope that this paper showing the place of Vefa High School in our education history and its importance will light the way for the history of the other high schools of us established in Ottoman period beside this school and cause them to head towards these kinds of studies related to their institutions. Furthermore, this thesis will contribute to the field related to the high schools of our history.

Finally, I sincerely believe that this study would be an important turning point on that the graduates from Vefa High School who see their history and how important stages they passed, and that the young students who will study this school would keep the success level of their school at high degree. I have seen during the study that the graduates from Vefa High School show loyalty lifelong. With the spirit they had in the school. It must be an important success of Vefa High School. That is to say Vefa High School became a brand. This is a sample and model for the other schools. Vefa High School is an education institution of us with the education, officials and students. I wish this model behavior to be for other schools in our country as well...

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