

Research Article

Analysis of the longest-running academic journal in the field of pedagogy in Azerbaijan (Azerbaijan Mektebi)

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Article Info

Received: 15 June 2024
Accepted: 24 November 2024
Online: 30 Dec 2024

Keywords

Pedagogy
Journal
Azerbaijan education system

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Abstract

The article discusses the history of "Azerbaijan Mektebi," the longest-running scientific-theoretical pedagogical journal of Azerbaijan's education system. Initially published in 1924 under the name "Yeni Mektep," the journal was later issued as "Müellime Kömek" between 1930 and 1941. Since 1943, it has been published under the name "Azerbaijan Mektebi." Leading figures of Azerbaijani pedagogical sciences, such as Academician M. Mehdizade, Professor E. Seyidov, M. Muradxanov, and later-generation scholars including Academician H. Ahmedov, Professor N. Kazimov, Professor Y. Talibov, Professor V. Ahmedov, Professor Z. Karalov, Professor E. Hashimov, Professor E. Agayev, and Professor F. Rustemov, have published their works in this journal, gained recognition, and matured academically. Between 1954 and 1991, seven methodological journals were published as supplements to "Azerbaijan Mektebi." This development has contributed to the growth of other educational journals in Azerbaijan.

To cite this article

Memmedova, E. (2024). Analysis of the longest-running academic journal in the field of pedagogy in Azerbaijan (Azerbaijan Mektebi). *Journal for the Child Development, Exceptionality and Education*, 5(2), 93-101. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1>

Introduction

In the 20th century, Azerbaijan undertook numerous efforts to support its development across various fields. For the establishment of scientific foundations in education and pedagogy, the publication of academic journals is essential. This study examines the "Azerbaijan Mektebi" journal, which has been published in Azerbaijan for a century, and its impact on educational research. The journal has served as a platform for scientists working in pedagogical, psychological, and methodological fields, as well as for the entire pedagogical community. Since its first issue, it has played a pioneering role in shaping and advancing pedagogical thought, developing new methods of teaching and learning, significantly influencing the training of pedagogical staff and methodologists, and contributing to the development of pedagogical science.

Azerbaijani pedagogical thought naturally took shape on the foundations of Eastern and later European scientific-pedagogical thought, becoming a contemporary scientific concept. The success of modern pedagogical press activities and the efficiency of their contributions to the modernization of the educational system are determined by the position of pedagogical journals in society. In this context, "Azerbaijan Mektebi," which operated to address the challenges of education, theory, and practice in Azerbaijan, has been one of the pioneers of pedagogical press. The main chronological framework of this study encompasses the years 1924-1991. Azerbaijani pedagogical scientists have conducted specific studies on the origins, structure, and functional characteristics of pedagogical press in the education system. However, the contributions of "Azerbaijan Mektebi" to the formation of pedagogical thought have not been a specific subject of

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² It's mean: Azerbaijan school

research. Therefore, the place and importance of the "Azerbaijan Mektebi" journal in the development of pedagogical thought have not been adequately assessed.

The "Azerbaijan Mektebi" journal has always remained a close supporter of the pedagogical community, as it does today. The journal, which began publication during a very challenging period for the country under the name "Yeni Mektep"³ released its first issue in April 1924. During that time, the first editor of the journal was Mustafa Guliyev, the Minister of Public Education of the Azerbaijan SSR. During the years "Yeni Mektep" was active, many significant decisions were made and implemented in the field of education in Azerbaijan. Between 1928 and 1930, new responsibilities were assigned to schools. In the academic years of 1928-1929, all first- and second-degree schools transitioned to the new Latin alphabet. Starting from the 1929-1930 academic year, educational plans and programs for all schools were approved and implemented. All these developments were reflected in some way in the "Yeni Mektep" journal.

"Yeni Mektep" was the monthly publication organ of the scientific-methodological council of the Azerbaijan People's Education Commissariat. The responsibilities of this council included providing scientific-methodological guidance to schools, preparing educational programs and plans, and managing textbooks and methodological publications. In the editorial of "Yeni Mektep," it was stated: "The realization of the idea of a new school, first and foremost, requires the renewal of old teachers and the reform of this profession. 'Yeni Mektep' reflects, like a mirror, the entire life of our educational institutions, high schools, and primary schools. We hope that our journal will become a central tool spiritually uniting all educational institutions, technical schools, and model schools, and will guide the training of teaching staff as well as the real realization of the fundamental issues of educational institutions" ("Yeni Mektep," 1924, №1).

The article clearly states that the "Yeni Mektep" journal envisions "reflecting the entire life of all educational institutions, high schools, and primary schools." Additionally, the journal aims to "examine and analyze pedagogy, psychology, the history of education, teaching methods, methodological didactics, philosophy, social sciences, literature, arts, and similar related sciences within the expertise of teachers, and to disseminate advanced educational methods." However, achieving these goals was by no means easy.

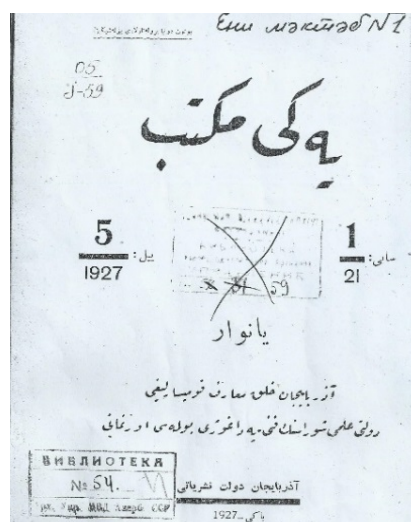


Figure 1. The cover of the "Yeni Mektep" journal

The final issue of the "Yeni Mektep" journal, issues 8-9, belongs to the months of August-September 1930. The journal was active for 6 and a half years. The "Yeni Mektep" magazine became the first publisher of pedagogical thought in Azerbaijan's pedagogical press history, addressing the most pressing issues of the time.

³It's mean: New School

The “Yeni Mektep” journal was a continuation of the scientific-pedagogical field of the “Maarif ve Medeniyet” magazine. For this reason, its first issue stated: “Since there is a special pedagogical press (Yeni Mektep and ‘Путь школы’: The Path of the School) serving teachers in Azerbaijan, and it is no longer feasible to publish pedagogical articles in the ‘Maarif ve Medeniyet’ magazine, it has been decided to abolish the education and teaching section.” This statement indicates the removal of the “education and teaching” section from “Maarif ve Medeniyet.”

As can be seen, while the history of “Azerbaijan Mektebi,” which has an undeniable role in shaping Azerbaijani pedagogical thought, began in 1924, “Yeni Mektep” failed to meet the demands placed before it. The first issue of the “Müellime Kömək” magazine, published in November 1930, was established as a pedagogical journal to assist schools and teachers.

In the 1930s, significant changes began in the history of pedagogical sciences. In the issues of “Müellime Kömək” published up to 1934, old terminology was frequently used, but content changes were introduced starting in 1936.

The journal primarily provided methodological guidance to teachers, and after 1935, it began to focus more on scientific-pedagogical articles. At that time, the journal faced staff shortages but continued its activities. With the start of the war in 1941, the publication of the journal was halted. Although the fourth issue was sent to the printing press, it could not be published.

In June 1943, the journal resumed publication under the name “Azerbaijan Mektebi.” The re-launch of the journal was largely thanks to the efforts of the renowned writer and academic Mirza Ibrahimov, who was serving as the People’s Education Commissar at the time. The journal reorganized its activities, increasing the number of renowned pedagogical, psychological, and scientific experts, as well as new authors.

The journal played a significant role in the training of national cadres. It contributed greatly to the training and maturation of a new generation of pedagogues. The works of young researchers published in the journal were met with great acclaim.

It should be noted that the “Müellime Kömək” journal paid great attention to disseminating advanced educational practices. Indeed, until 1938, the journal had an entirely methodological nature, focusing mainly on issues related to teaching lessons. In the early 1930s, the first signs of the investigation of theoretical-methodological and historical problems of pedagogy, the formation of specific scientific-theoretical ideas, the implementation of compulsory basic education, and, in general, the development of pedagogical thought emerged. Despite some simplicity in certain topics, the journal was boldly referred to as the “pedagogical encyclopedia and pedagogical textbook of its era” (Rustemov, 2016).

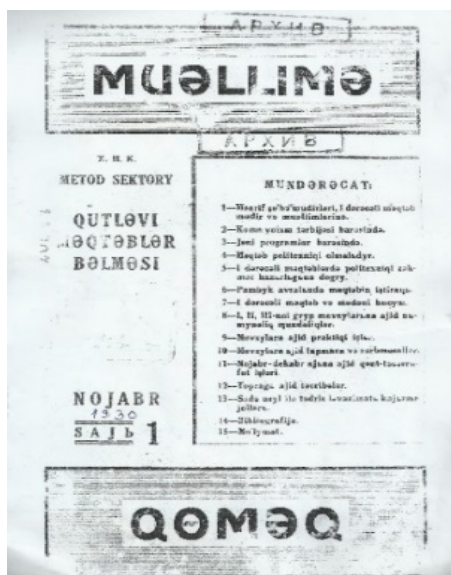


Figure 2. Cover of the “Müellime Kömək” journal

The “Muellime Kömək” journal demonstrated a highly sensitive approach to the responsibilities of the press. Articles on the history of journalism were also not neglected in the topics addressed by the journal. In the “Muellime Kömək”

journal, the prominent intellectuals of the 1930s, such as E.Demirchizade, E.Sultanli, F.Gasimzade, C.Khandan, M.Rehimli, A.Faruk, P.Gasimov, M.Memmedov, A.Abdullayev, C.Cebrayilbeyli, M.Elekberov, Y.Hesenov, and others, were represented as leading experts in the fields of science, literature, and journalism.

Our pedagogical journal, which emerged with the scientific-methodological, noble, and benevolent influence of world culture and pedagogical thought and played an important role in the education and upbringing of future generations, has contributed to the advancement of Azerbaijani education, its enrichment in terms of content and form, and continues to direct the development of pedagogical thought in Azerbaijan to this day. The “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal, which plays an important role in the comprehensive and scientific study of the history of our schools, in raising education and training activities to a high level, and in preserving the achievements of school construction efforts, did not emerge suddenly. In the early 20th century, alongside numerous newspapers and magazines serving various purposes, such as “Sherqi-rus” (1903-1904), “Heyat” (1905-1906), “Molla Nesreddin” (1906-1931), “Tekamul” (1906-1907), and “Irshad” (1906-1907), three pedagogical journals, namely “Debistan” (1906-1908), “Rehber” (1906), and “Mekteb” (1911-1918), were also published.

“Azerbaijan Mektebi” earned the title of the chronicle of Azerbaijani education. Academician M.Mehdizade wrote: “The ‘Azerbaijan Mektebi’ journal has made a significant and meaningful contribution to illuminating the paths of progress in school education in the country.”

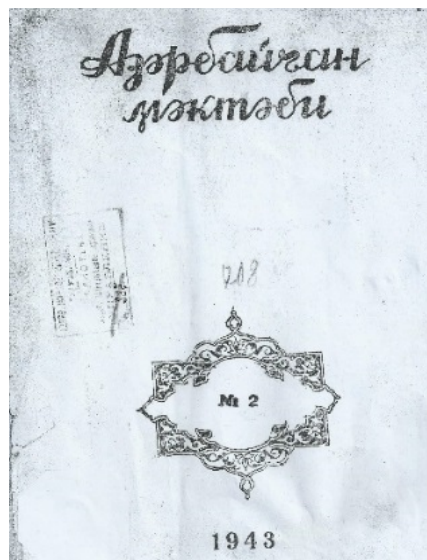


Figure 3. The cover of the “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal

The “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal went through a challenging and complex journey from its establishment to reaching its maturity. Throughout its long publishing history, there were instances of its closure, suspension of publications, or interruptions under the guise of development. The “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal made significant efforts to fulfill the tasks assigned to it.

This journal, regarded as a treasure of pedagogical thought, has made valuable contributions to the development of pedagogical science in Azerbaijan, the promotion of pedagogical ideas and thoughts of renowned educators, writers, and poets from both Azerbaijan and the world, and the exploration of various problems in the history of schools and pedagogical thought, which form an inseparable part of our nation’s rich cultural history.

In “Azerbaijan Mektebi” and Azerbaijani pedagogical press in general, the initial research on classical global pedagogical thinkers held great methodological importance, particularly during the conditions where pedagogical thought began to develop comprehensively. All these efforts contributed to the broader development of pedagogical thought in Azerbaijan. These studies are considered significant scientific-pedagogical works of that period.

The articles published in the “Muellime Kömek” journal between 1931-1940 contributed significantly to the formation of pedagogical thought in Azerbaijan. “Muellime Kömek” also played an essential role in introducing and

applying the global pedagogical heritage in Azerbaijan. Articles on Ushinski, Herbart, Komenski, Tolstoy, and other classics were frequently published.

The journal became a carrier of progressive global pedagogical thought. For instance, articles such as “Y.A.Komenski’s Didactic Principles” (1938, No:4), “J.J.Rousseau’s Pedagogical Views” (1938), “Froebel and His Preschool Education System” (1938), and “Pestalozzi and His Didactic Education” (1938, No:5-6) enriched pedagogical thought with new ideas.

In the 1940s, the journal’s name was changed to “Azerbaijan Mektebi” (1943), continuing its tradition. Many valuable articles on Russian classical pedagogy and world classics were published. Among these articles were “Ushinski’s Theory of Education” (1946), “Dobrolyubov’s Pedagogical Ideas” (1954), “Gertsen’s Pedagogical Views” (1955), and “Pisaryev’s Pedagogical Views” (1956).

The “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal played an influential role in improving the scientific-theoretical level of education in Azerbaijan, renewing teaching methods, and training pedagogical cadres. Prominent Azerbaijani educators became recognized and famous through their articles published in this journal.

Professor N.Kazimov wrote: “The journal has done highly valuable work in addressing and solving fundamental theoretical problems of pedagogy and methodology. The translated materials published in the journal have also been of great importance in enriching pedagogical thought in our country.”

The “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal is a true record of Azerbaijan’s educational history. It has been referred to as the “Lamp of Knowledge and Literature,” “Chronicle of Pedagogical Thought,” and “Chronicle of Public Education” by leading educators. This journal has made significant contributions to introducing the pedagogical ideas of classical educators worldwide and Azerbaijan’s prominent intellectuals, as well as to exploring various issues in the history of schools and pedagogical thought.

The contributions of pedagogical press (especially the “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal), considered a treasure of pedagogical thought, to the development of pedagogical thought in Azerbaijan, the promotion of the ideas of classical educators, Azerbaijan’s notable intellectuals, writers, and poets, and to researching various problems in our nation’s rich cultural history are commendable. Rare works in the history of pedagogical thought, from folk pedagogy and the “Avesta” to the theoretical views of contemporary educators, were featured in the pedagogical press for the first time (Rustemov, 2016).

Azerbaijan’s educational history is closely linked to its pedagogical press. The most valuable ideas continue to be disseminated today through pedagogical press, particularly the “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal. Azerbaijan’s leading educators, including E.Seyidov, M.Mehdizade, and M.Muradxanov, enriched pedagogical thought with their foundational scientific works. This tradition has been maintained by the efforts of modern educators such as E.Agayev, N.Kazimov, H.Ahmedov, B.Ahmedov, E.Heshimov, Y.Talibov, F.Rustemov, M.Ilyasov, and others, whose contributions form the core content of “Azerbaijan Mektebi.” The role of “Azerbaijan Mektebi” in nurturing talented Azerbaijani educators and illuminating their legacy is indisputable.

This journal, reflecting the development of Azerbaijani education, has organized the dynamics of pedagogical and psychological thought in the country, paid attention to publishing a general summary and systematic presentation of the educational structure, provided research to aid the formation of educational and teaching theories, supported the dissemination of various methods, forms, and techniques for the management of education, contributed to the training of highly qualified teaching staff, and played a leading role in researching new ideas.

After Academician M. Mehdizade’s article titled “On the Scientific Management of the Education System,” published in the “Советская педагогика” journal in Moscow, “Azerbaijan Mektebi” continued to publish articles on this topic.

The “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal has been regarded as a creative laboratory by educator-academics and pioneering teachers. The journal has generally devoted extensive space to illuminating and promoting innovations in science and education. It has collaborated closely with journals published in the former USSR, such as “Народное образование,”

“Советская педагогика,” “Совет мактаби” (Uzbekistan), “Радянська школа” (Ukraine), and “Народная асвета” (Belarus). As a rich repository of experience, “Azerbaijan Mektebi” continues this tradition.

Starting in 1954, methodological journals published as supplements to “Azerbaijan Mektebi” have supported the development of school education in scientific-theoretical and pedagogical-methodological aspects. Supplementary publications such as “Education in the Azerbaijani Language and Literature” (1954), “Physics and Mathematics Education” (1954), “Chemistry and Biology Education” (1956), “History, Social Sciences, and Geography Education” (1964), and “Primary School and Preschool Education” (1970) have created a favorable environment for the development of educational sciences in Azerbaijan.

Table 1. Information about journals related to pedagogy in Azerbaijan

Journal Title	Year of Publication	Editors
Azerbaijani Language and Literature	1954	E. Demirçizade (1954-1958) M. Aslanov (1958) E. Recebov (1959) A. Abdullayev (1960-1975) E. Efendizade
Physics - Mathematics Education Journal	1954	İ. Hacıyev, M. Süleymanov K. Köçerli (1954-1966) A. Abbaszade (1966-1969) S. İmamzade (1970-1974) Z. Karalov (1975-1983) A. Nuruşov (1983) Z. Aliyev (1984-1991)
Chemistry and Biology Education Journal	1956	Receb Aliyev (1956) M. Ahundov (1958) E. İmamaliyev (1961) E. Abdürrahmanov (1967)
Labor and Polytechnic Education Journal	1958	F.Hacıyev-1968-1973 İbrahim Mayilov-1973
History, Society, and Geography Education Journal	1964	E. Mirzayev (1968-1973) Zehra Aliyeva
Primary and Preschool Education Journal	1970	Y. Kerimov-1970
Physical Education in School Journal	1975-1991	E. Agayev Baloglan Guliyev T. Aliyev (1978-1983) Z. Aliyeva (1983-1991)

Mir Celal Pashayev once said: “We writers emerged from Mirza Jalil’s ‘Postbox’.” It can be said without exaggeration that hundreds of pedagogues, psychologists, and methodologists also took flight from the pages of the “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal.

The “Azerbaijan Mektebi” journal is, in the true sense, the history of Azerbaijani schools, the history of Azerbaijani education, and the history of Azerbaijani pedagogy and psychology sciences; it is a chronicle and a mirror. The articles published on its pages not only cover all areas and stages of education but are also extremely useful in terms of their scientific rigor, diversity (relevant to each era), and contemporary relevance.

Our renowned playwright Sabit Rahman, prominent statesman Shikhali Qurbanov, National Assembly member and professor Shamil Qurbanov, professors Abdul Elizade, Ejder Agayev, and journalists Nureddin Babayev, Rustem

Huseynov, Emir Aslan Rajabov, Teyyar Musayev, Mehmet Baharli, Allahverdi Eminov, Tahir Aliyev, Arif Aliyev, and Halide Halilova worked for many years in this publication.

The journal's materials have been of great importance in researching, learning, promoting, and passing on the history of Azerbaijani education to future generations ("Azerbaijan Mektebi," 1999, No:10).

The "Azerbaijan Mektebi" journal has regularly published materials on renewing education and teaching practices in schools, applying pedagogical science innovations to school practice, fostering pedagogical cooperation, fundamentally restructuring public education, enhancing transparency in pedagogical collectives, expanding self-regulation, highlighting pioneering pedagogical practices, and investigating the history of pedagogical thought.

Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor N. Kazimov, wrote in his article "The Chronicle of Our Pedagogical Thought" ("Azerbaijan Mektebi," 1976, No:1): "More than one hundred thousand teachers, thousands of school administrators, local public education officials, hundreds of researchers and methodologists, tens of thousands of students and assistants—everyone concerned with the education and upbringing of the younger generation and pedagogical issues—benefit from the 'Azerbaijan Mektebi,' the scientific-theoretical pedagogical organ of the Azerbaijan SSR Ministry of Education."

Speaking of the formation of pedagogical thought in Azerbaijan, the author gratefully wrote: "This journal has become a mirror reflecting the constant flourishing, broadening, and fruitful development of pedagogical thought in Azerbaijan." Issues such as the establishment of scientific institutions dealing with pedagogical problems, the expansion of connections in the field of pedagogical thought, training highly qualified personnel, conducting scientific-pedagogical research, publishing the results, bibliographic materials related to these, and the nature of scientific-pedagogical conferences and sessions, among many other topics, were regularly addressed in the journal's pages.

The professor later clarified and analyzed the role of the "Azerbaijan Mektebi" journal in the development of pedagogical thought and school experience in the republic, emphasizing the following points: publishing the findings of studies conducted by experts working in higher education institutions and scientific research organizations in the country; printing materials dedicated to the analysis of advanced experiences; organizing discussions, opinions, and proposals aimed at further developing pedagogical thought and school experience; and, finally, including translations of works by various representatives of global and Russian pedagogical thought. This approach played a highly progressive role.

The journal's inclusion of the views of experts active in the republic and the results of research conducted in scientific organizations beneficial for pedagogical work in its pages has been assessed as a positive development.

Academician M. Mehdizade spoke about how the journal provided a great opportunity for pedagogical thought to take root and develop in our Republic, stating: "One of the journal's greatest achievements is its ability to bring together the Republic's leading teachers and prominent scientists in the fields of pedagogy and psychology, enabling their active participation in the journal's work. This process not only improved the content of the journal but also allowed the participants to develop themselves. I must note that the journal's contributors included prominent writers such as the late Mehdi Huseyn and Sabit Rahman; renowned scientists like the late Professor Makovelski, Professor Kamarovski, Associate Professor Eshref Huseynov, Professor Hadi Rzabayli, Professor Feyzullah Kasimzade; as well as retired scientists Professor E. Seyidov, Professor M. Muradkhanov, Professor A. Abdullah, Professor N. Kazimov, Professor B. Agayev; and retired teacher Ibrahim Hacıyev, among many others."

He also shared valuable insights about the supplements of the "Azerbaijan Mektebi" journal and highly praised their contributions.

The journal has been fortunate in terms of editors. Over 90 years, the dedicated and responsible work of chief editors like Rustem Huseynov, Ekber Mirzayev, Ejder Agayev, Zehra Aliyeva, and Necef Necefov significantly improved the quality of the journal and contributed to its high regard among readers. Today, wide perspectives have opened up for our education system, and serious issues await resolution. In this regard, the path the journal has followed in the past should serve as an example for today's pedagogical press. As the wise have said: "To build the future, one must learn from the past."

"Azerbaijan Mektebi" continues to work actively today to promote and implement the education-related decisions of our independent Republic. Remaining faithful to its traditions, the journal has always served as a trusted friend and close assistant to schools and their primary force, the teachers, in applying progressive methods and techniques to renew the Republic's education system.

"Azerbaijan Mektebi" has always called Azerbaijani educators to the peak. Its successful creative path has served as a model for other journals. As a researcher of the journal, I have prepared and presented three books reflecting its activities:

- The Publication History of the 'Azerbaijan Mektebi' Journal (1924-1991)"
- "Azerbaijan Mektebi - Pages from the History of Pedagogical Thought" (course material)
- "The Anniversaries of the 'Azerbaijan Mektebi' Journal" (course material).

These books provide a clear understanding of this subject.

Thus, in line with the tasks set before public education during various periods of our country's development, the "Azerbaijan Mektebi" journal has, since its inception, devoted significant space to current educational issues in its pages and consistently mobilized public education workers and teachers to fulfill their duties.

Table 2. The Chronology of the Azerbaijan Mektebi Journal

Journal Title	Publication Date	Editors
Yeni Mektep	1924 - 1930	Mustafa Guliyev (1924 – 1928) Abbas Sultanov (1928 – 1929) Gılincinski (1930)
For Communist Upbringing	1930-1932, 1934	Mikayıl Rahimli
Politeknik Mektep	1933	Redaktör: M. Rahimli Redaktör Yardımcısı: M. Elekberov Sorumlu Katip: S. Rehman
Muallime Kömek	1930 – 1941	Gılincinski (1930 - 1932) Mikayıl Rehmlı (1932 – 1935) Penah Kasımov (1935 – 1936) İsmayıl Kasımov (1937 – 1940) Rüstem Hüseynov (1940 yılının sonuna kadar) Lalezar Mustafayeva (1941)
Azerbaijan Mektebi	1943 - 2022	Lalezar Mustafayeva (1943 – 1947) E. M. Gafarlı (1947) Rüstem Hüseynov (1948 – 1963) Ekber Mirzayev (1963 – 1974) Ejder Agayev (1974 – 1981) Zehra Aliyeva (1981 – 2006) Necef Necefov (2006 – 2018) Rahil Necef (2018 – 2021) Arzu Soltan (2021)

Conclusion

The article tells of the way in which the Azerbaijani school of science, the longest-running journal of education, passed the scientific-theoretical pedagogical journal. Launched in 1924 under the title " Yeni Mektep" this magazine was published for some time (1930-1941) under the title " Muallime Kömek." Since 1943 it has been published under the title "Azerbaijan Mektebi". Acad., Who is a pioneer of Azerbaijani pedagogical science. M. Mehdizadeh, prof. A.Seyidov, M. Muradkhanli, and also the next generation acad. H.Ahmadov, Prof. NNKazimov, prof. Prof. Y. Talibov V. Ahmadov, prof. Z.Karalov, prof. A. Hashimov, prof. AA Agayev, prof. F. Rustamov was published in this magazine,

well-known and recognized. In 1954-1991 7 methodical journals were published in addition to the “Azerbaijan Mektebi”. It also provided the development of methodology in the country.

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- Muallime Kömek* journal (1930-1941).
- Azerbaijan Mektebi* journal (1943-1991).

