

## The History of Teacher's Professional Preparation in Kosovo

Eliza Avdiu<sup>1</sup>, Nita Bakija-Haraqija<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Education, University of Prishtina Prishtina, Kosovo

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Education, University of Prishtina, Prishtina, Kosovo

<sup>1</sup> [eliza.avdiu@hotmail.com](mailto:eliza.avdiu@hotmail.com) , <sup>2</sup> [nitabakija@gmail.com](mailto:nitabakija@gmail.com)

**Keywords:** Teacher, Education, Kosovo

**Abstract.** One of the most important professions of a nation is teacher's profession. The first forms of teacher's professional preparation in Kosovo and in the Albanian lands are generally pedagogical courses, then the First Normal School in Elbasan (1909), Normal School in Pristina (1941), in Prizren (1948), etc.

After the war in Kosovo, with the participation of foreign organizations and different trainings from them, the teacher's profession mutated. Teacher has previously completed Pedagogical High School and later they were employed. But today, "the teacher of tomorrow" continues lifelong education. In this education included Faculty of Education (bachelor) for four years of study and Faculty of Education (Professional Master) with three semesters. But there are many teachers in Kosovo who stud Pedagogical High school for two years and then they have to continue two more years in Teacher's Advanced Qualification programs.

### 1. Introduction

This paper is created to show the importance of the entirely teacher's qualifications in Kosovo. Early in the time of Renaissance, teacher was considered as a torch and a bearer of national progress [1]. Teachers are the key to the every open door, so a continuous qualification is a result of the success of whole society. "...Teacher is the main link to all the school activities. He manages, organizes learning, he is the school performer, and from his job depends all the activities that has to do with the school or in cooperation with that [2]".

This paper is based on early education for teachers, pedagogical courses, Pedagogical High School, Faculty for Teachers, Faculty of Education – which after years offered in-service teacher training program, and program for Master degree.

According to professor Valier Peshkepia, "teachers has been prepared and employed from the society, to realize the quality of educational and scientific preparation for under graduated or graduated student [3]".

### 2. History of Teachers prepration

#### 2.1. Pedagogical High School

The first forms of teacher's professional preparation in Kosovo and Albanian lands in generally, are pedagogical courses, then the First Normal School in Elbasan (1909), Normal School in Prishtina (1941), in Prizren (1948), etc.

After pedagogical courses and Normal Schools, with the decision of the Provincial Assembly of Kosovo, dated 22/11/1957 [4] constitute the first institution of higher education in Kosovo, **Pedagogical High School** in Prishtina which aims to qualify a student who intended to be a teacher. Pedagogical High School in Prishtina started with these programs: Albanian language and literature, serbian language and literature, biology-chemistry, physics-technology, mathematic-physics. In the first academic year 1958/59, 93 regular students and 55 part-time students was part of this [5] .

For teacher's qualification like this, Pedagogical High School started to work in Prizren in 1963, then in 1967 in Gjakova and in 1975 in Gjilan. These high schools, until 2004 graduated a large number of teachers, approximately 13,783 [6] . Also, in these schools, in the four centers (Prishtina, Gjakova, Prizren and Gjilan), were also included about 80 regular professors and professors with part time job [7], and by 2004 the number of Professors has reached 101 [8] .

Besides theory and practice in the respective laboratories, Pedagogical High School has organized practical learning in primary schools, which schools had better material conditions so students could take benefit more than from lectures. "Pedagogical practice included: student's supervision in classes, the writing of the lecture in teacher's notebook, the analysis of lesson, the participation in professional activities, in meetings organized from the school, etc. [9] ". The practice was organized every year (with different time duration) and finally a professor from Pedagogical High School has assessed students on the subject of *practical methodology*.

## 2.2. Faculty of Teaching

The year 1997 is marked as the historic year of the University of Prishtina, because "The Senate of the University of Prishtina, on 6'th of June 1997, took the decision to constitute the **Faculty of Teaching** in Pristina [10] ". As Pedagogical High School, but with a higher quality, the faculty prepared teachers through theoretical studies, professional and certainly a special significance for the practical work, according to the plan and program of elementary school. Studies in this Faculty lasted 4 years and then the candidate took the title *Primary Teaching Professor*. This Faculty was "the only university that was founded and began his work at the time when Kosovo was occupied by Serbia [11] ." By 2002, approximately 56 students graduated.

## 2.3. Training of teachers

"Although the training of teachers at the high school began in the second half of '60-th (1958), teacher qualification needed to made superior education. With four years of study, Faculty of Teaching turn to Faculty of Education [12] ".

After the war ended in 1998/1999, felt that education needed to be reformed. This reform in education was done through teacher trainings by Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as Soros, Unicef, Save the Children, KEC, SBASHK, etc.. Some of this trainings were:

- From "*The Association of Teachers Education and Training AMAAP* (Kosovo), "Teaching Professional; Didactic methodology; Educational leadership, etc..";
- By *Finish Support to the Development of Education sector in Kosovo FSDEK I and II* (Finland), "professional development training in the field of inclusive education";
- *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* by *GIZ*, professional didactic training; Methodology-didactic, educational leadership and career education.

- *From Kultur Kontakt Austria RCA*, “training for new teaching methods”;
- *Kosovo Education Center*, trainings: “Education against corruption; multicultural and multiethnic education, Education for Child Rights, Step by Step; Critical thinking through reading and writing”, etc..
- *By Center for Promotion of Education QPEA*, “Help children with specific difficulties; rights and freedoms of children, etc. [13] ”.

#### **2.4. Faculty of Education**

The presence of Canadian experts, namely the Canadian Association for Teacher Development (KEDP) along with the ideas and work of professors and competent people to the Faculty of Education, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology made the decision to start the operation of the **Faculty of Education** in the academic year 2003/2004. Faculty of Education was not just in Prishtina, but also Gjakova, Prizren and Gjilan. These four center of education, offers these programs for study:

- primary
- pre primary
- Albanian language and literature
- English language and literature,
- Bosnian language and literature,
- biology and chemistry,
- physical and chemistry
- history and citizen education,
- geography and citizen education,
- mathematics and Informatics, and
- technology and informatics.

Each semester has 30 ECTS [14] , so the student with four years of study (with theoretical and practical courses) reached 240 ECTS. Upon graduation, they will be certified with a four-year bachelor's degree program of Education concerned. For more effective functioning of a Faculty of Education, Michael Fullan – as a special advisor of education, says that the faculty should: train teachers as agents of education, should have continuous improvement through new programs and assessment, develop lifelong learning among staff and students, have collaboration between staff and students, to establish cooperation with schools and other agencies, to assess internationally in order to contribute to the local and global level.

Today, from October 1, 2013, Faculty of Education - center in Pristina, offers only programs:

- primary
- pre primary, and
- general pedagogy.

While, the Faculty of Education in Gjilan, Prizren and Gjakova, have passed on their universities, named the University of Gjilan, University of Prizren and University of Gjakova.

#### **2.5. In-service teacher training program**

David Lynn, Director of Teacher Training Project in Kosovo, says that a good teacher is able to inspire learning. For this, there is necessary to have great skills in communication, organization

and methodology.

Professional Preparation for teachers, doesn't stop at bachelor study, because the University of Prishtina in corporation with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, constitute Training Program for teachers in-service, now called **In-service Teacher Training Program** on 13.09.2006, in which there are approximately 750 graduate students [15]. This program was opened to all centers where operated Faculty of Education and intended to develop professional preparation for employed teachers, who had finished Pedagogical High School, and now came to graduate at Faculty of Education. In the beginning, In-service Teacher Training Program started to work with two programs of study, primary and pre primary. Today, ITTP provides further studies for all programs that are part of the bachelor studies in the Faculty of Education.

### **2.6. Master Program**

In the Faculty of Education, in January 2010, accredited two programs of Master degree: "Leadership in Education" and "Teaching and Curriculum", with the Tempus project DEMED Project (IV) - TEMPUS project JEP 144677 [16]. On December 9, 2010 was the opening ceremony. These two programs included three semesters, beginning to work with 80 students. With this master degree certification, teachers not only take advantage of new knowledge and continuous training, but in case of license for teacher, they benefit financially.

### **3. Conclusions**

- ❖ This writing, I think it will provide an overview of the process of teacher's training;
- ❖ Will recognize and understand the way in which teacher's training have passed in Kosovo;
- ❖ Professional developments for teachers' shows rising in teaching quality throw new methods of teaching;
- ❖ Professional development for teachers also means a new generation of contemporary teaching;
- ❖ Education for teachers reflects on basic preparation of a whole society and its values;
- ❖ With qualified teachers, a school may be closer integration and competition in education and various European countries;
- ❖ Recently, the training of teachers is also deemed financially because their pay has undergone a little change for good

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