



## MAHMUDKHODJA BEHBUDIY AND EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

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**Abstract:** This article highlights the role of Mahmudkhodja Behbudiy in the Uzbek Jadid movement and his reforms in the field of education. It analyzes Behbudiy's contribution to the development of the education system by establishing new-style schools, introducing modern approaches to the educational process, giving wide space to secular subjects, and preparing textbooks and methodological manuals. His activities, such as popularizing education through the press and drama, and promoting multilingual education, are also revealed in relation to their importance in the development of society.

**Keywords:** Mahmudkhodja Behbudiy, Jadid schools, Jadid movement, educational reforms, House of Ignorance, new teaching methods, enlightenment.

Mahmudkhodja Behbudiy was born on 19 January 1875 in Samarkand. His father was an influential expert in Islamic jurisprudence. Their lineage traces back to the famous Turkic poet and Sufi Ahmad Yasawi (1093-1166). Behbudiy learned to read and write at the age of 6-7 under the tutelage of his uncle Muhammad Siddiq, and from his father Behbudkhodja, he learned the Quran and achieved the rank of mullah in a short time. At the age of 15, he continued his studies at the madrasa where his uncle, Mulla Odil, was a teacher, and expanded his knowledge of Arabic grammar, creed, and Sharia law.

In 1899-1900, Behbudiy went on a Hajj trip with Hoji Bako, a friend from Bukhara. This journey ushered in the future of his - disas, innovations, on his life path. Behbudiy's views on the backwardness, the deplorable social situation, and the schools and madrasas that had become "houses of ignorance" in the lives of the Turkestan peoples were completely changed.[1].

The late 19th and early 20th centuries were a period of renewed national consciousness, enlightenment, and education among the Uzbek and Turkic peoples. One of the movements that emerged during this period was Jadidism, a comprehensive spiritual and moral renewal that aimed not only at religious and cultural, but also at social and educational reforms. One of the most active, will — bearers of this movement is Mahmudkhodja Behbudiy. Through his socio-cultural activities, Behbudiy went on deep reforms in the education system, criticizing the restrictions on traditional Madrasah and school education. The way he wanted to go was to harmonize religious and secular knowledge, introduce modern pedagogical methods, arouse the spirit of enlightenment in national language and literature, educate the younger generation not only on the basis of religion, but also on the basis of science, history, worldview.

Behbudiy's role in shaping Jadidism, his contribution to educational reforms, and his activities as one of the founders of Uzbek history and movement, implemented reforms aimed at renewing Muslim society in Central Asia. He focused his entire career on making the nation Scientific, for which he Method was constantly engaged in the work of expanding the network of jadid schools, creating curricula and textbooks for them, providing students with educational tools, establishing libraries, publishing houses. In 1904-1909, he created textbooks in Uzbek and Tajik languages such as "Risolayi tool savod", "Muntahabi jugrofiyayi General" (general



geography for short), "Kitabat ul-atfol" (children's letters), "Mux - tasar history Islam" (short history of Islam), "Madkhali jugrofiyayi umroniy" (introduction to population geography), "Mukhtar jugrofiyayi Rusiy" (short - cha geography of Russia).[2]. In the schools established by Behbudiy, students were taught modern subjects such as natural sciences, history, and geography using advanced methods. This was a radical departure from the traditional schools of Turkestan at the time. Mahmudkhodja Behbudi did not limit his activities to opening new schools, writing textbooks, or establishing libraries. In the early 20th century, it aimed to lead the people to enlightenment through the press, deeply analyzing the socio-political changes taking place in the world and the region.

He was engaged in press affairs from 1913. In April of the same year, he founded the Samarkand newspaper. The paper was bilingual: in Uzbek and Tajik, and was published 2 times a week. The newspaper, which originally had two pages, increased its page count to four in issues 3-8. It was printed in 400-600 copies. By the time issue 45 came out, the publication had ceased due to pressure from the Tsarist government as well as material difficulties. Later, from August 20, The Magazine "Mirror" began to release. This weekly magazine was mainly in Uzbek, but also included articles (Persian), poetry, and advertisements (Russian). Illustrations were used on its pages. The scope of the journal "window" was extensive, with articles and discussions on the history, right, literature and language issues of the nation, and the state of affairs in the world. The magazine's activity lasted 20 months. During this period, 68 issues were published.[3]. Through his articles, Behbudiy tried to highlight the role of education in the development of society. He particularly advocated the need for new methods of education and called on the general public to adopt a conscious approach to this issue.

The issue of language was also one of the important areas that the author focused on. Behbudiy believed that in order to achieve national development, the younger generation must master several foreign languages. In this regard, he came up with the idea of teaching foreign languages through simplified, interesting and modern methods. Historical sources and analysis of the jadid Press show that Behbudi, with his ideas advanced through the media, occupies a worthy place in history not only as an enlightener of his time, but as a progressive thinker who influenced the socio-political thought of the land. In addition, another goal of Mahmudkhodja Behbudiy was to train teachers and expand the number of Jadid schools with their help.[4].

The reforms of the Jadid schools implemented by Mahmudkhodja Behbudi left a deep mark on the history of Uzbek enlightenment. Realizing the limited capabilities of old-style schools, he introduced new subjects, modern textbooks, secular knowledge, and advanced pedagogical methods into the educational process. Through the initiatives of behbudi, it was possible to expand the thinking, worldview of the younger generation, arm them with time-appropriate knowledge. Jadid schools briefly became a major centre of the renewal process throughout the region. Thus, Behbudiy became a historical figure who made an invaluable contribution to the modernization of the Uzbek education system and the process of national awakening through his enlightenment activities.

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