

LIA GABUNIA

CHURCH PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN KUTAISI AT THE END OF THE 19TH C. AND THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH C.

Similar to other provinces of the Russian Empire, the church primary schools in western Georgia in the 19th c. underwent two stages of development.

Such schools existed in Kutaisi almost at every functioning church. Due to certain reasons, the Tsarist government facilitated the growth of the network of these schools. In 1860 25 parochial schools functioned in the Kutaisi province, of **which 22 were in the Imereti eparchy and other 3 in Samegrelo and Guria.**

The number of primary institutions in the Kutaisi province during 1901-1902 academic year reached 223, however, 67% of children of the school age remained outside school.

Along with state primary institutions, children received three-year elementary education at schools functioning at Orthodox, Catholic, Gregorian churches and synagogues.

Church parochial schools existing in Kutaisi at the period under study made their contribution to the primary and theological education of the young generations of the town and western Georgia.