

# REALIZATION OF THE TEACHING OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN THE UZICE GYMNASIUM FROM ESTABLISHMENT TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1839 - 1914)

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## SUMMARY

Citizens of Užice received a high school in 1839 for the first time by moving the semi-grammar school from Čačak. After three years, in 1842, the semi-grammar school moved from Užice to Čačak. Twenty-three years have passed until the re-opening of the semi-grammar school in Užice. With minor interruptions in work, caused primarily by war conflicts, the School worked until the beginning of the First World War in 1914.

This research sought to learn about the realization of physical education in Užice High School since its foundation until the beginning of the First World War. The aim of the research was to find out the time of introduction of physical education in Užice Gymnasium and its realization in that period, in all its important elements (teaching program and its performance, teachers, material resources, equipment). In this research, a historical method was used.

Teaching of physical education (body-education, guided tutoring and gymnastics) in Užice High School was not realized in the period from 1839 to 1878.

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The first data relating to the attempt to introduce physical education in the Gymnasium of Uzice dated back to 1874. In school year of 1878/79 In the course of the year, the teaching of physical education began within the curriculum, which ,at the beginning of the school year was reviewed and adopted by the school's professor council.

By bringing and adopting a curriculum for gymnastics and military exercises from 1882 to 1990, the realization of teaching has characteristics of militarized training. After 1890, there was a period in which there was no teaching of physical education.

With the opening of the newly built building of Gymnasium in 1893, the conditions for a better implementation of the curricula of physical education, which were prescribed by the Ministry of Education, were met.

When Josif Jehlichka came to Gymnasium in Uzice to the invitation of the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Serbia, in 1911, as a teacher of gymnastics, a significant rise in the realization of the teaching of physical education in Uzice High School was made.

**Key words:** physical education, Uzice gymnasium, curricula, material resources, teachers.

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## INTRODUCTION

Beginning in 1830, when the Great School was reopened in Belgrade, as the first school that was higher than the primary one, and until 1914, when there were over 40, several changes took place in the organization of secondary schools in Serbia. All of these changes were mostly dependent on the needs of political parties, as well as the impact of contemporary understanding, which came from developed European countries.

Physical education has been in the minds of some ministers of education since the early days of high school, but its introduction into schools first began as an optional physical exercise of students, in order to become obligatory in the later period.

## METHODS

In this research, *a historical method* was used.

*The aim of the research* was to find out when physical education in the Gymnasium of Uzice from the period of its establishment to the beginning of the First World War began and how it was intended to carry out.

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Only when Serbia was granted the right to open schools (1830), it was possible to see the first ideas and attempts in the Principality of Serbia to introduce teaching of physical education as a compulsory subject in the secondary schools. The Ministry of Education has endeavored to create the legal basis for its introduction and implementation by passing appropriate school regulations.

However, this was not sufficient for its successful performance, because it was necessary for appropriate professional staff, material equipment of teaching and for that purpose certain financial resources, which were not available at the time of the Principality of Serbia.

Physical education teachers were employed by persons of varying degrees of vocational education, who were most often held in this business only for several years. Considering that in Serbia until the beginning of the First World War there were about 40 secondary schools, the problem of lack of gymnastics training contributed to this teaching being not implemented in a number of secondary schools. Throughout this period, the problem of lack of built exercise areas existed: the practice areas, the closed halls, as well as their equipment with appliances and equipment, was present.

The adoption of a series of announcements related to the teaching of physical education, the creation of new curricula, rules, instructions and education of teachers of physical education created the conditions for this teaching to take a more important place in the system of general education of the students over time.

Citizens for the first time received a high school in 1839, moving the Čačanska semi-school. The reason for the transfer was a small number of students who enrolled the school as well as the distance from Uzice from the towns where the gymnasiums worked (Belgrade, Kragujevac). After three years, the semigymnasium from Užice was transferred to Čačak in 1842.

Twenty-three years had passed until the re-opening of the semigramme in Uzice. First school year, 1865/66. 53 students were enrolled. With minor interruptions in work, caused primarily by war conflicts, the School worked until the beginning of the First World War in 1914.

The teaching of physical education (more organized, military education and gymnastics and gymnastics) in the Gymnasium of Uzice was not realized. in the period from 1839 to 1878.

It should be pointed out that Uzice had no secondary school until 1865. This fact had a major impact on the realization of physical education.

The three important Laws related to the school education system adopted in this period ( "Established public teaching units" from 1844, "Generated Serbian gymnasium" from 1853 and "Law on the organization of gymnasiums" adopted in 1863) had no effect on improving teaching in the Uzice Gymnasium because the school did not exist.

The first data relating to the attempt of introducing physical education in the Uzice gymnasium dated back to 1874. In the letter from the school director to the Minister of Education, the need for "setting up" teachers of singing and gymnastics was expressed.<sup>1</sup>

In the school year 1878/79 physical education began to be realized. The first teacher was Stevan Trifunović, a drawing teacher. He was paid 50 pallets to realise gymnastics classes until 1883.

The introduction of gymnastics teaching in Uzice Gymnasium was preceded by a correspondence between the school principal and the Minister of Education. In his letter to the Minister of Education, among other things, he wrote:

"The teachers of this institute and the parents of the children themselves, told me many times, that it would be very necessary to raise gymnastics ...because this need is observed most day in the majority.... in interest of the good health of students, gymnastics is really needed , ... "<sup>2</sup>

Teaching was carried out within the curriculum, which at the beginning of the school year was examined and adopted by the professor council of the school. In the Report on the State of the Uzice Gymnasium for the 1881/82 school year it was ascertained that physical exercise was taught regularly. The teaching itself was realized in an open space adjacent to the school building. Later, the classes were being realized in the "building" which was intended for realization of gymnastics and military exercises during the winter period.

By adopting a curriculum for gymnastics and military exercises in 1882, the realization of teaching had the characteristics of militarized training. In addition to the elements studied, which were based on military doctrine the instructors themselves were military personnel, officers and lower officers.

This type of realization of teaching, with specific curricula with defined contents, as well as trained and educated teaching staff, had a positive attitude towards teaching both by students and by teaching staff. The realization of the

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<sup>1</sup>АС - МПс - П, 1877, ф XI ред 313

<sup>2</sup> Архив СРС, Београд, МП 1878. године, VI, 92

teaching of gymnastics and military exercises in the Uzice High School started with the realization of the 1883/84 school year.

After the first, positive attitudes towards this conception of teaching, there were problems. Frequent absence of lecturers (officers) who failed to carry out their duties due to "obligations" toward the service, and in the later period, the replacement of lecturers, officers, members of the teaching staff, conditioned the appearance of the negative attitude of students and teachers towards the continuation of gymnastics and military exercise. Over time, this ideology and concept come to an end because the educational goals had been forgotten. Teaching of gymnastics and military exercises stopped to be realized at Uzice High School in late 1890.

"Teaching was conducted primarily in the open space, when it was allowed by favorable weather conditions. For the realization of the teaching in the winter period,... a building, which has been used in the winter for gymnastics and military exercise of the pupils, has been used ..."<sup>3</sup>

Following the correspondence between the Principal of the School and the Minister of Education, it can be concluded that the School had a number of gymnastic devices. In 1886, the school director wrote to the Minister of Education, asking for instructions, on the recommendation of the commander of the Drina division, how to "pick up" or buy new devices.<sup>4</sup>

After 1890, there was a period in which there was no teaching of physical education. Saturation with the previous concept of teaching was conditioned by such a situation as the evident lack of professional staff during this period.

In the period when the lack of physical movement and exercise of the pupils was felt, certain class officers performed trips, which was the only aspect of physical activity of students in the school. Based on the reports of school principals, the "excursions" were aimed primarily at gaining more knowledge in certain subjects.

In the School Report for the school year 1894/95 was stated that the class elders with the students realized a one-day excursion to Sevojno (the suburb of Uzice 7 kilometers away).

It was not surprising that the students' initiative from 1896, due to the need for physical exercise, included the work of the gymnastics society "Jugović". In a letter from the school director, Janja Manojlović, the Minister of Education,

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<sup>3</sup> МПС ф XII р 114/1884

<sup>4</sup> МПС ф XIX р 327. Р.и./86

the consent was required for older students, "extraordinary", after fulfilling their school obligations, to practice gymnastics without the presence of members of the gymnastics society. The Minister of Education gave consent for the realization of the aforementioned student activities by letter dated March 3, 1896.

Organized teaching was carried out according to the recommendations of the Minister of Education, in 1897/98 school year. That year, two teachers, Milos Trifunovic and Nikolic Nikola, realized their gymnastics training with school students. Exercises were performed in the school yard when the weather conditions allowed it.

If it is known that this is a period when there was no professional staff and that there were no curricula, it is not surprising that the teaching was carried out from time to time. The only shift was reflected in the published Recommendations of the Minister of Education encouraging both schools and teachers to start teaching in such circumstances.

Encouraged by the above Recommendations, during the school year 1907/08 all class officers (eight) started the realization of gymnastics teaching, whose contents were primarily the realization of excursions in the vicinity of Uzice.

It is necessary to emphasize the formation of the Federal shooting family of the students of Uzice gymnasium in the 1909/10 school year. The Report notes that members had several "firing" exercises that were carried out in the hall as well as shooting with ammunition that was carried out at the military firing range.

At the invitation of the Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Serbia in 1911, with a group of Czech falcons, ancestors, Josif Jehlichka, who was sent to work in the Uzice gymnasium, also arrived. His arrival has created the preconditions for a successful realization of the practice of physical exercise as well as the development of falconry in this area.

Teaching was carried out in an open space, in front of the school, in a hall that was built in 1893.

The School Principal's Report stated that excursions were conducted aimed at improving the quality of teaching and developing physical abilities of students. Jehlichka completed a one-day excursion to Sevojno with students of the 6th grade. During the excursion the students were trained in maraging in the machine. The activities of the students of the Uzice gymnasium did not remain unnoticed. That is why the Minister of Education, by an act of February 14, 1914, recommended that a group of students of the Uzice High School participate in the meeting in Petrograd.

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## РЕАЛИЗАЦИЈА НАСТАВЕ ФИЗИЧКОГ ВАСПИТАЊА У УЖИЧКОЈ ГИМНАЗИЈИ ОД ОСНИВАЊА ДО ПОЧЕТКА ПРВОГ СВЕТСКОГ РАТА ( 1839 – 1914 )

### САЖЕТАК

Ужичани први пут добијају средњу школу 1839. године, премештањем Чачанске полугимназије. Након три године, полугимназија се из Ужица сели у Чачак, 1842. године. До поновног отварања полугимназије у Ужицу прошло је двадесет три године. Са мањим прекидима у раду, изазваних првенствено ратним сукобима, Школа је радила до почетка Првог светског рата, 1914. године.

У овом истраживању се трагало за сазнањима о реализацији наставе физичког васпитања у Ужичкој гимназији од њеног оснивања па до почетка Првог светског рата. *Циљ истраживања* је био да се сазна време увођења наставе физичког васпитања у Ужичкој гимназији и њена реализација у наведеном периоду, у свим њеним значајним елементима (наставни програм и

његово извођење, наставници, материјална средства, опрема). У овом истраживању коришћен је *историјски метод*.

Настава физичког васпитања (телоупражњеније, војено учење и гимнастика) у Ужичкој гимназији се није реализовала у периоду од 1839. до 1878. године.

Први податак који се односи на покушај да се уведе настава физичког васпитања у Ужичкој гимназију датира из 1874. године. У школској 1878/79. години почела је да се реализује настава физичког васпитања у оквиру наставног плана и програма који је почетком школске године прегледао и усвајао професорски савет школе.

Доношењем и усвајањем наставног плана за гимнастику и војничко вежбање од 1882. године до 1990. године, реализација наставе има карактеристике милитаризоване обуке. После 1890. године евидентан је период у коме није било наставе физичког васпитања.

Отварањем новоизграђене зграде Гимназије 1893. године стичу се услови за квалитетнију реализацију наставних програма предмета физичко васпитање, које је прописивало Министарство просвете.

Доласком Јожефа Јехличке 1911. године, на позив Министарства просвете Краљевине Србије, на место наставника гимнастике видан је успон у реализацији наставе физичког васпитања у Ужичкој гимназији.

**Кључне речи:** настава физичког васпитања, Ужичка гимназија, наставни програми, материјална средства, наставници.

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## ПРЕПОДАВАНИЕ ФИЗИЧЕСКОГО ВОСПИТАНИЯ В ГИМНАЗИИ УЖИЦЕ ОТ ЕЕ СОЗДАНИЯ ДО ПЕРВОЙ МИРОВОЙ ВОЙНЫ (1839 - 1914)

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### АННОТАЦИЯ

Школа для жителей Ужице впервые была основана в 1839 году в результате перевода неполной гимназии из Чачака. Через три года, в 1842 году, неполная гимназия переехала из Ужице в Чачак. Двадцать три года прошло до нового открытия неполной гимназии в Ужице. С небольшими перерывами в работе, вызванными, прежде всего, военными конфликтами, Школа работала до начала Первой Мировой войны 1914 года. Данное исследование направлено на то, чтобы выяснить факты о преподавании физического воспитания в гимназии Ужице с момента ее основания до начала Первой Мировой Войны. Целью исследования было выяснить время введения физического воспитания в гимназии Ужице и то, как преподавалась данная дисциплина в указанный период, все ее наиболее важные аспекты (учебная программа и ее реализация, учителя, материальные ресурсы, оборудование). В этом исследовании использовался исторический метод.

Физическое воспитание (культуризм, тьюторство и гимнастика) в средней школе Ужице не преподавалась в период с 1839 по 1878 год. Первые данные, касающиеся попытки введения физического воспитания в гимназии Ужице, датируются 1874 годом. В 1878/79 учебном году преподавание физического воспитания началось в рамках учебной программы, которая в начале учебного года была пересмотрена и утверждена профессорским советом школы.

Введена и принята учебная программа по гимнастике и военным дисциплинам с 1882 по 1890 год, обучение носило характер военизированной подготовки. Начиная с 1890 года, физическое воспитание не преподавалось.

С открытием заново отстроенного здания гимназии в 1893 году были созданы условия для более эффективной реализации программ по физическому воспитанию, которые были предписаны Министерством образования. С приходом Иосифа Джахличка в гимназию Ужице по приглашению Министерства образования Королевства Сербии в 1911 году в качестве учителя гимнастики, был достигнут значительный подъем в реализации преподавания физического воспитания в средней школе Ужице.

**Ключевые слова:** Физическое воспитание, гимназия Ужице, учебные планы, материальные ресурсы, учителя.

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