

**Iakob Gogebashvili**, a great Georgian teacher, scientist, and public figure, was born on October 27, 1840, in the village of Variani, Gori municipality.

Iakob Gogebashvili got his education first in the Theological School of Gori and then in Tbilisi. In 1855, he continued his studies at Tbilisi Theological Seminary. From 1861, Iakob Gogebashvili became a student at the Kyiv Theological Academy. At the same time, the interested young man listened to lectures at the University of Kyiv, where he was particularly fascinated by natural science disciplines.

Two years later, in 1863, due to his health condition, Iakob Gogebashvili was forced to return to his homeland. In 1864, he was appointed as a teacher of Arithmetic and Geography at Tbilisi Theological School. Iakob Gogebashvili, as an outstanding teacher and educator, earned the great love and respect of students. In 1868, he was appointed as an inspector of Tbilisi Theological School. While working in this position, he implemented serious reforms in the school in accordance with the requirements of modern pedagogy, which aroused interest in learning among young people and provided students with new opportunities.

Alongside his teaching activities, Iakob Gogebashvili was actively involved in the national liberation movement, which was led by Ilia Chavchavadze and Akaki Tsereteli.

In 1865, his first educational alphabet book, "Alphabet of the Georgian Language and the First Reading Book," was published, and in 1868, "The Door to Nature" was published. In 1872, Iakob Gogebashvili published "Handout for teachers on how to teach reading and writing in the Georgian alphabet." In 1876, he compiled the alphabet book "Mother Language" for the country, which is still a fundamental textbook for schools.

Iakob Gogebashvili's progressive pedagogical activities caused dissatisfaction within the synod and the king's government, and in 1874, he was removed from his position as politically unreliable. After that, Gogebashvili did not work for the state service and dedicated his entire life to public work. Under the leadership of Iakob Gogebashvili, public schools were established in Georgia, focused on providing real education rather than formal one. His contribution to the establishment and activities of the society for spreading literacy among Georgians is outstanding. With almost all the income received from printed works, he helped the mentioned society, poor students, Georgian students studying abroad, and individual public figures.

Since 1880, Iakob Gogebashvili has been publishing reading books for children of different ages, collections of short stories by foreign writers for older children, collections of elementary science stories, etc. Iakob Gogebashvili wrote more than 150 original children's stories.

Considerate patriot, who worked for the revival and prosperity of his homeland, earned the special love of the Georgian people.

Iakob Gogebashvili died on June 1, 1912, at the age of 72. He is buried in the Mtatsminda Pantheon of Georgian writers and public figures in Tbilisi.