



UNISO

Spectrum

Volume 01, Issue 02
October 2023





Welcome Our
UNIVERSITY OF SOMALIA (UNISO)



EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Welcome to the Second Issue of the biannual magazine of University of Somalia (UNISO Spectrum). I am very excited to announce that this October Issue 02, 2023 of UNISO Spectrum is now out in a new and colorful design, with 20 freshly minted articles on education, business and economics, health sciences, humanities, agriculture, and technology.

As you peruse through the pages, take note of the pressing and timely issues, analysis and problem-solving opinions discussed in this edition like self-medication practices, sale of antibiotics, increase of foreign labor, Somalia's membership in the EAC, the role of livestock farming, mental health stigma, the legal crisis in Somalia, and the benefits of writing centers. These are the key features of this issue:

“A Hidden Killer!” – Dr. Shaaciye examines the dangers of self-medication practices in Somali society. He highlights the serious damage that such practices can cause to the health of patients, particularly among the elderly, children, pregnant women, and those with chronic diseases. He attempts to raise awareness among the public about such malpractice in using prescription drugs. Dr. Shaaciye recommends that urgent actions need to be taken to combat drug abuse and drug misuse in our country.

“East African Community (EAC) Membership: Assessing Somalia's Gains and Losses” –Mr. Osman Abdulkadir Nur assesses the advantages and disadvantages of Somalia joining the EAC. He argues that such a membership can benefit the country through better trade opportunities, more investment, infrastructure developments, easier transfer of skills, and freedom of movement. On the other hand, it can lead to increased market competition, regulatory harmonization, potential trade imbalances, and spread of dangerous diseases. However, the writer believes that the potential gains will outweigh the potential losses.

“The Contemporary Legal Crisis in Somalia” – Dr. Osman looks back at the legal systems that Somalia inherited from the

colonial powers, Britain in the North and Italy in the South, alongside the Islamic Shari ah. He explains that the British legal system is based on the common law whereas the civil law is the foundation of the Italian legal system. After the creation of the Somali Republic, a constitutional referendum decided to abolish the common law and adopt the civil law. However, after the collapse of the central government in 1991, many Somalis fled to neighboring countries and to the West where the common law is prevalent. A systematic review of both legal systems is necessary before deciding which system Somalia should adopt in the future.

This October Issue 02 also includes many more interesting, timely and relevant articles that offer valuable insights and proposed solutions to many pressing issues and challenges facing our country, to the benefit of our interested readers. We have also taken a further step in digitizing our content where UNISO Spectrum is not only available in print but also online. Our goal is to make our magazine reach our readers anytime, anywhere. Enjoy your reading!

ARTICLES



Is the East African Community (EAC) a threat or an opportunity for Somalia?

Dr. Ahmed Khadar A. Jama
Lecturer, Department of Economics
University of Somalia (UNISO)
khadarcj@gmail.com



Somalia's interest in joining the East African Community (EAC) was first noted in 2016, corresponding to President Hassan Sheikh's first term. However, Somalia's application was not accepted by the members of the bloc. In the first 100 days of his second term, President Hassan Sheikh attended the bloc's annual summit in Arusha, Tanzania on 22 July 2022 and indicated in his speech that Somalia is still interested in joining the EAC, before submitting Somalia's membership request for the second time. Soon later, he nominated Abdisalam Hadliye, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia, as his special EAC envoy. The members of the bloc discussed Somalia's application and seemed to be largely in favor of Somalia's admission.

The first issue is the kind of position Somalia will enjoy within the bloc, given the contrasting socio-economic conditions prevailing in Somalia compared to the other member countries, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and Congo. Somalia only shares a border with Kenya, and only Kenya and Tanzania have their own maritime ports in Mombasa, Dar es Salaam, and Tanga. This has given Tanzania and Kenya an economic leverage over the five other member states. Considering the gross domestic product (GDP) of the bloc, Kenya and Tanzania have the highest GDP of 110 billion dollars and 68 billion dollars in 2021, respectively. With a GDP of 7 billion dollars, Somalia ranks sixth, followed by Burundi and South Sudan. Therefore, Somalia might not exert much economic influence within the bloc, further exacerbated by insecurity, weak governance, poor infrastructure, and low agricultural and industrial output, Kenya and Tanzania.

In the long run, however, Somalia is more likely to become the trade and economic hub of the EAC bloc for two reasons. First and foremost is the strategic significance of Somalia's geographic location, particularly its long coastline. The addition of Somalia will triple the current coastline of the bloc from 1,400km to 5,000 km and make it the bloc's new gateway to the world. Somalia can build a dry port along the border with Kenya or use Ethiopia as a corridor, linking Somalia to South Sudan and Congo which is the biggest and the most virgin market in the bloc. Second, Somalia has abundant natural resources like petroleum, fisheries and livestock. However, achieving such a target will require tremendous efforts on economic and security reforms and persistent political stability.

Despite this, Somalia is more likely to benefit from the more relaxed travel policy within the bloc. Currently, Somalia does not have visa on arrival privileges in the EAC member countries.

Fewer restrictions would pave the way for Somalia's access to a market of around 300 million people,

thus encouraging more Somalis to invest their capital and seek new business opportunities. The generated business profits will contribute significantly to the reconstruction of Somalia, while creating new job opportunities in the host countries.

The immediate business opportunities that are open in the short run for Somalia to specialize in include fisheries, dairy farms, livestock products and the energy sector. In the fisheries sector, for instance, Somalia has a complete advantage over all the other nations because of its long coastline. These sectors combined can help Somalia join the already existing economic heavyweights of the bloc.

In the education sector, the Somali students wishing to study abroad will be able to access prestigious higher education institutions in Makerere University, Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, University of Dar es Salaam. Further, the academic research efforts carried out in the Somali national university can benefit from collaboration in academia and research through staff and student exchange programs. Somali university student associations can run their programs under the federation of east African university students associations, exchanging ideas on youth empowerment and leadership, sports, and research.

Part of the interactions in the student forum will include advocacy for payment of tuition fees in the regional institutions of learning to be placed at a local rate. Somali university students can pay their tuition fees at Makerere University at the same rate as a Ugandan student. Affordable access to quality education would, therefore, be a great advantage.

However, the greatest benefit for Somalia is the East African community harmonization framework. This framework is geared towards harmonizing health care, education, customs, currency, migration through the East African passport, legislation through the East African parliament. For instance, when the East African currency is fully harmonized, Somalia will not need to depend on the dollar anymore, which will automatically reduce the cost of doing business and will spur both local and foreign investment which is much needed to boost revenue for the reconstruction of the country. The harmonization framework also brought forth the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) with the headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. It currently comprises of 62 members, each of the seven states contributing nine members. When Somalia joins the bloc, the legislative membership will rise to 71. This is another equal opportunity that will be extended to this nation. Somalia will no longer be an observer in the region but an active participant. Various issues will be deliberated upon that will directly touch the lives of every Somali citizen positively, whether it is famine and drought, pastoralism, fishing, trade, movements, justice, or conflict resolution. EALA membership also comes with economic benefit; for example, each Member of Parliament earns 6,408 dollars as monthly basic pay, 160 dollars per sitting and 14,000 dollars per month. This is at least a significant contribution to boost their respective family income.

In summary, even though Somalia will not gain an economic influence within the bloc in the near future, the admission of Somalia into the bloc will give Somalis access to a market of 300 million people and give it the opportunity to have diplomatic engagements in the continent. The free movements of goods and services will support more interaction between the Somalis and their East African partners, which will raise Somalia's stakes. Coupled with a good location and long seashore, the local ports will become busy, and many international companies will take advantage of this to establish trade outlets in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Berbera, and Bosaso as export promotion zones. However, there will be stiff competition, and Somali businesses will have to prove their worth. We shall also have to jealously protect our social norms and values from outside influences. As for the present, conflict resolution should be our priority to ensure that the country enjoys a period of peace and stability.

The Proposed Foundation Year in Somali Universities: An Educator's Perspective

Dr. Hassan Mohamed Sayid
DVC for Academic and Research Affairs
University of Somalia (UNISO)
dvaa@uniso.edu.so

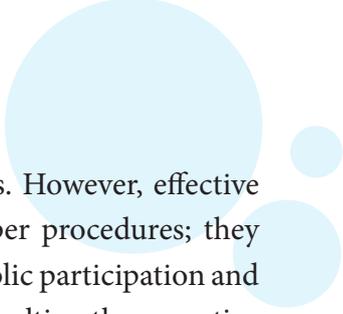


The Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia has recently unveiled plans to introduce a mandatory one-year foundation program for all students entering universities in Somalia. This pre-university program aims to provide a level of academic preparation prior to undergraduate study to help students succeed in their academic journey. As someone who has extensive work experience in the local education sector, I believe this initiative holds great potential; however, there are some serious concerns regarding its implementation.

Potential positives of the foundation program include addressing gaps in basic education that have long troubled higher education. If gaps are unaddressed, these deficiencies will snowball and cause greater problems in the students' education and career development. Students enrolling

into universities struggle with the academic rigors of degree programs, and universities continue to report high dropout rates in first year students mainly because of gaps in education. Even when students manage to pass their first year, universities have to invest additional resources to bring their students up to an acceptable standard and equip them with the skills and knowledge expected upon graduation. The foundation initiative directly addresses this challenge by helping students gain the prerequisite competencies in key subject areas before they embark on their undergraduate programs. Moreover, the foundation program will serve as an important transitional phase bridging the knowledge divide between secondary and tertiary education and aims to strengthen student's proficiency in the language of instruction and certain areas. Students will be better prepared to navigate university independently, think critically, and complete assignments to the expected standard. The outcomes would be higher retention and graduation rates at local universities, thus boosting the productivity of public and private investments in higher education. However, the proposed foundation year failed to include English, Arabic, and Somali Language, Islamic Studies, and Conflict Resolution. To make matters worse, the initial proposal allocated no space to core specialization subjects. It was only after consulting with the universities that specific core disciplines and technology have been added to the foundation year.

However, there is a concern that the proposed foundation year will lead to an exodus of students to the neighboring countries. Why would anyone apply for a five-year program when universities in Kenya and Uganda offer three to four-year programs? The Ministry should bear in mind that modern university education has gone global, and our students are encouraged to apply at the best universities overseas. The Somali employment market prefers foreign university graduates, and this initiative will



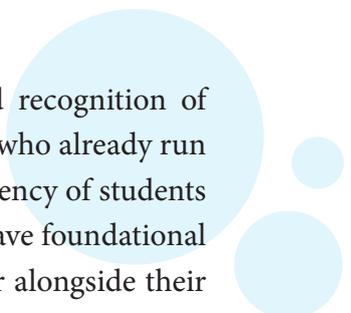
drive more students to foreign universities.

On the other hand, the planned foundation year has no definite legal basis. However, effective initiatives with long lasting implications must have a legal basis and proper procedures; they cannot be imposed through a government directive. First, there must be a public participation and stakeholder engagement and validation. This step should be followed by consulting the executive and legislation bodies before enacting the proposed change in the parliament. Only then should the Commission for Higher Education implement the regulation. Although our universities are mandated to teach certain subjects, there is no curriculum framework or guidance, and it is not clear which entity will monitor their compliance.

For the foundation year to be a successful initiative it needs all its stakeholders—government, parents, students, universities, lecturers, and employers— to buy in to the program through rigorous and thorough consultation process. Only after receiving a wave of complaints has the Ministry of Education agreed to consult with the stakeholders. Parents who have only just now found out that they have to pay an additional year of study are considering sending their children abroad. Universities already teach the majority of the proposed courses, yet now they have to figure out how to manage the workload at the start of the new semester. Adding an extra year means students will enter the job market one year later than planned. For many families, early employment is important, so that the new graduates can support their families. This delay could disproportionately impact students from lower income backgrounds. Also, adding an additional year of study may not necessarily achieve the goal if the teaching method and the curriculum remain the same. Therefore, the question is whether the Ministry is serious about improving the graduates' competency, skills, and employability and whether the planned foundation year will fulfill its promise.

Another issue of contention is the inappropriate timing of the directive. The new foundation year was decided at a time when the universities had already set their academic plans, hired lecturers, and decided on their budget. Also, the new students do not know how they are going to spend their first year of study and have been given no time to consider their options. Universities usually take three months or more to conduct a program review, set out the curriculum, and prepare reference materials. Even if the universities manage to solve these issues in a timely fashion, the change will only be a stop gap measure and will have to be reviewed, adjusted and improved. The universities should have been given one year notice to prepare for this change.

The length of the foundation year means that our students will spend five years to graduate, meaning that Somalia will depart from the four-year norm practiced in all of East Africa. This



could negatively impact student and faculty exchange opportunities and recognition of degrees in the wider region. There are working models of some universities who already run successful six- month programs where they focus on improving the competency of students in the basic sciences and English language. Other universities who do not have foundational programs teach the same courses outlined in the proposed foundation year alongside their mandatory course programs. The question is why Somalia does not consider doing the same and stay on par with other countries.

In conclusion, despite the foundational program is well-intentioned, it will do more harm than good through inconsistent standards, delays to careers, and access barriers. A pilot approach or alternative solution better aligned with the region should have merited further consideration. Somalia's foundation program is an innovative step towards strengthening the standards and outcomes of higher education. While being well-intended, this blanket policy overlooks complex socioeconomic dynamics unique to Somalia. It would have been better to lay down legal foundations, engage stakeholders, and conduct a comprehensive study of the determinants of the quality of graduates and international best practices before jumping to the implementation stage and issuing a general directive. This would have set the universities on a smooth implementation and adaptation path. Higher education institutions, in the absence of government regulations, already took on much of the roles in providing public education, and our university graduates are now the main driving force in all sectors of the national economy.

Somalia's higher education institutions have a proven track record which is evident from the number of students who have successfully enrolled in universities abroad and through the productivity and professional engagement of the alumni. Despite the presence of a regulatory gap in higher education sector in Somalia, our universities have gained valuable experience in implementing changes and know what can and what cannot be achieved. The Ministry of Education should, therefore, not view the local universities with disdain and contempt; rather, they should engage them and work together with them.



UNISO

Spectrum

October 2023

Can We Do Without Writing Centres in Our Universities?

Dr. Mohamed Sh. Issak Hassan
Senior Adviser to the Vice Chancellor
University of Somalia (UNISO)
Mohamed_Hassan@uniso.edu.so

I mentioned in my previous article that writing remains one of the main challenges facing students in higher education in Somalia. I also presented some solutions to this challenge, one of them being to establish writing centers in Somali universities to provide writing support to students. Since the concept of a writing centers is new to Somali universities, I will provide a definition and description of writing centers and their purpose. Second, I explore the benefits of writing centers as an intervening mechanism for improving students' writing skills. Third, some considerations for starting a writing centers will be presented. Finally, I will provide some recommendations.

Writing centers exist in a variety of shapes, sizes and settings. They take various roles and functions at different institutions. Due to such diversity, writing centers literature has often discussed the difficulty of providing a generic definition or a common description to represent writing centers. Nonetheless, for the purpose of this article, the writing centers can be defined as a free student service on campus that provides help with any aspect of students' writing, from specific assignments to general writing skills. This definition has been selected keeping in mind that writing centers grow and change as their role becomes clearer and new challenges arise.

Authors directly involved in the development and implementation of the writing centers often cite different views and reasons for establishing writing centers. For most, writing centers aim to provide students from all disciplines with practical writing support to help them to produce work of an acceptable standard. As such, the primary purpose of writing centers is to minimize gaps in educational achievement between students from different social and economic backgrounds, thereby helping to promote overall institutional objectives of academic excellence and student success. Therefore, writing centers are regarded as providing key academic support to students from different walks of life, so that they can become independent and proficient writers of academic texts.

Although writing centers may differ in their purposes or in their specific services and organizational structures, they have some common traits that distinguish them as writing centers that are either part of a learning centers or a writing program and serve the entire university. These traits include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The practice of tutoring to students is the main function of writing centers.
- Writing centers have dedicated tutors who are a mixture of graduate and undergraduate students who have undergone an intensive, continuous training process to assist their peers. Some of these tutors may be professionals or part-time instructors.
- Each student's individual needs are the focus of the tutorial. Students are encouraged to participate actively in setting the agenda for each session.

- Tutorials are offered in a one-to-one setting. Tutors meet individually with students seeking help in the writing centers, either briefly or for more extended periods of time, to attend to individual student's concerns.
- Tutors provide students with a safe, non-judgmental learning environment that encourages a meaningful discussion around the writing process. Removed from the evaluative setting of a classroom, students are free to engage in trial runs of ideas and approaches.
- The facilitative tutor plays the role of a coach or a collaborator, rather than repeating the instructions given by the lecturer or the information available in the textbook.
- Tutors provide feedback as readers and ask probing questions on matters such as developing drafts of papers, suggesting writing strategies, diagnosing writing problems, reviewing misunderstood or missing information, listening to writers, and helping them gain a perspective on their writing.
- Tutors may engage students in discussions of their topics, so that students can develop their ideas and practice the phrasing and vocabulary of their discourse.
- Although some students are independent learners and can solve their own problems, most students are referred to the university writing centers by their professors who find them struggling with completing their papers.
- Writing centers offer support for students at a particular level; however, they are open for students at all levels of writing proficiency.

Writing centers offer many benefits for the students and for the university. A key benefit of the writing centers is a slowly but steadily rising awareness of the value of effective and skillful writing. This is particularly important in the Somali society, which is often described as an oral society. The important role of writing in knowledge creation, knowledge dissemination, and knowledge storage and retrieval cannot be overstated. Writing is recognized as a central skill in preparing students for a fruitful employment or career. Writing centers give hope to a population of students that might otherwise have given up, especially for students who join university from secondary school and do not have a good foundation in writing. Furthermore, writing centers support will increase student retention by attracting more students to the university and gain useful academic skills. In addition, writing centers foster teamwork, cooperation, patience and improved social skills in a cooperative peer learning environment where each student's strengths can serve to complement the group and enhance learning. These are just a few of many benefits of writing centers.

Despite the above-mentioned benefits of writing centers, they have not yet received the attention of educational leaders in higher education in Somalia. Therefore, I hope this article may draw the attention of these leaders to this important issue. Below are some considerations for setting up writing centers. Establishing a writing center has been the direction many universities have taken to address the problem of writing weakness in their students. It is worth mentioning here that writing centers have been a common practice in many universities in Africa and elsewhere, providing basic writing support to students. However, the question is whether Somali universities need writing centers and if so, what kind of writing centers? Looking back at my own experience, I have witnessed how much students struggle with putting their ideas into writing. Therefore, I believe that any model that gives these struggling

students the support they need when trying to complete their papers, reports, and projects would be highly appreciated.

We also need to keep in mind that the scope and type of the writing centers varies from institution to institution, and we do not have to follow a single model. There are no clear-cut guidelines for matters such as administrative structures and specific services. However, one important consideration is that the proposed writing centers should be actively adapted to the particular needs and demands of each institution, including its stated mission.

Once we have agreed to establish writing centers in our universities, we need to consider the following issues: What goals will the writing centers have? Where will it be located? Who will fund and support it? Who will staff the centers? How can the staff be trained and paid? What materials and equipment will be needed? Who will keep records? How will the staff and services be evaluated? What types of publicity can be used to attract students? These are some of the questions that can help shape the centers' structure and services. These and similar matters will be discussed, Allah willing, in the next article.

Finally, I recommend that higher education leaders need to recognize the important contribution writing centers can make to the success of many students at all levels. The plan to establish writing centers at Somali universities requires long-term commitment from the institutions. Given the importance of these writing centers, the right question to ask ourselves is, can we do without writing centers in our universities?



FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS

- ☒ Department of Accounting and Finance
- ☒ Department of Banking and Finance
- ☒ Department of Business Administration
- ☒ Department of Business Information Technology
- ☒ Department of Economics
- ☒ Department of Procurement and Logistics
- ☒ Department of Islamic Finance

A Hidden Killer!

Dr. Shaaciye (Sheye) Hussein Abdule
Head of Pharmacy Department
Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Somalia (UNISO)
sheye.abdule@uniso.edu.so



Medicine is not food! However, Somali people eat prescription drugs as if they were health supplements. This dangerous practice of self-medication needs to be stopped. As to the reason for this misuse of medication, I have observed that medical practitioners in private hospitals and clinics write too many unnecessary prescriptions and can seriously damage the health of the patients, particularly the elderly, young children, pregnant women, and those with chronic diseases. Moreover, the current level of use of illegal recreational drugs in the country can also cause serious health and social problems. Hence, this article is written to raise awareness about the danger of drug misuse. It is a reminder for the health professionals and a learning

opportunity for the general public.

Self-medication can be defined as the self-consuming of medication that has not been prescribed by a doctor. Legally, over-the-counter medicines (OTC) are acceptable for certain minor conditions; however, they are not necessarily safe if they are used irresponsibly. These medicines can be bought from pharmacies or retail outlets such as supermarkets. In contrast, prescription-only-medicines (POM) must be prescribed by a doctor or authorized health professional and dispensed from a pharmacy under the supervision of the pharmacist. POMs require a prescription because they are considered to be potentially harmful if not used responsibly, under the supervision of a licensed health care practitioner. Unfortunately, in Somalia, people do not only self-medicate with OTC but also with POMs, which is a potential health hazard.

In our country, many people die because of bullets and explosions but many more die in hospitals or at home. Unfortunately, nobody investigates the exact causes of their death, and all too often, their bodies are quickly taken away and buried. Sometimes I ask myself, could their death be caused by the wrong drugs? I don't know! But what I know is that all medicines are drugs and when used incorrectly, they can cause serious health problems. For example, Paracetamol which is used for aches and pains is a drug, and an overdose of paracetamol can cause liver damage and eventually death. In contrast, overuse and misuse of some drugs can render them ineffective. For instance, antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria mutate and change in response to the misuse of some antibiotics. Hence, some infections are harder to treat than those caused by non-resistant bacteria.

There are also certain drugs like tramadol and diazepam which have medicinal benefits, for example,

in treating severe pain and anxiety, but are commonly abused for recreational purposes, thus resulting in drug dependence and addiction. These types of drugs are known as controlled drugs. In one study, it was discovered that 16.5% of Somali street children aged between 6 to 18 years were using sleeping tablets (e.g., diazepam) and 9.3% tramadol. It is likely that the children bought this POM from pharmacies over the counter, which is illegal.

In 1988 in Mogadishu, less than 10% of the pharmacies were run by pharmacists. I think, currently the number of pharmacists who manage pharmacies are well below that level, and most of the staff are unqualified. They sell OTCs and POMs like snacks in order to make profit. In fact, this is a source of serious health and social problems. There are many ethical doctors who care for the welfare of their patients and will only prescribe potent drugs when necessary; however, I often noticed that especially doctors in private hospitals or clinics like to prescribe more drugs than necessary for the condition they are treating. Hence, it is reasonable to assume that this practice is purely motivated by profit making. Healthcare seems to have become, like any other service industry, a profit-oriented business.

On another point, not all drugs are medicine. For instance, Taabuu, heroin, cocaine, cannabis, gases, glues and aerosols are not medicine. These drugs are illegal drugs that are so harmful that countries across the world have decided to control them. In fact, many countries have passed several international laws, in the form of United Nations conventions, which specify which drugs are controlled. Moreover, it is illegal to obtain these drugs by means of prescription because they do not have any medicinal values. Unfortunately in Somalia, it is possible to buy illegal drugs for recreational purposes. In one study, it was discovered that 12.1% of Somali street children used alcohol, 42.1% used glue and 16.8% used marijuana. Interestingly, in Somalia khat is not classified as an illegal drug and is sold in large quantities in the big cities. However, it is also true that khat was banned in 1983 by the Somali central government. The khat law provided heavy punishment which was up to ten years in imprisonment and heavy fines. To my best knowledge, no subsequent Somali government has officially legalized khat, and it is still illegal today.

In conclusion, I suggest, the profession of pharmacists should be re-evaluated. Strict regulations for the dispensing of POMs in accordance with international standards should be introduced. It is also important to limit the quantity of imported psychotropic drugs (controlled drugs) at minimum levels so as to prevent them from being misused and obtained illegally. Moreover, it is paramount to punish those who make business from illegal drugs. Additionally, the media should be used to promote community awareness and understanding of the health and social dangers of drugs. Furthermore, physicians should be admonished to limit the prescriptions of drugs and only use them for treating serious conditions. It is also necessary to provide ongoing training to pharmacists, physicians, and other health professionals on the optimal use and management of medicinal drugs. Additionally, it is good idea to incorporate information on drug related problems in the curriculum of schools and universities. Finally, these recommendations above require urgent actions at community level, regional government, and the federal government level to fight against drug abuse and drug misuse in our country.

Cut Your Coat According to Your Size

Rajab Noah
A Lecturer at University of Somalia (UNISO)
A Member of the Editorial Team
rajabnasrah93@gmail.com

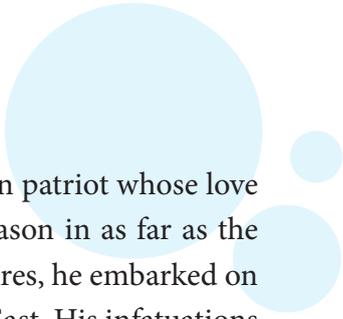


One of the biggest challenges faced while managing our homes during this post Covid-19 era and the seemingly never ending war in Ukraine is appropriate budgeting for our daily needs. This becomes an even taller order when the average extended family counts forty-five family members (i.e., husband, wife, ten children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, in-laws, and whoever else came along and decided to stay...). The head of such a large household is faced with the herculean task of making ends meet to pay for food, clothing, medical care, school fees, housing and other amenities like electricity and water. Therefore, the big question is: how high must the income be to be considered enough?

Most African nations—and probably many other developing nations elsewhere—may find themselves in situations not different from the one mentioned above. Even with the best financial experts at their disposal and the most flowery budget, many administrations have sunk to their knees, with hands on their heads, wondering why they find themselves before a committee in parliament, asking for supplementary funds to complete the remaining projects as stipulated in the budget, even though the first quarter of the year is barely over. What has gone wrong? Probably the answer is they made an underestimation of the budget in the first place without considering the limits of the resources at their disposal. Or probably they read too much from the script of financial aid that is often times, dangled before them by their financial lenders, while ignoring the fact that every aid package has many hidden strings attached.

What lessons do we, therefore, learn from this as an African country? It is prudent that we realize our potential in terms of resources so that we can finance our budget in one fiscal year with total disregard to speculations, estimates, and promises from our supposed financial experts or partners. It is also important to separate true economic sense from national feelings. It is true that many great African patriots have betrayed the robust economic conditions of their countries because of nationalism. Such a case is the former ruler of the Matabele kingdom in present-day Zimbabwe, Chief Lobengula Khumalo, who ruled from 1845 to 1894. Because of the love for his country and the plans he had for his country's modern development, he failed to utilize the vast mineral resources at his country's disposal and signed Matabele away to the European colonialists in what has gone down to history as the infamous Rudd Concession, an agreement that was meant to profit Matabeleland a great deal in terms of mineral fortune but instead facilitated its complete loss of independence.

Perhaps no better example of a story here would beat that of the Egyptian king, Khedive Ismael, who

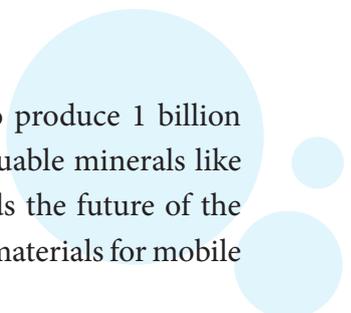


ruled Egypt from 1830 to 1895. Khedive Ismael's story is that of a true African patriot whose love and desire for the development of his country overwhelmed his sense of reason in as far as the potential of his country's resources was concerned. Remaining true to his desires, he embarked on a series of development projects that turned Cairo into a Paris of the Middle East. His infatuations with French culture and designs saw him building luxurious palaces, an opera house, modern streets, bridges, irrigation canals, and even erected a statue of Napoleon. His crowning achievement was the opening of the Suez Canal in 1866. By the time he was done with his developments, Egypt had sunk into a financial debt of 100 million pounds, nearly 15 billion pounds today. His excessive borrowing led to Egypt's loss of independence.

Today, we find ourselves confronted with the same harsh reality. Many of our beloved African leaders have been caught between a rock and a hard place. Our young and growing democracies have put the electorate at the forefront with their unrealistic demands. They are readily emptying the national coffers to finance impressive development projects in their areas. Consequently, infrastructures have mushroomed like standard gauge railways, flyovers, inland ports, hydroelectric projects, and super highways. However, they need to win the next election, and African leaders see no other choice but to visit IMF and the World Bank to secure financing for their projects back home. If one of them fails to satisfy their conditions, he is obliged to visit the Chinese under their China belt and road project. Our leaders would always enjoy the red carpet spread below their feet, followed by the ceremonial signing of bilateral agreements. It is therefore no wonder to find Chinese infrastructure mushrooming in almost every corner of the continent, be it new roads, flyovers, bridges, hydroelectricity dams, solar projects, mining, refinery, and many more. However, with every budget reading in the new fiscal year, a good percentage of the budget is quoted as money owed to our development partners, thanks to their high interest rates that keep on recurring. Even the African peasant at the bottom of the national economy feels the pinch...

Like the saying goes, he who pays the piper dictates the tune. The financial partners, after quenching our never-ending thirst of borrowing, will monitor our economy and tell us how to live our lives, which human rights to champion, and who are our partners. And again, Western powers will trample on our traditions and values this time around. They will introduce an array of new words like geopolitics, even when we have not fully digested globalization. Our world is running faster now, and artificial intelligence and the use of ChatGPT have become familiar even in our part of the world, thanks to our parasitic relationship with the West. We will have to see whether these technological innovations are going to drain our resources or guarantee our continued reliance on their aid.

Indeed, Africa is not a poor nor is it a dark continent, even though it has been portrayed as such for centuries, from the first European explorers to the last colonizers. According to the Al Jazeera article titled 'Mapping Africa's Natural Resources', nearly half the world's gold resources and one-



third of all minerals are found in Africa. In 2019, the continent managed to produce 1 billion tonnes of minerals worth 406 billion dollars. Another 90 percent of other valuable minerals like chromium and platinum are found in Africa. The African continent also holds the future of the electric vehicle industry and telecommunications because it is the home of raw materials for mobile phones components like tantalum, aluminum and zinc.

Lithium and cobalt, two important components for the manufacture of batteries needed to power electric vehicles, are also found in Africa. So one wonders why a rich continent like ours remains debt ridden.

As a result of the current geopolitical manifestations where countries are busy building new alliances, the African leaders are forging ways of remaining relevant—either to continue receiving financial aid or to seek markets for their raw materials. The trade in minerals, oil and gas has had a resultant effect of boosting our income and in order to protect such alliance and trade, military hardware will find their way into the developing countries to secure their newfound positions, thus shooting their expenditure up through the roof, a situation that has maintained donor dependence. Indeed, there is neither a magic wand nor a tree that would produce money on a silver platter.

We need to go back to the drawing board and physically establish the resources that can facilitate our budgets. The more we rely on easy money, the more we are compromised. That is the bitter lesson that our leaders need to learn to make our economies self-sustaining. In the words of Professor Patrick L.O Lumumba, “We are the third world not because the sun rises on the west and sets in the east but because we have engaged the reverse gear and we are moving with jetlike speed in the wrong direction. We must change this by rolling up our sleeves and working for the growth of our country”.

In a nutshell, a good tailor will trim your coat to appropriate size because he does not want to waste valuable material. The same way, a good economist should allocate optimum resources to cater for his budget. Spending beyond our budget is financial indiscipline, and the consequences will be dire. Our beloved continent upon which our entire wellbeing depends has been suffocated by neo colonialism, and we are yet to recover from this situation. We still suffer from the dependence syndrome...

Challenges in the Culture of Innovation among Somali Enterprises

Farah Mahmoud Ali
A Lecturer at University of Somalia (UNISO)
Email: haruure@gmail.com



Innovation is a critical factor for the accomplishment of any organization's financial and strategic goals. This is because it is an essential condition for responding to the changing needs and wants of customers as well as culture. For one to create an innovative culture in any enterprise or organization and make it successful, it requires four kinds of attitudes: the will to take risks by members of the organization, full participation and commitment, creativity, and the spirit of shared responsibility.

When we discuss innovation, the idea generation comes to mind as one of the most important aspects for running good enterprises. In his book *Principle of Marketing*, Phillip Kotler identifies sources of new product ideas and areas from where they can be obtained. The sources include internal, external, and crowd sourcing. Internal sources refer to the organization's own formal research development, management staff, and entrepreneurial programs. External sources refer to sources outside the organization such as customers, competitors, distributors, suppliers, and design firms. Lastly, crowd sourcing involves inviting broad communities of people—customers, employees, independent scientists, researchers, and even the public—into the new product innovation process. Culture innovation, however, has its own challenges. In Somalia, there is no legislation that protects the intellectual properties, or patent rights or ideas. If this legislation existed, it would protect companies from unfair competition; protect customers' rights as consumers and society from unfair business practice. It can also protect and keep the originality or copy right of the idea of the innovators. The absence of such regulations and general public policy on this matter has led to gross abuse of intellectual properties or ideas with competitors. Just by walking around on the streets, it is common to find start-ups infringing on the brand use of names, color schemes, logos of more popular organizations with decades of historical business success, thus leaving the well-established organizations with limited options of taking legal action.

National leaders have an essential role to play in the adoption and successful management of a culture of innovation. The leaders are perceived as creators of a working framework for sustainable innovation since they can manage uncertainty and insecurity in the country. They should play the role of empowering innovators in organizations as future explorers.

In Somalia, when we discuss democracy, we cannot ignore discussing the leadership style in state management. Our idea generation knows that the peoples' approach and activities can help them analyze and process their thoughts to think of new inventions, solutions or designs on matters of democracy.

Our leaders in Africa, particularly in Somalia, should not perceive and concentrate all national activities to only the head of state but should widen the scope to involve other stakeholders.

On innovation and efforts of employees and managers, Ahmad nur Jim 'ale, a Somali entrepreneur and business man said that “there are two types of employees and managers, Habil and Qabil”. Habil and Qabil were the two sons of Prophet Adam. Qabil killed his brother Habil. He means that among the employees and managers are innovators and destroyers. Effective employees and managers are innovators who fall victim to the destroyers.

Access to financial capital is one of the most serious problems that some of the organizations in Africa are facing. Somalia has faced thirty years of political turmoil, and ready access to financial capital is scarce. Innovation may rely on research or upgrading of technology and equipment, which needs serious financial investment. This has challenged both local and global business players in the country to maintain their enterprises.

According to the Africa-America Institute, “returns to investments in higher education in Africa are 21 percent—the highest in the world.” However, only around 5 or 6 percent of Africans are enrolled in higher education. African governments should do all they can to increase that number. Many jobs in important sectors in Africa have been taken over by better skilled and better qualified foreign nationals. Our ability to become innovators is limited by the low level of education and low level of skill and experience in jobs.

In conclusion, therefore, as much as innovation is important in laying down the foundation for the success of most business organizations, many factors come into consideration for its successful implementation, including the involvement of political players and good legislation. For Somalia, political turmoil retarded any development worth mentioning, and innovation of any kind was not spared either. However, most concerning is the lack of legislation that protects patent right of these wonderful ideas.



FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

- ☒ Department of Civil Engineering
- ☒ Department of Computer Science
- ☒ Department of Electrical Engineering

The Dangers of Selling Antibiotics without Prescription in Mogadishu

Hassan Ibrahim Ahmed
Lecturer, Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Somalia (UNISO)

Antibiotics to treat bacterial infections are widely used all across the world. Since Alexander Fleming discovered antibiotics in 1928, they have revolutionized modern medicine and saved millions of lives. However, dispensing antibiotics without prescription can have serious health consequences due to a resulting resistance to the antibiotic drugs. This means the bacteria in the body being targeted develops resistance to the drugs because of lack of proper dosage or poor administration of the treatment due to self-medication.

Another possible effect is its treatment failure. In the absence of a medical diagnosis, many biological factors concerning the patient's body have not been properly examined; for instance, pregnancy or allergy. And as a result, the body fails to respond to the treatment. There is also the issue of medication toxicity. This can be as a result of wrong administration of medicine, wrong dosage or type. The drug becomes poisonous to the body and can even cause death.

In Somalia, the unregulated sale of antibiotics without prescription has become an issue of great concern, posing a significant threat to public health. Many people have developed serious health complications due to self-medication. Drug addiction is another harmful side-effect of self-medication, which may also cause drowsiness, dry mouth or even stomach upset and may require hospitalization.

One of the primary reasons for antibiotics sold in Somali pharmacies without prescription is the lack of enforcement and regulation. The government is advised to work closely with healthcare professionals such as doctors and pharmacists to implement strict regulations on the sale of antibiotics. Medical experts have the necessary knowledge and experience to assess and prescribe the appropriate antibiotics for specific infections, ensuring responsible usage and reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance.

To effectively combat the uncontrolled sale of antibiotics without prescription, Somalia must establish and enforce stronger regulatory measures. Clear guidelines should be put in place, prohibiting the unregulated sale of antibiotics, and pharmacies should be made aware of the penalties for non-compliance. Additionally, the government should invest in public education campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of antibiotic misuse. These campaigns should educate the public about the importance of seeking professional medical advice and obtaining a prescription before purchasing antibiotics. Furthermore, healthcare professionals must receive additional training on prescribing antibiotics responsibly and disseminating accurate information to patients. Addressing the sales of antibiotics without prescription requires the collaboration among various stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, regulatory bodies, and international organizations. The Somali government

should seek assistance from international health organizations to develop and implement effective strategies for regulating antibiotic sales.

Over-the-counter availability of antibiotics to patients acts as a bypass to crucial safety measures designed to protect patients. Healthcare professionals need to assess a patient's medical history, allergies, and potential drug interactions before prescribing antibiotics. This comprehensive evaluation helps prevent adverse reactions and ensures that patients receive the most suitable treatment for their condition. Without this oversight, individuals may unwittingly put their health at risk by taking antibiotics that are potentially harmful due to pre-existing conditions or counter-effects of other medication.

To combat the alarming rise of antibiotic resistance, we must prioritize responsible antibiotic use. Strengthening regulations to restrict the sale of antibiotics without prescription can help achieve this goal. Implementing robust prescription-only policies would ensure that antibiotics are used judiciously, under the guidance of qualified healthcare professionals. It would also allow for proper monitoring, reducing the risks associated with self-medication, and providing an opportunity to educate patients about the appropriate use of antibiotics and the importance of completing the full course of treatment.

There should be widespread public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives. The public must be educated about the dangers of over-the-counter sale of antibiotics and promote alternatives such as seeking professional medical advice and practicing proper hygiene. Such awareness can empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health. Additionally, healthcare providers should take an active role in educating their patients, explaining the implications of antibiotic misuse and advocating for responsible medical treatment.

In conclusion, the unrestricted sales of antibiotics without prescription in Somali pharmacies pose a significant threat to public health. The emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a global concern that demands immediate action. By enforcing strict regulations, raising public awareness, and fostering collaboration among healthcare professionals, regulatory bodies, and international organizations, Somalia can take substantial strides towards combating the misuse of antibiotics. By doing so, the nation can protect its citizens, preserve the efficacy of antibiotics, and safeguard the future of healthcare. It is time to prioritize the well-being of society over short-term convenience, for the sake of our own health and the health of generations to come.



FACULTY OF SHAREA ISLAMIC STUDIES

- ☒ Department of AlFiqhu wa-usuuluhu
- ☒ Department of Islamic Studies
- ☒ Department of Sharea wal-qanun
- ☒ Department of Alkitab Wa Sunna

Mental Health Stigma and Its Impact in Somalia

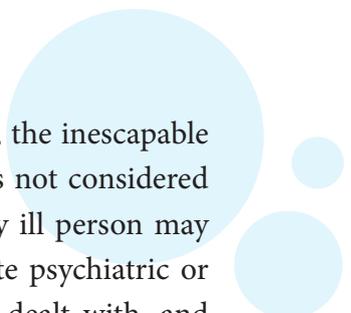
Ifrah Abdulle
ifrahabdalle923@gmail.com

Mental illness is a general term for a group of illnesses that includes symptoms that can affect a person's thinking, perception, mood, and behavior. Mental illness can make it difficult for someone to cope with work, relationships and other demands. A person with mental disorder may find it difficult to foster healthy relationships, engage in productive activities, adapt to changes in the environment, or cope with adversity.

On the other hand, mental health stigma is when someone feels labelled with a certain trait. For example, there is a public stigma where stereotypes are used to build perceptions of a mental health, such as the idea that anyone with schizophrenia has violent tendencies. Another example is perceived stigma. This is one of the main causes for mentally-ill persons not to seek treatment, as they wrongly believe that the people around them will treat them differently or have less respect for them. People with mental disorders may feel ashamed, worthless, or inferior to others and may thus try to hide their affliction instead of seeking professional help and support from their loved ones. Stigma can also lead to discrimination. Mental health is not well understood by most people, and they often discredit a mentally ill person's abilities or inadvertently put in place policies that discriminate against them. Discrimination in turn makes the mental illness worse. Especially in religious communities, people with depression may be regarded as people who lack faith. All these are examples of mental health stigma.

Mental illness has been common in our society since the outbreak of the civil war, but there has been little recognition of this fact. A study by the United Nations, Somalia's Health Ministry and Somali National University (SNU), found that 77 percent of Somalis suffer from mental disorders. Although there are many factors responsible for mental illness in Somalia, the main reasons have been the overall effects of armed conflict and lack of security and stability, which include insecurity, displacement, violence, trauma, poverty, unemployment, and substance abuse. However, despite the high number of people with mental health problems, there is still a lack of adequate mental health services, and the level of public awareness is low. Other challenges may include the fact that most people in our society do not believe in mental illness. They believe that only people who lack faith and do not observe religious practices are affected by mental illness.

Therefore, a Somali with mental illness cannot talk openly about their inner struggles. This is the reason why many people living with mental illness hide it for fear of being stigmatized and labelled as "crazy". However, this social isolation and lack of support causes people with mental disorders to



become social outcasts and aggravates their mental condition. In our culture, the inescapable perception of a mentally ill person is a person that is crazy. Mental illness is not considered a serious condition and deserving of professional help. Therefore, a mentally ill person may not consider hospitalization until they become too ill and require immediate psychiatric or biomedical healthcare assistance. However, mental health problems can be dealt with, and a timely intervention can reduce its negative impact on society. When mental disorders are diagnosed early, effective interventions can be conducted, which limit the extent of its harmful effect on the afflicted person and their family and make the condition more manageable.

To begin with, we can talk openly about mental health. A frank open discussion on mental health removes the barriers and can address the misconceptions and stigma attached to mental disorders. In turn, mentally ill people will feel encouraged to seek treatment early and do not wait until their disorder becomes unmanageable. Also, the caregivers of people with mental disorders do not have to bear the associative stigma attached to it and build better support networks.

The next step would be to educate yourself and others. One of the most important things that anyone can do when it comes to battling the stigma associated with mental illness is to take the time to find out more about mental health problems. Likewise, people should respond to misconceptions or negative comments by sharing facts and experiences. We have to be more conscious of the language we use when discussing mental health and avoid certain derogatory terms. This conscious change of behavior will help build a more positive culture.

Also, religion should not be used for shaming others and identify their faults. Certain religious practices should be part of our daily routine to stay focused and relaxed. For instance, people with mental problems can find peace when turning to Allah, engage in ritual worship, and ask for forgiveness. They should also stay connected with their loved ones and seek their company, rather than retreating from their family. Family members should seek information on mental health issues and learn about mental health, so that they can support others in making positive changes in their lifestyle, keep a healthy diet, and do regular physical exercise. However, professional assistance must be sought when necessary and should not be taken as a last resort when everything else fails. Mental illness should not be treated any differently than physical illness, and no one is ashamed to consult a doctor when they are ill. The same should become the norm when it comes to mental health. As mentioned in Sahih al-Bukhari, Allah has given humankind two gifts; leisure and good health. Every Muslim knows that our physical and mental health is a trust (amānah) from Allah, and we have to take good care of ourselves, so that we can return to Him in the best condition.

How to Empower Yourself by Developing Ownership Thinking and Belongingness at the Workplace

Abdullah Mohammad Sheikh
Secretary, Postgraduate Studies
A Lecturer at University of Somalia (UNISO)



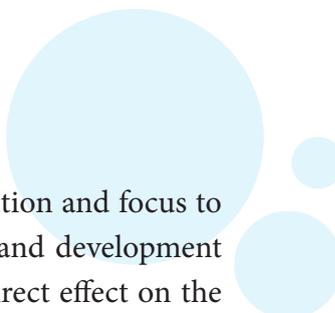
The modern workplace presents both challenges and opportunities for employees to grow, develop, and advance their careers. To take control of your professional development and achieve success in this environment it is necessary to develop a proactive mindset and cultivate skills such as ownership thinking and belongingness. These skills involve taking responsibility for your own career development and creating a sense of connection and purpose within your workplace.

The best way to predict your future is to create it by embracing the fact that employees can shape their own careers, set goals, and take steps to achieve them. Developing ownership thinking and belongingness not only benefits the individual but can also have a positive impact on the organization as a whole.

The contemporary work environment can be demanding and intense, thus making it crucial for workers to have a sense of ownership and belonging to their organization. One way to achieve this sense of investment and connection is through the development of the right mindset and attitude. So what exactly is ownership? Ownership refers to taking responsibility for one's actions and decisions in the workplace, which is characterized by a sense of autonomy and self-motivation. This may include taking initiative, being proactive in finding solutions to problems, and viewing work as an extension of oneself. For example, employees who come up with new ideas take on additional responsibilities or lead projects.

In the same way belongingness may refer to feeling like a valued member of a group or community within the workplace. This sense of connection and support can lead to a better work environment, improved mental and physical health, and better overall performance. Employees who foster a sense of belonging within their team feel supported by their colleagues, valued by their managers, and have a clear purpose in their work. They experience a strong connection to their organization and feel invested in their job. By developing an ownership-thinking mindset and belongingness individuals can positively impact their well-being and success in their workplace. The benefits of ownership thinking and belongingness may include the following:

Increased productivity and improved performance – The sense of ownership and belongingness has a direct effect on production and performance. This is because employees feel more attached to an organization and do not wish to disappoint their employer. They will do their work with increased commitment, which will lead to higher productivity and better performance. Stronger relationships at



Strong sense of purpose – Ownership thinking and belongingness give direction and focus to the employees. In this case, their focus will be geared towards the success and development of the organization. This is because the organizational success will have a direct effect on the welfare of the employees. Self-esteem and motivation – A growing and successful organization will nurture a sense of esteem and motivation in their employees. It is natural that anyone would want to be associated with a successful entity, whether as an employee or a client.

Personal Growth – When people develop a sense of ownership thinking and belongingness, chances are high that they will work wholeheartedly to see their organization grow. This will naturally have a ripple effect on the personal growth of the employees and create a win-win situation for all parties concerned. Improved physical and mental health – No sensible employee will want to work in a stressful environment seething with discrimination, poor working conditions, and injustice. Workers in such a negative working environment will suffer from physical and mental health. Therefore having a sense of ownership thinking and belongingness will improve the overall health of the workers.

Career advancement – Having a sense of ownership thinking and belongingness is part of positive thinking. Employees with a positive attitude will be more stimulated to advance their career because they enjoy what they are doing. The organization may also wish to give back to their employees by offering them scholarships and professional development training to improve their skills. Having looked at the benefits of ownership thinking and belongingness, the question is how to develop this kind of thinking. To develop ownership thinking and a sense of belonging, one needs to understand the business of the organization. This is a crucial step in developing an ownership mindset. This means having a clear understanding of how your role and actions contribute to the overall success of the company. In this way you can make informed decisions that align with the organization's goals and take ownership of your work.

In conclusion, working for an organization with full commitment comes as a result of developing a positive mindset. In other words, the task at hand will be as important to the employees as it is to their employer. However, until such mindset is developed in all employees, the positive effects of ownership thinking and belongingness will remain hypothetical and cannot contribute to the success and development of the organization.

East African Community (EAC) Membership: Assessing Somalia's Gains and Losses

Osman Abdulkadir Nor
osmannotary@gmail.com

Regional integration plays a crucial role in promoting economic development through fostering cooperation, trade, and investment among partner states. The East African Community (EAC) is one such regional bloc that aims to promote economic integration among its member states. Regional integration initiatives such as the EAC offer numerous benefits that contribute to the economic development of partner states. Although there are many benefits, only four key benefits will be discussed here.

First, regional integration facilitates the creation of larger markets by eliminating trade barriers and harmonizing trade regulations. This unlocks new opportunities for member states that can access a wider consumer base, thus leading to increased trade volume and greater efficiency. Second, regional integration enhances the attractiveness of partner states for foreign direct investment by offering a more integrated and seamless business environment. This enables member states to attract higher levels of investment, which can boost infrastructure development, technology transfer, and job creation. Third, by fostering competition within the regional market, integration drives productivity improvements and innovation among member states. This helps enhance their competitiveness globally and encourages the development of industries with comparative advantage. Lastly, regional integration initiatives often include collaborative efforts to improve infrastructure, such as transportation networks, energy grids, and telecommunications. Enhanced infrastructure connectivity promotes trade, reduces transaction costs, and facilitates regional economic integration.

At this point it is worthwhile to assess the potential gains and losses if Somalia joins the EAC. The gains would include better trade opportunities, more investment and infrastructure developments, easier transfer of skills, and freedom of movement. In terms of trade opportunities, Somalia would benefit from preferential access to the regional markets, providing a platform for increased trade and export diversification. This can stimulate economic growth and contribute to poverty reduction. Regarding investment and infrastructure development, EAC membership can attract foreign investment to Somalia, particularly in the agricultural, manufacturing, and services sectors. Additionally, participation in regional infrastructure development projects can address Somalia's infrastructure gaps and improve connectivity within the region.

Furthermore, integration with the EAC would offer opportunities for capacity building and knowledge exchange through sharing best practices, technical expertise, and training programs. This can contribute to human capital development and enhance Somalia's ability to participate in regional value chains. Finally, there is freedom of movement within the EAC as a common market facilitating mobility in



terms of labor, capital, goods and services. This freedom enables citizens of the member countries to enjoy the right to residence and work in a member state. Somalia will receive visa free travel to member states, which would give Somalis the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and health services within the bloc.

On the other hand, the potential losses of joining the EAC would include increased market competition, regulatory harmonization, potential trade imbalances, and spread of dangerous diseases. By joining the EAC, there will be increased competition. More established industries in EAC partner states may pose challenges to certain sectors in Somalia. It could require adjustments and adaptations to remain competitive within the regional market. Moreover, integration often involves aligning regulations and standards across member states. While this promotes efficiency, it may require Somalia to adapt and comply with new regulatory frameworks and initial implementation challenges.

Further losses of joining the bloc may be due to Somalia's trade imbalances within the EAC, thus resulting in an increased import dependency. It would require strategies to address these imbalances and ensure the protection of vulnerable sectors. Since the recent Covid-19 pandemic, there is an increased desire to prevent the spread of cross-border infectious diseases. Somali health regulations are weak, and the Somali people are very sociable and have large social networks. These factors would enable infectious diseases to spread rapidly, and the necessary precautions will have to be taken.

In summary, regional integration exemplified by the EAC plays a vital role in fostering economic development. The potential gains for Somalia joining the EAC include expanded trade opportunities, increased investment, infrastructure development, and knowledge transfer. However, challenges such as market competition and regulatory harmonization need to be carefully managed. If Somalia is able to leverage the benefits of regional integration while addressing the potential losses, it stands to gain significantly from its participation in the EAC.



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCE

- ☒ Department of Laboratory Science
- ☒ Department of Midwifery
- ☒ Department of Nursing and Midwifery
- ☒ Department of Nursing Science
- ☒ Department of Nutrition
- ☒ Department of Pharmacy
- ☒ Department of Public Health

Determinants of Housing Prices in Mogadishu, Somalia

Dr. Abdiaziz Ahmed Ibrahim
Assistant professor of economics
A Lecturer at University of Somalia (UNISO)
abdiaziz@uniso.edu.so
+252612224440



Accommodation and housing are considered fundamental human needs. To achieve this it is a civil obligation of every community to assist people in accessing adequate accommodation. However, the low-income communities living in Mogadishu are faced by ever-increasing rental prices, although there is much construction and investment in real estate. Mogadishu has been suffering from rising prices since 2010, and there seem to be no policies in place to curb this hike.

Being Somalia's capital city, Mogadishu is currently experiencing an unprecedented rate of urbanization, driven by the long period of peace and the influx of internally displaced people streaming into the capital from the outer areas suffering from draught and floods, and returnees from the neighboring countries, thus making the city one of the fastest growing cities in the world.



Mogadishu is in the process of re-establishing a functioning government that provides basic services to all residents, launching programs to improve urban services and involving the local communities in road construction. International donors and the Somali diaspora also support the ongoing reconstruction and development efforts. While these activities have undoubtedly improved the quality of life in the capital, urban planning experts have highlighted the urgent need to coordinate, control, and guide the numerous development projects.

Experts in the construction sector speak of an urban construction boom which has taken hold of Mogadishu and other crowded cities in the country. This housing and urban development boom has brought billions of dollars in revenues but also led to an unprecedented rise in real-estate prices, whether for sale or rent. Revenue from letting properties serves as the main source of income for many real estate developers and house owners. The attractive profits from letting properties have prompted many owners to convert their structures into rental apartments. Rent is becoming a major determinant for the place of residence. Though there are differences in inner-city rents, very little is documented about the factors that determine the rental prices of apartments, and inflated prices have become the norm in many popular parts of the city.



Determinants of Rent

The real estate market is a complex and challenging market environment. Each piece of property is a unique and multidimensional good differentiated into a bundle of attributes that vary in quantity and quality. Economists believe that the rent price is determined by demand and supply. Supply and demand impact the housing market as it impacts the price of goods and services. Each housing transaction has a buyer and a seller, which means a high or low supply of properties, can drive the housing market prices up or down.

Demand-Side factors

1. **Affordability** – Rising incomes mean that people are able to afford to spend more on housing. During periods of economic growth, demand for houses tends to rise. Also, the demand for housing is like the demand for luxury goods, which means that a rise in income leads to an equal rise in demand. The economists have identified a positive relationship between income and housing prices. This suggests that an increase in income give incentives to landlords to take advantage of the increased purchasing power of tenants and increase house prices and rents.
2. **Confidence**–Demand for houses depends on consumer confidence. In particular, it depends on people’s confidence about the future of the economy and housing market. If people expect prices to rise, the demand will also rise, so that people can profit from the increased wealth.
3. **Population** –This factor has a positive relationship with housing prices. Increases in population lead to excess demand for accommodation in the short run and cause a price hike. Also, the location of an apartment can have a significant impact on the level of rent that a household is likely to pay.

Factors Affecting Supply

1. The profitability of building new houses depends on the demand for houses and prices. In a period of boom builders are usually keener to build more houses, while plummeting house prices can lead to a restriction in supply.
2. The cost of building materials and labor costs have taken a leap in the real estate sector, following rising inflation and exchange rates. This has raised fears among prospective builders of even harsher times ahead, and the prices of essential building components like sand, blocks, roofing sheets, tiles, paints and wood have increased over the past ten years.

However, the mainstream assumption that rent is solely determined by supply and demand seems rather incomplete. Considering the sociological aspect, rents within any particular area are set by landlords whose decisions are shaped by a variety of social and economic factors. So, setting policies for the provision of housing facilities for households in low-income neighborhoods is becoming increasingly important. In a nation like Somalia which has a percentage of low-income level households, it is important to have such policies that ensure that as many people as possible have access to affordable housing.



UNISO

Spectrum

October 2023

Strategies for Overcoming Procrastination among College Students

Abdul Hadi Mursal
mohammad.nation@gmail.com

The term 'procrastination' means the action of delaying or postponing something. It should not be confused with being lazy. In fact, procrastination and laziness are two entirely different concepts. Procrastination means delaying tasks unnecessarily, while laziness involves being reluctant to exert necessary effort. Therefore, it is possible to procrastinate even when you are not lazy.

Procrastination remains a prevalent challenge among college students, adversely affecting their academic performance and elevating their stress levels. This article explores the psychology underpinning procrastination and presents evidence-based strategies for overcoming this mental habit, with the aim of improving academic success and well-being of college students and their life in general. In many cases, college students have the tendency to putting off studying for an important exam until the last minute, even when they promised themselves to start revising early. Unsurprisingly, the end result is a disappointing low mark or grade.

Nearly all humans procrastinate at one time or another, but some individuals delay the inevitable more often and for much longer than others. Persistent procrastination can lead to stress and lower performance. Research shows that intentional stalling may not always be bad because sometimes delaying a deadline may render a positive result as it leaves more time for the mind to reflect and mull things over. In fact, history has preserved some of the most famous procrastinators who include: Frank Lloyd Wright, the illustrious American architect who designed his most famous building at the age of 67, taking only two hours in total. Dalai Lama was not always the spiritual leader we know today. Before becoming the Dalai Lama, he was just a bored student who struggled to find his motivation. Leonardo Da Vinci, the Renaissance genius who created some of the most famous pieces of Western art. Despite his accomplishments, he only finished 20 paintings in his lifetime, one of which was the much-cherished Mona Lisa painting which took him 16 years to complete. If it was not for the habit of procrastination, he would have finished hundreds of paintings. Other famous procrastinators include Victor Hugo, the author of the famous Hunchback of Notre Dame, and Bill Clinton, the former US president.

College students frequently grapple with a demanding schedule, rigorous study requirements, and high expectations. Such high demand result to procrastination or postponing essential tasks that can be detrimental to their academic success. Procrastination is a psychological factor that needs to be properly understood before it can be addressed effectively. It is a common belief that anxiety and fear of failure can drive procrastination, since students tend to avoid tasks they perceive as challenging or unpleasant. Acknowledging and recognizing these emotions represents the first step in overcoming procrastination. The following are strategies that can help in combating procrastination among college students:



In the case of writing research, tasks can be broken down into smaller segments and transformed into more manageable sub-tasks. For example, a comprehensive research paper can be divided into smaller tasks, such as researching and outlining individual sections. This approach can render the overall project less daunting and more feasible. Also, the student can set specific, attainable goals by replacing vague goals like ‘study more’ with more precise objectives, such as studying for one hour daily or completing a designated number of practice problems. Concrete goals facilitate sustained motivation and progress. Students can further eliminate potential distractions during study sessions by disabling phone or social media notifications and seek a quiet study environment or utilize noise-cancelling headphones. Reducing distractions enhances focus and productivity.

Another successful strategy is to employ positive self-talk by reframing negative thoughts into more constructive, positive statements. Instead of thinking, “I’m not good at anatomy,” the student can adopt a growth mindset by saying, “I may not excel at anatomy yet, but I’m working diligently and making progress.” Students should also prioritize physical and mental well-being by completing their daily prayers on time, get adequate sleep, maintain a balanced diet, and allocate time for exercise and relaxation. Neglecting physical and mental health impairs motivation and focus, thus hampering goal attainment. Students can also use apps to implement the above strategies. Mobile devices can be a potent source of distraction but they can also help improve focus and productivity. Some of the best anti-procrastination apps include Freedom, Momentum Dash, Forest, Rescue Time, 1-3-5 List, AppDetox, Think Up, and Stay Focused. These apps can help students to stay focused by gamifying productivity, blocking access to devices, and providing insightful feedback on their daily mobile usage.

In conclusion, procrastination constitutes a significant obstacle for many students. However, by acknowledging anxiety or fear, subdividing tasks, setting specific goals, reducing distractions, utilizing positive self-talk, and prioritizing physical and mental health, students can surmount procrastination and achieve success in their studies. Overcoming procrastination requires practice and persistence but implementing these strategies and remaining committed to personal goals can lead to remarkable accomplishments in both academic and professional endeavors.

Real Estate Sector in Mogadishu: Opportunities and Challenges

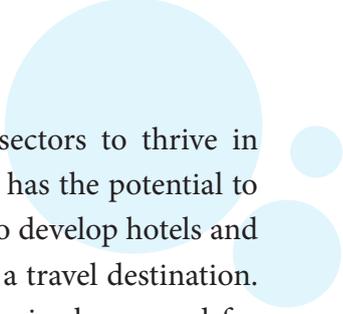
Said Abdi Mohamud
Dean, Faculty of Management and
Economics
University of Somalia (UNISO)

Since early 2012, the security situation in Mogadishu has continuously improved, thus facilitating the return of Somalia's displaced families. Therefore, there has been significant growth in the real estate sector in the form of residential and commercial projects in the city, due to the relative peace and stability being enjoyed in the region. The demand for housing and commercial properties has increased, and the property prices have skyrocketed. The most popular areas that have experienced real estate investments in Mogadishu are Darussalam and parts of the central business districts like Hodan, Wabari, Wadajir, Hawlwadaag, Hamarweyne and their exclusive neighborhoods and suburbs. Local investors and returning Somalis are the key players in the real estate market. However, there are significant challenges that need to be addressed to encourage further growth and investment in this sector:

There are six main challenges that block growth in the local real estate sector. First, for fear of public safety, there are still some areas that are too dangerous for the civilian population. Second, land ownership and management is another challenging issue. Rampant land disputes and lack of clear property rights continue to hamper the development of this otherwise vibrant sector. The absence of a comprehensive land administration system is making it difficult for investors to acquire and develop land, thus leading to challenges in real estate transactions. Third, corruption is worsened by the lack of a proper land registry system and a transparent legal framework. In addition, the infrastructural lay-out of Mogadishu City is still wanting. There is a serious need to revamp basic amenities such as roads, reliable water, and electricity supply. There is also an urgent need for proper sewerage systems to complement the development of real estate. Fourth, there is also a lack of policy and legal frameworks related to land use, construction standards, and property rights that are essential for the real estate sector to function effectively. Lastly, the lack of established financial institutions and limited availability of investment loans are constraining real estate development and investment.

Yet despite the challenges mentioned above, the real estate industry in Mogadishu is gradually improving and offers unique opportunities for real estate investors in Mogadishu.

To begin with, the real estate boom is a good sign that there is plenty of room for growth and high returns on investments, thus encouraging investor confidence in this sector. Furthermore, the gradual restoration of peace and security is triggering hope among the population. The return of many Somalis to their home town Mogadishu is a true testimony to this promising development and return to normality. This steady influx of residents adds to the local population numbers and increased urbanization, and the increased demand for residential housing plays into the hands of able real estate



In addition, the real estate boom has opened up opportunities for other sectors to thrive in Mogadishu, such as tourism, hospitality, commerce, and industry. Mogadishu has the potential to become a global tourist and holiday destination. There is, therefore, the need to develop hotels and other related infrastructure to capitalize on the growing interest in the city as a travel destination. Moreover, as businesses continue to emerge and expand in Mogadishu, there is also a need for more office spaces, retail shops, shopping malls, and special commercial zones. Lastly, industrial and logistics facilities are a necessity due to Mogadishu's growing economy and increased trade activities. Industrial and logistics facilities such as warehouses, inland depots, import and export zones, and modern customs facilities are needed to facilitate the many opportunities found in this sector.

Mogadishu offers significant real estate development opportunities in housing, tourism, hospitality, commerce, and industry. On the other hand, the city faces many challenges that prevent it from realizing its full potential, like poor urban planning, corruption in the land office, land ownership disputes, no go zones. To address the challenges I recommend that policy initiatives should be considered; for example in the form of security enhancement, infrastructural development, land administration and property rights, policy and framework reforms, financial access and support.

The Contemporary Legal Crisis in Somalia

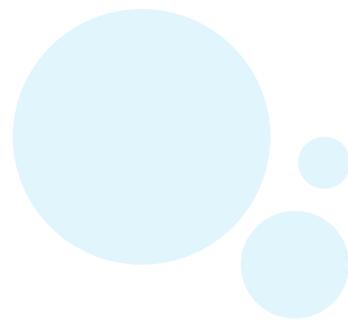
Dr. Osman Mohamed Ismail
Lecturer, Postgraduate Studies
University of Somalia (UNISO)

Before the arrival of colonial powers in the Somali territories, the Somali people were Muslims who proudly practiced Islamic Shari'a. In-house conflicts and other contentious issues were settled based on the Islamic law interpreted by Muslim Fuqaha (jurists). In addition to that, there was the traditional contract law which supplemented the Shari'a, where communities settled their own issues through established rules. Prior to the formation of Somali republic, the North West regions—then called British Somaliland—inherited their legal system in the form of English common law, whereas the Italian part of Somaliland inherited its legal system known as civil law from Italy. The Italian Somaliland seemed to be more organized than the British Somaliland, and the Italian colony made significant strides to build an effective infrastructure including government facilities within the period of trusteeship, unlike Britain which bungled in the way of extending the capacity of public institutions.

When the two Somalilands united to form the independent Somali Republic, the differences between the two legal systems came to the fore, as anticipated. A constitutional referendum abolished the common law, and the newly born republic adopted the civil law. The Islamic Shari'a law and the Somali customary law have had a significant influence on the country's legal structure. However, after the unification, Somalia put the civil law system into full effect.

After the collapse of the central government in 1991, thousands of Somali citizens fled to other parts of the world, notably to the neighboring countries and to the West, in search of better livelihood, security, and education. Among the countries that the Somalis migrated to were Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Britain, Australia, USA, Canada and Pakistan, all of which used to be British colonies and derived their own legal system from the British common law.

The basic distinction between the two legal systems is that common law nations prioritize published judicial decisions as case law, whereas civil law systems prioritize codified statutes. These distinctions, however, are not as sharp as they may appear. In actuality, many nations combine elements of their common law and civil law systems, and their differences can be easily grasped on their historical basis. In nations with civil law, judges are frequently referred to as “investigators.” In most cases, they take the initiative in the procedures by filing accusations, establishing the facts through witness cross-examination, and implementing the legal codes. In civil processes, attorneys still represent their clients' interests; however, they play a less important role. Similar to the common law system, attorneys advise their clients on legal issues and draft pleadings to be submitted to the court. When compared to a common law system, the significance of oral argument, in-court presentations, and active lawyering in court is diminished. Additionally, non-litigation legal tasks like drafting contracts and wills can be delegated to quasi-legal experts who work with both enterprises and private clients.



In contrast, in the common law setting attorneys present their cases to the judge—and occasionally to the jury—and question witnesses in person. The actions are subsequently “refereed” by the court which can create an appropriate remedy at the end of the case. In these situations, attorneys participate actively in court proceedings when arguing their clients’ positions on issues of law and fact. In common law countries like the USA it is forbidden for anybody other than a fully certified lawyer to prepare any form of legal documents on behalf of another person or corporation. Further, the countries following a common law legal system have separate rules of evidence or a separate code of evidence law, while those with continental systems do not have a separate code of evidence law.

Thus, the problem that arises is that most legal professionals in the country focus on common law. And, their students have been trained to practice in the common law system, rather than the civil law system. At the academic level, local universities use textbooks that are written by common law jurists, and the law graduates prepare new laws that are passed by the parliament. As a result, our provisional constitution has all the hallmarks of a common law system. Thus, being stuck between these two systems sparked confusion on the legal foundation built on the laws of the land and as the source of legal practice.

Subsequently, this uncertainty can result in a legal crisis which can be avoided if the public and educational institutions and the government can agree on a practicable legal system that is acceptable to all. Given the deep division that our country is facing in terms of the systems of law, a systematic review is required to decide which route to adopt in the future. Notably, a group of legal experts should be appointed to prepare a comprehensive tertiary education curriculum that is based on the chosen system that is in line with the legal requirements, and to establish new certification institutes for licensed graduates who wish to practice law in Somalia.





FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND HUMANITIES

- ☒ Department of Biology and Chemistry
- ☒ Department of History and Geography
- ☒ Department of International Relations and Diplomacy
- ☒ Department of Law
- ☒ Department of Math and Physics
- ☒ Department of Political Science
- ☒ Department of Public Administration
- ☒ Department of Social Science
- ☒ Department of Arabic Language and Literature
- ☒ Department of Social Work

Success in Organizational Fairness: Is it a Worthy Concept for SOMALIA?

Mohammad Ali Mohamed
Dean, Faculty of Education and Humanities
University of Somalia (UNISO)

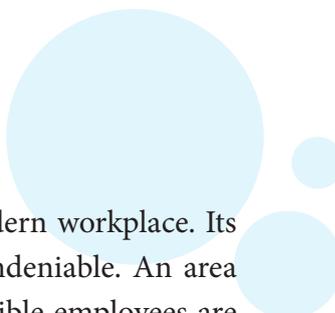


In Somalia's rapidly evolving and competitive institutional landscape, creating a fair and just work environment is not only a moral responsibility but also a strategic advantage for organizations. Organizational fairness, encompassing unbiased decision-making, equitable treatment, and consistent policies, has far-reaching impacts on employee well-being, job satisfaction, and overall organizational success. In this opinion article, I will examine the positive impact of organizational fairness on employees and why it should be prioritized.

To begin with, organizational fairness acts as a cornerstone for cultivating robust job satisfaction among employees. When employees feel that they are treated fairly, regardless of their background or position, their overall job satisfaction levels increase. Fair practices in terms of promotion, pay, and recognition ensure that employees perceive equality and impartiality in the way they are treated, thus contributing to their sense of fulfillment and contentment in their respective roles. Moreover, organizational fairness serves as a powerful driver of employee engagement. When individuals feel that their contributions are valued, that their opinions are heard, and that they have equal opportunities for growth and advancement, they are more likely to invest in their work. Engaged employees are more motivated; more committed, and go the extra mile to achieve organizational goals, which leads to increased productivity and performance.

Fair treatment also influences the level of trust employees place in their organization. When employees experience consistent fairness in decision-making and policies, they have more trust in their management. Trust forms the foundation of positive employee-employer relationships and promotes open communication, collaboration, and a sense of belonging. The resulting loyalty towards the organization fuels higher retention rates and reduces turnover, thus saving the organization precious time and resources.

In contrast, a lack of organizational fairness can have a detrimental effect on employees and the broader work environment. Unfair practices breed resentment, fuel toxic sentiments, and erode employee motivation. They may also lead to conflicts, lower productivity, and increased absenteeism and turnover. The most rampant example of organizational unfairness in Somalia is the practice of nepotism, where more qualified personnel are frequently overlooked in favor



Organizational fairness is not a mere ideal but a necessity for a thriving modern workplace. Its impact on employee well-being, satisfaction, engagement, and loyalty are undeniable. An area of contention in Somalia is the lack of fair criteria for promotion. Often eligible employees are not informed of vacant positions in their own organization and lose the chance to submit their application. By actively cultivating a fair work environment organizations demonstrate their commitment to ethical conduct and lay the groundwork for sustained success. It is incumbent upon organizational leaders to drive fairness, as it not only benefits employees but also creates a positive culture that permeates all aspects of the organization. In an increasingly interconnected and conscientious world, embracing organizational fairness is not just the right thing to do but a wise investment into building a thriving workforce and establish an enduring reputation.

To ensure these impacts, organizations should strive to apply fairness in areas such as hiring, promotions, performance appraisals, compensation, and addressing grievances. By creating and maintaining a fair work environment, organizations can establish a strong foundation for employee satisfaction, engagement, and productivity. The challenge that many local organizations face in respect to their employees is the inability to differentiate between financial motivation and fairness in their organizational set-up. Financial motivation involves motivating employees with money and benefits. The main method of financial motivation used in organizations or business entities is remuneration, bonuses, commission, promotion, and fringe benefits.

However, organizational fairness can be equally regarded as justice in a workplace. This perception can lead to trust, mutual respect, and honesty. Therefore, the two concepts fairness and financial motivation vary. Fairness can broadly be applied vertically and horizontally at all levels in the organization, while financial motivation achieved through a blanket increment of salary for all workers.

In conclusion, the success of an organization can be attributed to the application of fairness. Once this concept is rightly perceived by all employees, it can nurture harmony, trust, diligence, and a sense of belonging—all attributes of success. This success will then go a long way in promoting welfare and staff development, the two keywords that best define motivation.

Skill Development Strategies in Higher Education

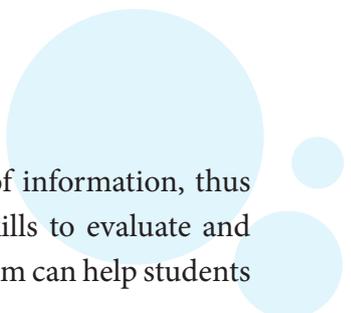
Eng. Hamse Mohammed Abdi
Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
University of Somalia (UNISO)
hamse.abdi@uniso.edu.so



Skill development is an essential aspect of higher education, as it prepares students for their future careers and equips them with the necessary competencies to succeed in their chosen fields. To enhance skill development in higher education, several strategies can be implemented, such as project-based learning, internship programs, and incorporating technology into the curriculum.

Project-based learning is an important approach in higher education, which emphasizes active and experiential learning through completing real-world projects. Research shows that project-based learning can help students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication skills, in addition to enhancing their creativity and innovation. Project-based learning has been shown to have a positive impact on skills development, as it allows students to apply theoretical concepts to real-world situations and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. To implement project-based learning course instructors divide students into groups and assign each group a unique course project with 30% or 40% of the course assessment marks. As a senior lecturer at the university, I had the opportunity to observe the best strategies for students' skill development and found that project-based learning encourages students to take ownership of their learning and develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter through hands-on and experiential activities.

Internships and cooperative programs are another effective strategy for skills development in higher education. These programs provide students with hands-on experience in their chosen field and allow them to apply their knowledge and skills in a real-world setting. A study found that internships can improve students' job readiness and career development as well as their sense of career identity. Students who do not participate in internships often find that there is a discrepancy between what they are expected to do at work and what they have learned at university. Internships are, therefore, a key link to help prospective employees prepare themselves for their future careers. Additionally, incorporating technology into the curriculum can greatly enhance skills development among students. Below are outlined the ways in which technology can be used to foster skill development. Communication and collaboration – Technology enables students to connect and collaborate with peers and experts from around the world. Through video conferencing and online forums, students can enhance their communication and teamwork skills which are vital in the modern workforce. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, more people are applying for distance working jobs, and with the limited face-to-face interaction more communication and



collaboration technologies are utilized. The internet provides a vast amount of information, thus making it necessary for students to develop critical thinking and research skills to evaluate and analyze sources. Incorporating technology tools and resources into the curriculum can help students to become more proficient in effective research techniques.

Creativity and innovation – Technology tools such as multimedia creation software and coding platforms can empower students to express their ideas creatively. By utilizing these tools students can develop problem-solving skills, enhance their critical thinking, and approach tasks with innovative solutions. Technology integration with real-world application– This approach allows students to apply their skills in practical real-world scenarios. For example, simulations or augmented reality experiences can provide hands-on learning opportunities that align with specific subjects and help students understand complex concepts. Technology enables personalized learning experiences where students can progress at their own pace and have tailored content and resources based on their individual needs and preferences. Adaptive learning platforms and online tutorials can help students strengthen specific skills and overcome challenges. By integrating technology into the curriculum, educators can create an engaging and dynamic learning environment that fosters skill development in various domains, thereby setting students up for success in the digital era.

In conclusion, skills development strategies such as project-based learning, internship programs, and incorporating technology each have their respective benefits, and they all play a specific role in education. Technology should be incorporated throughout from the start. Project-based learning is used most effectively when students have built the necessary foundational knowledge. Last, internships are best used in the final year to give students a running start into employment upon graduation. Therefore, project-based learning, internship programs, and incorporating technology into the curriculum are essential for higher educational institutions to equip students with the required skills to succeed in their chosen fields.

The Crisis of Collapsing Buildings in Mogadishu

Eng: Ali Araye, MSc
Caraye12@gmail.com

Mogadishu, the capital city of Somalia, is grappling with a disconcerting predicament: the collapse of newly constructed buildings. Among these disheartening incidents, the most recent one involved a nine-story structure near Bakaara Market, resulting in the tragic loss of four lives. While it is essential to scrutinize the technical aspects of these failures, I shall delve into the underlying causes and leave the technical aspects aside. The primary focus will be on elucidating the key factors contributing to these structural failures, including the lack of regulation from local authorities, the absence of standardized practices, the competence of engineers, and the insufficient awareness of clients.

The first and foremost contributor to the alarming trend of building collapses in Mogadishu is the glaring absence of effective regulation and oversight from local authorities. It is evident that many local authorities focus on collecting the permission fees for construction projects, rather than ensuring the safety and integrity of these structures. However, this lax approach to regulation has severe repercussions. In the absence of stringent building codes and regulations, developers and contractors are emboldened to cut corners, thus compromising safety for the sake of cost reduction and expeditious construction. Such practices give rise to the use of substandard materials, lack of quality control, and inadequate structural design. Consequently, this unfettered approach significantly increases the risk of building failures. For the sake of public safety, local authorities must shift their focus from short-term financial gains to the long-term well-being of their citizens by implementing and enforcing regulations that prioritize structural integrity.

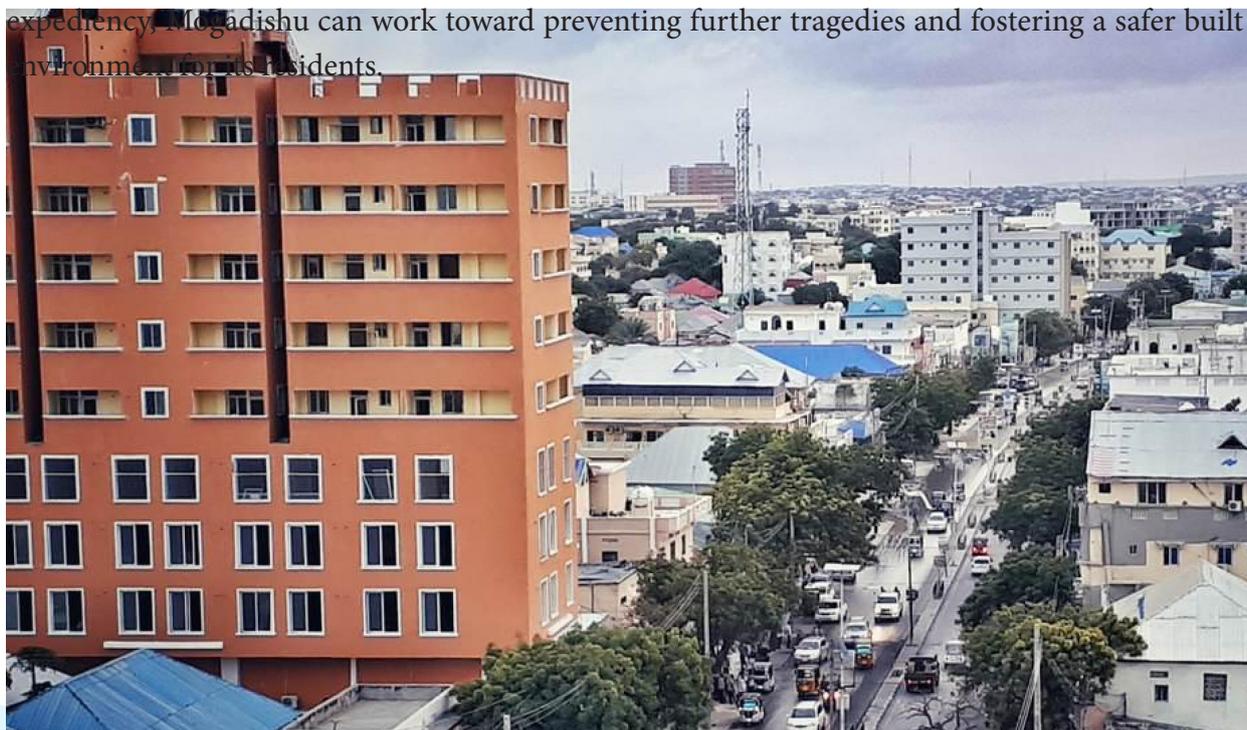
A closely intertwined issue exacerbating the problem is the dearth of national standard practices for structural design and construction in Somalia. Developed nations rely on well-established building codes and engineering standards that provide a blueprint for safe and durable structures. However, Somalia lacks such comprehensive guidelines and standards, which leads to fragmented and inconsistent construction practices. In the absence of a unified framework, each construction project resorts to ad hoc methods and individual judgment, often leading to structural inadequacies. The absence of national standards significantly increases the likelihood of structural failures.

To tackle this issue effectively, Somalia must undertake the task of developing and implementing standardized building codes and practices that are mandatory for all engineers and contractors. The competence of engineers and construction professionals is another pivotal factor in ensuring the safety of buildings. In Mogadishu, a troubling trend has emerged where engineers secure

projects not based on their qualifications and competence but through personal connections and nepotism. This reprehensible practice undermines the integrity of the construction industry and poses an imminent threat to public safety. Engineers who lack the necessary knowledge and skills to perform proper structural analysis and design often make critical errors, thus resulting in structural weaknesses that compromise the stability of the building. To rectify this issue, it is imperative for the industry to establish stringent certification and licensing requirements, ensuring that only qualified professionals are entrusted with construction projects.

Clients, too, play a critical role in the construction process. Often motivated by cost considerations and a lack of awareness regarding engineering complexities, they inadvertently contribute to the crisis. Clients in Mogadishu commonly rely on recommendations from friends or relatives when selecting engineers and contractors, rather than seeking professional consultancy advice. This lack of awareness can have devastating consequences. Clients who do not fully comprehend the intricacies of structural design and construction may be swayed by lower bids and promises of quick project completion, thus unwittingly opting for shortcuts that lead to substandard work and structural deficiencies. Raising awareness among clients about the importance of hiring qualified professionals, conducting due diligence, and prioritizing safety over cost savings is crucial.

In conclusion, the recurring collapses of newly built structures in Mogadishu represent a grave threat to public safety and the city's overall development. To address this multifaceted crisis, a comprehensive and coordinated effort is indispensable. This entails stringent regulation and oversight by local authorities, the establishment of national standards, the enforcement of engineer competence, and client education. By implementing these measures and prioritizing safety over expediency, Mogadishu can work toward preventing further tragedies and fostering a safer built environment for its residents.



The Need for Foreign Aid to Sustain Educational Development in Somalia

Mohamed Garad Hassan
mohamedgarad13@gmail.com

In today's world, low-income countries often receive economic supports either directly from high income countries or through international organizations such as IMF and World Bank. The rationale for such supports is that low-income countries (or developing countries) face frequent socio-economic insufficiencies including poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, lack of human capital, trade deficit, and environmental degradation and that necessitates the need for support provisions to these countries. These types of economic support, which are often in the form of in-kind cash or loan, normally go to the supported governments' treasury accounts. The most important part of this foreign aid is assigned to education to subsidize the financial shortfall in education that families and the government cannot cover.

Families spent more money on education than the government. In 2017, families spent \$24 million on education, roughly seven times as much as the government did, according to the High-Frequency Survey of 2017. Given that housing and food are the two main expenses for households, this still constituted less than 1% of total consumption. Most of a household's educational expenses is in the form of tuition and books. Depending on socioeconomic class and place of residence, households pay, on average, \$28 yearly per child attending school. There are far more public schools than private institutions, and teachers in public institutions are paid much less than their counterparts. This is further evidence that funding for public institutions comes from household expenditures and the public by themselves cannot sustain a good quality of education.

In addition to households, development partners play a significant role in education investment. In 2020, they spent more than \$19 million on education directly surpassing government spending. Development partner spending was concentrated in the Somali States of Jubbaland and Southwest, which accounted for two-thirds of all off-budget help. Development partners' off-budget spending on capital investments is higher than the amount provided by the government. Much of the capital expenditures by the government go towards building and renovating schools. Partners' expenditure appears to be in line with the priority of expanding school infrastructure, with specific investment observed in the construction of additional classrooms. Developmental partners are subsidizing the government's education budget, whose funding has been reduced because of budget cuts.

Two reasons push Somalia for seeking economic support from developed countries. First, Somalia cannot receive loans from IMF, World Bank, and commercial banks. Somalia has accumulated a debt of about 5.2 billion USD, which has been outstanding for almost four decades. That debt prevented Somalia from applying for a new loan. Also commercial banks and the public will not



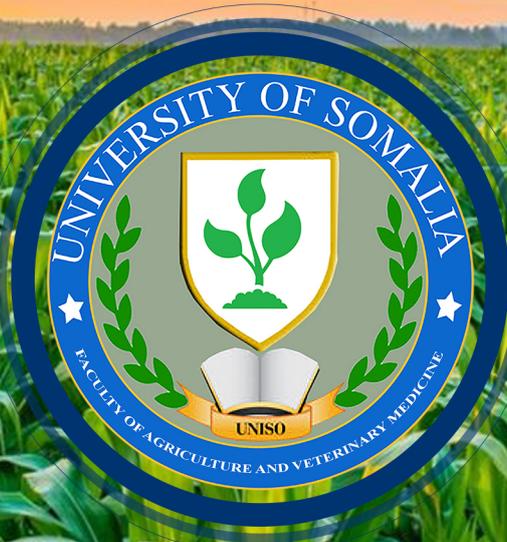
provide loans due to perceived low trust and confidence in Somalia's ability to repay the loan. Second, Somalia needs these foreign resources to reduce its savings investment and import-export gaps. Thereby this foreign aid given by developed nations to Somalia plays a vital part in financially supporting the growth and development of Somalia.

In addition to these two reasons, Somalia has served as an endless pit for financial initiatives led by numerous international donors and monetary organizations for the last 30 years due to the limited physical infrastructure, financial resources, human capital, technological advancement, political commitment, and macroeconomic stability in the nation. For example, despite their efforts in enacting policies to improve and facilitate education, literacy rates remain low. Still, it is expected that such support to Somalia will continue and eventually impact positively on education.

This is because education is a key sector for Somalia's socio-economic development. The recent move by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia to recruit 3,000 new teachers is a good example of how Somalia is taking advantage of the foreign aid, underlining the need for many similar moves. Policymakers should agree that education is crucial to bettering livelihoods and improving economic stability in developing countries. Researchers have found that investments in education lead to higher incomes, economic stability, and better health, among other development outcomes. Thereby it is commendable the efforts made by the government to invest in the training of more teachers, but more needs to be done.

Even though there was little improvement in education, the amount of foreign aid was significantly increased to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as both education and health are considered a priority according to the SDGs. This high position on SDGs represents the importance of education for human resource development and sustainable socio-economic growth in all societies of the world including Somalia. However, we cannot ignore the arguments of some economists that foreign aid is not always beneficial for developing countries, but instead may cause aid dependency, corruption and bad economic management in recipient countries.

Finally, both donors and the recipient nation may share responsibilities for increasing the efficiency and efficacy of foreign aid in the field of education. Donor's ought to let the recipient governments create and develop their own programs and initiatives. More funds should be allocated towards facilitating primary education through infrastructural development so as to promote an adequate educational environment. This may also uplift the standard of schools and their administration by supplying educational materials, lowering tuitions, improved staff remuneration and training. In addition, donors should also develop a system of accountability and transparency to lessen the possibility that aid may be misused or diverted to other areas by the Somali government.



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY

- ☒ Department of Agriculture
- ☒ Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry
- ☒ Department of Agribusiness
- ☒ Department of Environment

The Role of Livestock Farming in Somalia's Economy: Challenges and the Way Forward

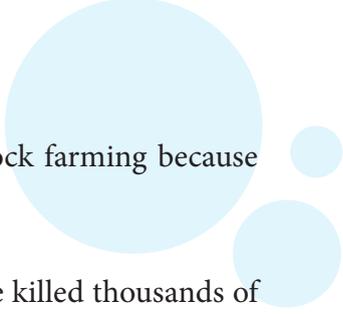
Dr. Mohamed Ali Yusuf
Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Science
University of Somalia (UNISO)
E-mail: m.aliyusuf@uniso.edu.so



In Somalia, livestock is the backbone and source of income for the rural and urban population. It plays a significant role in food and financial security, employment and livelihood. From time immemorial, a large portion of the rural population has depended on livestock keeping, supported by their wandering way of life, looking for pasture and water for the animals. Among the animals kept were camels, goats, sheep, and cows. In terms of trade, Somalia used to trade with the Middle East, exporting frankincense and myrrh. Following the country's assertion of independence, the successive governments encouraged the agriculture, livestock, and fishing sectors. At one time, the livestock sector was the second most productive sector after agriculture in Somalia. However, after the collapse of the central government, remittances from the Somali diaspora bolstered the national economy as the second most important source of income. Today, the only sector that operates at a surplus is the livestock sector.

Livestock contributes to forty percent of Somalia's GDP and 80 percent of its currency earnings. Regarding the supply chain from farmer to consumer—including brokers, truck drivers, security guards, veterinarians, loaders, abattoir workers, butchers, meat sellers, and meat exporters—Somalia's economy derived from livestock reaches most households in the community. The local livestock is exported to the Middle East, where Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates are its top three markets. These countries rely heavily on Somalia's livestock comprising camels, small ruminants, and cattle. Goats and sheep are the two species that dominate our livestock exports. Although Somalia is not entirely reliant on these exports, it does depend on it for a large portion of its subsistence needs. Milk, meat, hide, fur, and skin are some of the livestock products.

Despite Somalia's dependence on the livestock sector, it faces numerous challenges, such as foreign aid, recurrent droughts, climate change, deforestation, urbanization, disease outbreaks, and a lack of veterinary services. These issues have had an indirect impact on the country's economy as they have negatively affected the livestock industry. The first factor that has undermined Somalia's livestock farming has been our dependence on funding from non-governmental organizations. Instead of investing in long-term initiatives that might result in employment, income, and poverty eradication, these organizations give away money, food, and supplies in the form of humanitarian assistance. Their provisions are merely to provide life-saving assistance rather than working to



rebuild livestock and farm assets. This has had a negative impact on livestock farming because many pastoralists have abandoned farming and become constant beggars.

The livestock industry has also suffered from epidemic outbreaks which have killed thousands of animals and placed consumers of livestock products at risk. A series of fatal diseases have been reported over the past three decades, mostly affecting camels and cows. The most recent one killed hundreds of camels in the Lower Shebelle, Bay, Gedo, and Lower Jubba regions. This problem has been made worse by lack of veterinary services, surveillance and laboratory centers.

Limited veterinary services including treating sick animals, raising awareness, and advising pastoral communities may have also discouraged measures for disease prevention. The Ministry of Livestock recently had to deal with an export ban from Saudi Arabia claiming that diseases had been found in exported livestock, which caused a significant economic loss to Somalia.

Rangeland and natural pasture are the natural resources our country relies on. The local vegetation serves as the primary food sources for our livestock. However, many Somalis, due to their business mindedness, have, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, cut millions of trees each year for charcoal production. Due to this, Somalia's rangelands are in danger, and many native floras are in danger of becoming extinct. This rampant deforestation has caused desertification, drought, less rainfall, loss of natural pasture, erosion of fertile soil, and other serious environmental problems. As pastoralists heavily rely on rainfall and natural pasture, climate change and drought have had an adverse effect on livestock farming. Millions of Somali lives are currently at risk due to these changes which are beyond their immediate control.

In conclusion, livestock has traditionally been the main source of revenue and subsistence life in Somalia. Hence, we need to concentrate on the basics to attain economic independence. It is time to stop looking for aid and shift our attention to marketing our nation's resources to foreign investors by carrying out initiatives involving investment in livestock, agriculture, and fisheries as our main products. For instance, regions like Lower Shabelle can supply enough crops and livestock products to feed the entire Somali population. Rather than spending money exploring oil and other natural resources in order to increase the country's output level, we must first realize the full potential of our agricultural, livestock, and fisheries sectors and their significance in the economy of the country.

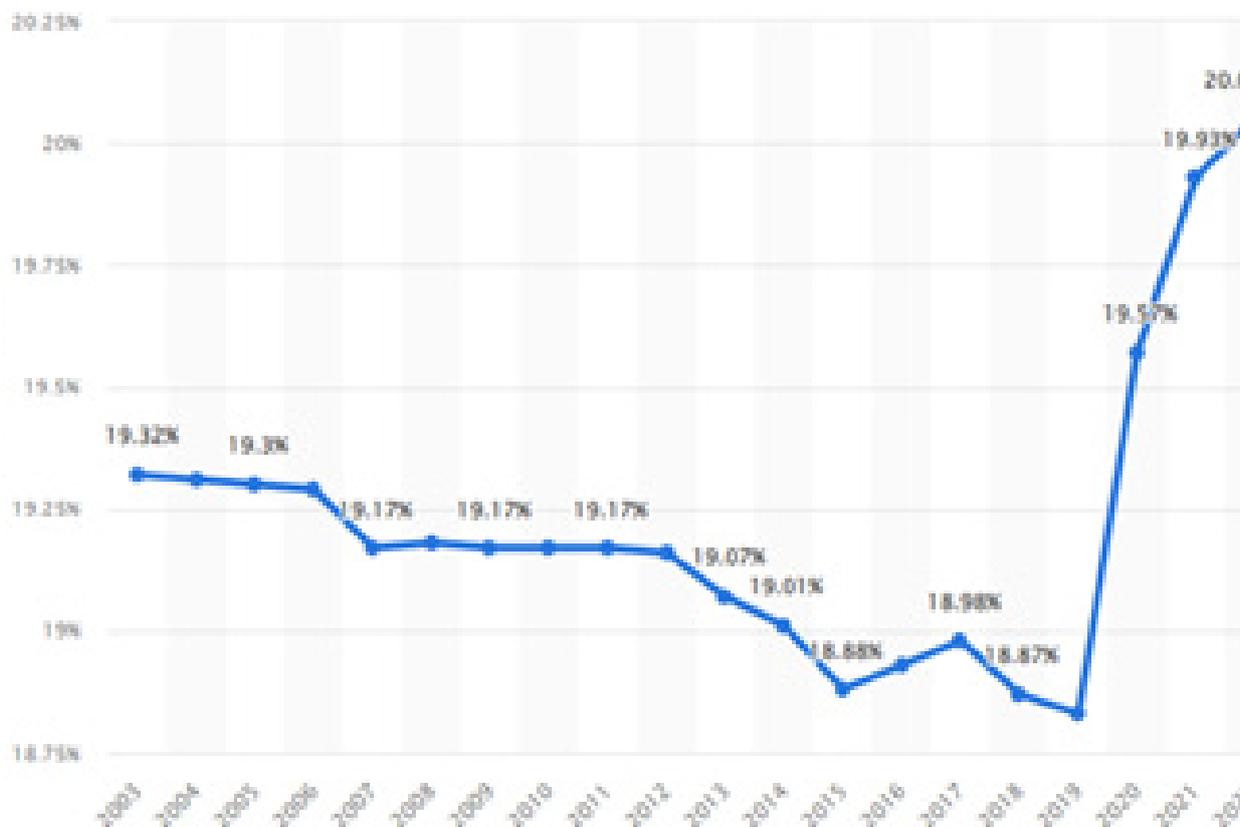
Do We Need More Foreign Workers in Somalia?

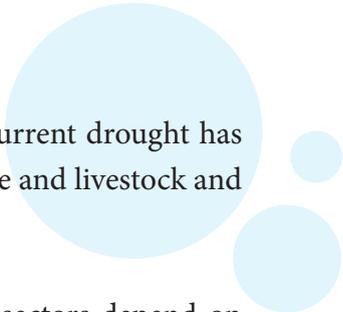
Abdirahman Nor
Lecturer at University of Somalia (UNISO)



According to the Federal Government of Somalia's Foreign Employment Act of 2015, a foreign worker is a person who is not a citizen of Somalia. This act stipulates that foreigners are not allowed to provide certain services in the country. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to issue work permits to foreign nationals who enter the country legally and in compliance with the local laws. Although the government tries to keep unemployment at a minimum level, many young Somalis have access to fewer job opportunities. Every year, thousands of new graduates join the labor market that is heavily understaffed, underdeveloped, and not well diversified.

Between 2000 and 2020, Somalia's unemployment rate steadily decreased; however, the trend has reversed since then. According to Statista, the unemployment rate has risen from 18.83 percent in 2019 to 20.05 percent in 2023, as illustrated in the chart below.





This increase can be attributed to several factors. First, persistent and recurrent drought has destroyed the main economic source for many Somalis, which is agriculture and livestock and constitutes approximately 75 percent of the national GDP.

Crop production and animal husbandry are affected most because both sectors depend on seasonal rains as the main source of water. Consecutive failures of seasonal rains have forced the rural population to leave their villages and seek refuge in the towns and cities. These farmers who are now internally displaced refugees have been pushed into unemployment. Similarly, the local farmers have lost thousands of cattle after years of severe drought. Modern irrigation system is not common. Even if they are available, they depend on the consistent flow of the Shabelle and Jubba rivers which run dry during the drought seasons.

Second, since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the transportation of goods came to a complete standstill, leading to many business closures. Since Somalia's business heavily depends on imports, the country experienced a serious shortage of goods and surging prices. As business after business collapsed and downsized to stay afloat, the number of unemployed people rose.

Third, armed internal conflict made the bad situation worse. Somalia has witnessed three decades of civil war and armed conflicts. In the last fifteen years, the internal power struggle put the country in a dire situation and led to the desertion of large swaths of farm land. Furthermore, the imposed blockade put more pressure on food production and limited transportation in Somalia.

Fourth, the political instability played a major role in the rising unemployment rate. The recent election disputes in 2020 and 2021 have smeared the country's reputation and trust of the international community. As a result, foreign funding was reduced or stopped altogether when Somalia's financial backers began losing faith in the political process and governance. Political wrangles between the federal government and other member states put a halt to important capacity building projects, while the aid agencies reduced funding due to uncertainty and suspected corruption.

Foreign workers seeking job opportunities are increasing in scale based on a recent ILO survey. Professionals and technicians, mainly from the IGAD region and the Middle East, have snatched the most rewarding jobs. For example, the number of foreign nationals working in the local health, IT, and construction sectors is increasing. The education sector is not an exception in this case; however, it is less affected than other service sectors. The question that arises is why foreign nationals can secure jobs in Somalia, while Somalis face a rising rate of unemployment. The following points may explain the perceived causes of this trend.

First, education level of Somalia's work force is not satisfactory. Only 61 percent of Somalia's labor force has completed their secondary or tertiary level of education. This situation has affected their career development, productivity, and competitiveness in the labor market.

Second, Somalia's labor market does not have enough skilled workers. Nearly two thirds of the total active work force is low or medium skilled. Our local graduates lack the necessary skills and training and think that a university degree guarantees them a well-paid job. Another problem is that most Somali youth want to be white-collar workers. For this reason, skilled blue-collar workers in manufacturing and construction have to be hired from abroad. The sectors requiring skilled workers have invited foreign nationals to fill this gap, such as Turkish nationals in the construction sector and Arab nationals in the health sector.

Third, false perceptions about the local education institutions have hindered local graduates from competing successfully in the Somali labor market. UN organizations and international NGOs have less appetite for employing local graduates. Instead, they tend to hire from the Somali diaspora or from the region.

In summary, it is the responsibility of the Somali government to support the local work force by offering professional training and creating more job opportunities. On the other hand, the international community should invest more in economic infrastructure and capacity building. As for the Somali youth, they have to enhance their skills to a satisfactory level, so that they can replace foreign workers and reclaim their position in the labor market.





FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

☒ Medicine and Surgery



CONTACT US

HQ CAMPUS, 21st JANUARY CAMPUS , KM4 CAMPUS ,
OSMAN GEDI RAGE CAMPUS, CEELASHA BIYAHA CAMPUS
POSTGRADUATE CENTER

www.uniso.edu.so | info@uniso.edu.so
P.O.BOX 627

Designed by: **Eng.Abdinasir Abdi warsame (Joodax)**