Globalization and Education Policy in Somalia

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Abstract

The present study aims to explore how globalization affected the education policy of Somalia. It looks at the issue from both positive and negative perspectives. It highlights how best Somalia's education policy can adapt itself to challenges brought about by globalization. Somalia, a nation attempting to rebuild its institutions after a conflict, has seen a substantial impact of globalization on education policy. While resources like funding, technology, and instructional materials have been made available by globalization, it has also created difficulties in matching global goals with local needs. Through STEM education and international standards, there is a focus on creating a workforce that can compete on a global scale; nevertheless, this could jeopardize Somali culture and local authority. Foreign finance has increased enrollment and access, but it has also weakened local control and increased dependency on outside funds. Due to globalization, problems including inequality, privatization, and brain drain have increased. Despite some modifications that have been made, Somalia still requires balanced education policies that take both regional needs

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Introduction

Globalization has had a substantial impact on education policies in many countries across many facets of society. In the case of Somalia, a country dealing with the challenges of post-conflict rehabilitation and development, the impact of globalization on education policy has been significant and complex. This essay will look at how external ideas and influences have affected Somalia's educational system and how that country's education policy has changed as a result of globalization.The collapse of the Somali government in 1991 resulted in the failure of all official educational systems, as well as the destruction of the country's educational infrastructure and resources. Due to weak oversight of the education industry and a lack of governmental policy, the country's once-uniform education system has now vanished. On the other hand, a wide range of parties are involved in promoting the educational sector, including local organizations, non-governmental organizations, private corporations, religious organizations, regional governments, community organizations, and committees.(Republic & Education, 2020)

(Faqih, 2021)observed that Somalia's education has improved as a result of legislative changes, curriculum reviews, the development of teaching and learning materials, evaluations of the education industry, and certification of official primary, secondary, and university institutions. The requirement searches for strategies to improve the impact of its quality and innovate. In order to improve the quality of education in Somalia, it is crucial, among other things, to improve the pedagogy and subject knowledge of the current teachers as well as establish new teacher preparation schools that produce teachers who are sufficiently qualified and trained as well as those who have access to the most up-to-date teaching tools in order to keep up with the challenges that globalization will inevitably bring.While globalization has significantly increased resources and opportunities for Somalia's educational system, it also presents challenges in achieving a balance between global goals, regional needs, and cultural norms.According to

Akiba (2017), Globalization affects educational systems in a number of ways, such as by posing new problems that call for educational solutions and by altering the systems' ability and mechanisms for addressing educational issues. In Somalia, a nation that has undergone decades of political unrest and civil war, the trajectory of the education sector has been greatly influenced by globalization.

Concept of Globalization

Many people have used the concept of globalization both positively and adversely in a variety of circumstances. Everyone tackles the topic from a unique vantage point and area of expertise. However, all academics agree that globalization has had a profound impact on civilizations on an economic, political, and cultural level.(Al'Abr, 2011).Globalization, which has been described in a variety of ways by different authors depending on the issue under examination, has an impact on every aspect of society and human existence. It is the escalating economic and social globalization.

Regarding globalization, various people hold a variety of opinions. Some are wary of it and have a pessimistic view of globalization, wondering where it will take humanity. On the other hand, there are others who support globalization who not only hold a favorable opinion of it but actively speak out in favor of it and assert that globalization is what would lead to human prosperity. Nevertheless, it is sage to coexist with it and make the most of it because it is present and strongly impacting all cultures.(Sajid, 2005)The need to emphasize that not all aspects of globalization are viewed adversely is vital. For instance, it has been successful in addressing issues like the environment and AIDS; only its hegemonic trait is condemned.

People tend to interpret the phrase "globalization" differently, giving it both good and bad connotations depending on the situation. Advocates of globalization believe it will improve living standards in underdeveloped nations and promote the global economy. Additionally, they

view it as an inexorable, irreversible process. Others, however, contend that it mainly serves the interests of more developed nations and is detrimental to the future development and prosperity of countless nations.(Moloi et al., 2009).

A multitude of concepts, including the narrowing of time and space, the erasure of boundaries, and the greater integration of human existence with the unavoidable advancement of new information technology, can be used to define globalization.(Erdem, 2018)The goal of globalization is to gain a foothold on the global stage or arena. It talks about the removal of trade restrictions and the rising integration of global markets. Globalization is a process that is continuously altering how interactions between countries take place by eradicating barriers in the areas of culture, trade, communication, and many other fields of effort..(Pacho, 2020)

Effect of Globalization on Education

The promotion of knowledge exchange, the expansion of educational opportunities, and the identification of the skills necessary for a globalized world have all had a substantial impact on education. It has numerous benefits, such as more opportunity and global connectivity, but it has also brought about issues with cultural relevance, commercialization, and uniform practices. In the past, nation-states have created their education policies in light of the issues they believed were important to their nation. Or, to put it another way, for a while, national concerns controlled education policy. However, in the broader context of globalization, education is today perceived as a global good, performing a tremendous function in the world economy through investments in people, skills, and knowledge(Al'Abr, 2011).

People disagree with the notion that education should be viewed as a commodity, nevertheless. They contend that the simple act of comparing education to a commodity will violate the fundamental principles of educational ethics. More importantly, a significant portion of the

population will not have access to opportunities for education, much less high-quality education, which will cause them to become victims of globalization or, at best, to be marginalized within their own societies.

Globalization and Education Policy in Africa

Globalization has had a huge impact on educational policies in Africa, both positively and negatively. On the one hand, globalization has made it simpler to obtain information, technological advancements, and funding from external groups and contributors. African countries have been able to improve their educational institutions thanks to improved educational access, higher enrollment rates, and higher educational standards.A few of the new developments brought about by globalization include the massification of higher education, increased student enrollment, and a shift in political and social ideology toward individual responsibility rather than public sector accountability.(Saha, 2015).

However, the globalization would put pressure on any government's educational policy. There are difficult choices to be made about funding and educational access, but the government may wish to follow a strategy that attempts to maximize the emancipatory, positive aspects of globalization and limit the negative repercussions of global competitive domination. More and more "market-related," or driven by financial considerations and notions from the corporate and commercial sphere, are the state's viewpoints on education. Arguments exist regarding who should be able to enter higher education, in particular.(Moloi et al., 2009)

African education policy benefits from the increased accessibility of educational resources, including new technologies, textbooks, and teacher training programs. This has allowed African

countries to improve educational standards and ensure that students are better prepared for the global market. Additionally, governments and international organizations are spending more money in this sector due to a greater understanding of the benefits of education on a global scale.

But globalization has also resulted in a great deal of challenges and concerns. One of the main challenges is the push to implement educational models from the West, which may not be suitable for local circumstances. This has led to a disrespect for traditional knowledge systems and cultural values, as well as a lack of focus on regional languages and histories in the educational curriculum.

Globalization has also resulted in a brain drain, where competent professionals and educators leave Africa in quest of better opportunities elsewhere. In many African countries, this has led to a teacher shortage, which has had a detrimental impact on the quality of education. According to Pacho (2020), Globalization has an effect on brain gain since it encourages skilled workers to move around the world. This represents both the brain gain for the countries that benefit from their knowledge and experience, as well as the brain drain for their home countries. Due to globalization, the issue of inequality has posed a challenge to African education policy. While globalization has made it simpler for many people to receive education, it has also made the wealth gap worse. This is because poor families typically lack the financial resources to pay for a quality education, which is fast becoming a commodity in the global economy. Additionally, as a result of globalization, education has been privatized in many African countries. To serve the interests of the wealthy as a result, for-profit organizations have emerged, and public schools are ignored and underfunded. This has widened the financial disparity and exacerbated the problem of educational inequality. In response to these issues, some African countries have put policies into place to promote greater inclusion and equity in education. For instance, several countries have implemented laws that eliminate tuition costs, provide free textbooks, and increase the

number of scholarships and bursaries available to deserving students. To make the educational system more sensitive to regional goals and requirements, others have invested money in curriculum creation and teacher training.

Despite the advantages and challenges that globalization has brought to African education policy, it is critical for decision-makers to adopt a balanced strategy that takes into account regional requirements and objectives while also attending to the needs of the global economy. This necessitates a reevaluation of educational policy that places a stronger emphasis on equity, inclusivity, and the preservation of local languages, cultures, and knowledge systems. By ensuring that everyone has access to education and that their educational systems are capable of preparing pupils for the opportunities and challenges of the twenty-first century, African countries may ensure that their people are well-off.

Globalization and Education Policy in Somalia

Globalization has been a phenomenon for a very long time, involving the joining and blending of various communities through international trade and investment. Somalia operated as a significant trading hub due to its proximity to the Middle East and North Africa, with ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians, Mycenaeans, and Babylonians interacting with Somali sailors and merchants for myrrh, frankincense, ivory, and spices. (Makina, 2011). Due to earlier interactions with international cultures, Somalia was more susceptible to globalization in trade, investment, and even education. For instance, long before Somalia gained its independence in 1960, students from Somalia traveled to Egypt to study at Al-AZHAR University.

Globalization has had a huge effect on Somalia's educational policies. Somalia has been forced to adapt to the times in order to compete and remain relevant as the globe becomes more linked. One of the biggest impacts of globalization on Somalia's educational policy has been the emphasis on developing a workforce that can compete in the global economy. There has been an

increase in the emphasis on STEM education and the development of vocational training programs as a result of the increased demand for skilled workers across a variety of industries.

The educational policy of Somalia has been significantly impacted by globalization. First and foremost, it has increased access to education, particularly in remote and neglected areas. Both the objectives of basic education policy, which state that access to basic education, life skills, and abilities in many fields of vocational education are prerequisites for high school and university education, as well as the promotion of skills entrenched in early childhood development are important. (Republic & Education, 2020).

In order to prepare pupils for a globally connected environment, there is also a focus on curriculum alignment with best practices and international standards. Distance learning has been made possible and geographic restrictions have been removed by technological breakthroughs like e-learning platforms and digital materials. Implemented to track and boost education quality are quality assurance standards and procedures that have been impacted by international benchmarks.

Foreign funding and investment have poured into Somalia's education system as a result of globalization, which has improved access to education and raised enrolment rates. This has, however, also led to a reliance on outside money and a lack of control over the educational system. Concerns relating to the preservation of traditional Somali knowledge and values have arisen as a result of cultural changes brought about by globalization and the adoption of Western educational paradigms.

Generally, while there have been some beneficial improvements in Somalia's educational policies as a result of globalization, there are still issues that need to be resolved if the country's educational system is to continue serving the requirements of its citizens and being relevant in the global economy.

Conclusion

The education system in Somalia has experienced a mixed bag of effects from globalization, including possibilities and resources as well as difficulties. A concentration on STEM and international standards to compete globally has undermined traditional culture and local control, even though globalization has increased access through foreign finance. Due to globalization, problems including inequality, privatization, and brain drain have increased. Despite the fact that some reforms have already been put in place, Somalia still requires well-balanced education policies that take into account both domestic and international demands in order to develop its long-term educational system and manage the conflicts between regional relevance and global competitiveness.

Recommendations

- Somalia must create educational policies that strike a balance between the benefits and drawbacks of globalization. This entails taking into account regional demands, cultural significance, as well as global competition and global wants. To enhance Somalia's education system in a sustainable fashion, the proper balance must be struck.

- . Although access has been facilitated by foreign finance, Somalia's strong reliance on foreign aid raises dangers. Through taxes, levies, and partnerships, the government should try to mobilize additional domestic resources for education. This will increase the school system's autonomy and ownership while reducing reliance on unstable foreign aid.

- Expanding equity and inclusion-focused reforms like free education, scholarships, and mother-tongue instruction is necessary. This will aid in addressing the inequality, privatization, and brain drain problems that globalization has made worse. The educational system must broaden its appeal and become more pertinent to local communities.

- International standards should be incorporated into the curriculum to ensure global competitiveness, while traditional Somali knowledge and culture should be included to provide local relevance. Students will be better prepared for the future with a balanced curriculum that teaches both global and local viewpoints.

- . To raise the standard of education, it will be essential to fund teacher training programs that use instructional technologies. This entails creating new teacher training institutions and improving the subject and pedagogical understanding of current educators in order to generate skilled educators who can meet the demands of globalization.

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