Traditional Education and Modern Teaching in Somaliland: A Comprehensive Review

Sakarie Mustafe Hidig [1*]   **Abdiwahab Mohamed Saed**[2]

[2]*Department of Surgery, The Fourth Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Zhejiang Province, PR.China*

[2]*Department of Education, University of Hargeisa, Hargeisa, Somaliland*

Abstract: This paper attempts to critically examine the approaches of Traditional and Modern Education, given that modernity in education is a Western invention, Western educational models have played a significant role in helping many nations successfully transition to modernity and achieve educational success. However, such forms may coexist alongside traditional cultures with differing degrees of unease, like in African nations, providing access to different worldviews. The main objective of the study is to study the development of values in the education curriculum concerning tradition and modernization. This review study comprises the results of the previously published article on traditional education and Modern teaching. The dilemma of Somaliland's education institutions not catering to local development priorities is a major challenge facing the country. It is a challenge that must be addressed if Somaliland is to achieve its educational development goals. The strengths and weaknesses of Somaliland education are discussed, and readers' attention is directed to possible areas for further study.

Keywords: Contemporary education, traditional teaching, modernization.

Highlights

- Modern education and Teaching places a strong emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and analytical skills.
- Traditional institutions prioritize academic learning outcomes, while modern institutions often emphasize real-world skills and practical experience.
- Modern teaching methods are revolutionizing e-learning by fostering student engagement and critical thinking, preparing them for success in the digital age.
- Somaliland needs to adapt its education system to enable students to compete globally and prevent students from feeling uneducated when seeking higher education abroad, requiring a comprehensive change from kindergarten to college level.

INTRODUCTION

Today's world is full of constant change; nationalism and globalization on the one hand, economic crises on the other, a decline in moral standards, social change, and so forth. As a result, education is caught between tradition and modernity. Throughout the world, countries are looking for ways of revamping and revitalizing education by improving the learning and teaching process, fostering a more inclusive and positive school culture, and optimizing the learning environment as well as many other methods. Globally countries invest heavily in revitalizing the education system expecting this to have a direct contribution to the improvement of the social and economic prosperity of the country. [1] Suggested that expenditure on education contributes to economic payoff. While [2]arguing that to increase the pace of social and economic development, schools must improve the targeted skills in the school curriculum. Despite this investment, however, [3] indicating that children are not mastering basic skills, one of the key areas considered for improving the value of education is adopting

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more progressive and modernized teaching methods. [4] Due to shifting requirements and scientific discoveries in various sectors, education has changed drastically over the years. More and more the global landscape has been changing, and the delivery methods, strategies, methods, tools, and techniques of education as well as the planning on a country-wide level down to a school and a teacher level has been evolving rapidly. Technology has also become a major component integrated into modern education, [5] described this integration of technology into modern education has transformed learning methods and teaching practices.

In this paper, we look at the differences between traditional and modern teaching methods and their respective impact on the success and development of students in Somaliland.

Traditional Education in Somaliland

Traditional education in Somaliland can be better understood in the context of religious education or traditional Islamic education. Before the Colonization of Somaliland by the British Empire in the 19th century, education in Somaliland was a function associated with the mosque and the Islamic religion. Few wealthy households employed Sheikhs to tutor their children at home. Most of the community was illiterate, and the literate minority received their education in the compound of the mosque.

This traditional learning method remained mainly unevolved throughout the years and is characterized by recitation, memorization, and a teacher-centered approach. Students often suffer from unsystematic procedures, and outdated teaching techniques that are inefficient in terms of effort required and time invested to learn.

The persistence of the traditional method of learning and teaching in Somaliland can be attributed to most of the fact that most modern educators and modern intellectuals began their educational journey within traditional learning systems, thus, its influence on teaching strategies as well as learning and teaching processes is very strong.

Another major reason for the prevalence of traditional education in Somaliland is due to the Qur'an learning institutions which exclusively employ this traditional education system and is attended by virtually every single Somaliland child between the ages of 5 and 10 years old. This exposure at a very young age leads to dependency and acclimatization on this education system at later stages in life. [Fig1]

Students of the Islamic religion who are aspiring to become Islamic clerics or sheiks are heavily discouraged from employing any degree of critical thinking, or observational judgment and are encouraged to memorize vastly large volumes of Islamic literature. It is believed that this kind of analytical thinking and individual initiative will lead them to stray or cause them to misunderstand sacred religious texts as rigid belief systems inherited from generation to generation can leave very little room for individual understanding. For this reason, these types of students, who are a considerable percentage of students in Somaliland, are exclusively taught in the traditional system [6]. [Fig 2]

(Fig 1 & 2) Showing the traditional Qur'an learning Institutions in Somaliland (source: internal Documentation)

Fig 3*: Shows a more modern but still traditional Qur'an learning Institution in Somaliland (source: internal Documentation)*
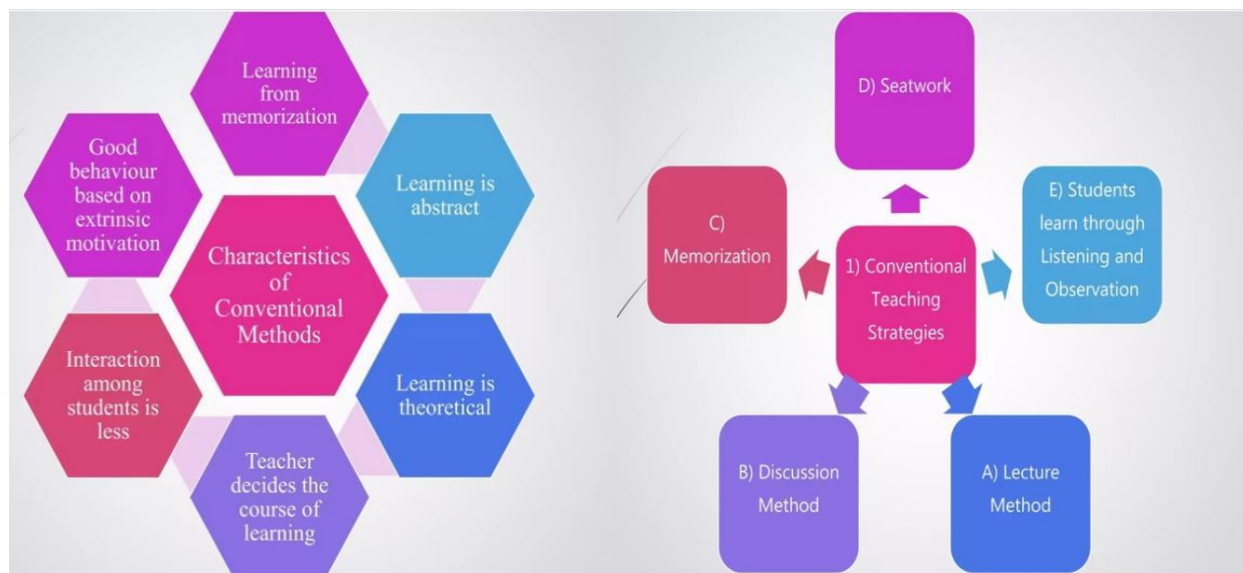

Fig 3*: Characteristics of Conventional Methods and Conventional Teaching Strategies*

Features of Traditional Education

Traditional education is characterized by an emphasis on obedience and complete subordination to the educator. Girme 1967 commented on this emphasis by saying "Individual initiative and inquiry are considered defects that have to be discouraged by severe punishment".

Traditional education is also known for a heavy dependency on memorization -especially at younger ages- and strict avoidance of understanding except at advanced stages, due to many reasons including poor training or poor understanding of the subject matter by the educator and misconceptions that avoiding understanding and relying on memorization helps to cover more subject matter faster [7] . Traditional education is

best suited for the mastery of a stable body of knowledge passed on through the generations. Which is not dynamic but static and unchanging and requires very little creativity and initiative. Traditional education is distinguished by using corporal punishment as a primary means of motivation. According to the WHO (2021), Corporal punishment triggers harmful psychological and physiological responses. Children not only experience pain, sadness, fear, anger, shame, and guilt, but feeling threatened also leads to physiological stress and the activation of neural pathways that support dealing with danger [8]. Assessment in the traditional curriculum often revolves around standardized testing. The idea of these tests is to evaluate students' knowledge based on predetermined criteria and provide educators and policymakers with quantifiable data

on student performance. However, this always runs the risk of students only learning for the sake of passing exams. This phenomenon is evident in the context of Somaliland, where students may pass an exam with excellent marks, but fail to remember anything of note of their subject matter after a month of sitting said exam, with no chance of using that knowledge in a practically useful [9]. One characteristic that distinguishes the traditional curriculum is its limited flexibility. The curriculum's prescribed subjects and methodologies leave little room for tailoring education to individual learning styles, interests, or cultural backgrounds. While this rigidity can be advantageous in ensuring a comprehensive education, it may fall short of addressing the diverse needs of all students [10]. [Table1]

Table 1. Traditional and Modern Teaching Methods (source: Cottle and Millis 1993)

Traditional Teaching Methods	Moderately Evolved Teaching Methods
Reading texts and problems	Video watching
Formulate questions	Attendance and participation in lectures using interactive whiteboards
Attending lectures	Accounting application using simple
Writing and reply brief or extensive questions and objective type questions	Role playing
Solving short or lengthy unstructured problems and cases	Simple modelling
Oral presentation of topic and reply to short questions from the audience	

Modern Education Systems

Modern education is the latest and contemporary version of education that is taught in schools and learning institutions in the 21st century. It is not merely concerned with giving formal knowledge, it also doesn't just only focus on prominent academic disciplines of Commerce, Science, and Arts but also aims to foster critical thinking, life skills, value education, analytical skills, and decision-making skills in students [11]. Modern Education also makes use of the latest technology such as mobile applications, audio and video platforms like YouTube, Podcasts, E-books, Movies, etc. Educating learners and making the learning process more engaging and interesting to enable a student to acquire human values, scientific attitudes, and noble character is the objective of modern education. Such an education system helps to transform society by producing upright citizens who can

contribute positively towards national progress. The curriculum should be designed in such a manner that students can face practical problems which they come across in day-to-day life. Modern education aims at the complete development of the personality of an individual. It provides a student with all-around development so that the student can face any challenges in life and harness inner potential for social betterment [12]. Modernization of education aims at removing the gap between traditional education and education required by industry so that students can get the necessary training which will help them do routine tasks more efficiently [13]. At the same time, emphasis is laid on acquiring creative skills so that one can contribute uniquely towards social growth. This type of modern education ensures the all-round development of a student through different curricular activities like arts, sports, physical education, library activities, community services, etc. [Fig3]
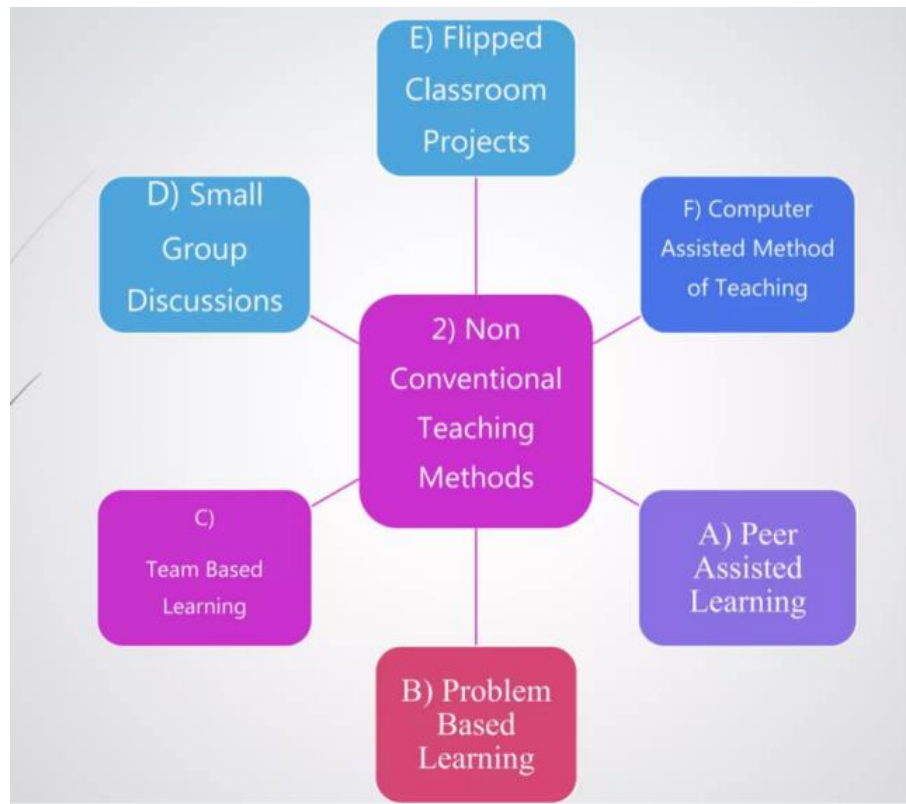
Fig 3: shows Non-conventional Teaching Methods

The Purpose of Modern Education

Equipping students with the knowledge and preparing them for life is the aim of modern education. With such an education, a student can make constructive contributions to society's improvement and be better equipped to handle obstacles in real life.

Modern education is supposed to foster essential life skills, critical thinking, decision-making skills, and analytical competencies in its learners. It is also meant to facilitate a positive approach towards diversity, inclusion, compassion, and a sense of responsibility in students.

Modern education creates a fun and engaging learning process, which incorporates educational technology to make the learning environment more experiential with a key focus on real-world applications of concepts.

One of the main purposes of modern education is to ensure that learning and education reach every corner of the world, whether through physical classrooms or online learning.

Modern education builds an equal relationship between the teacher and learner fosters the curiosity of students and teaches them to inquire and ask questions rather than the passive traditional approach.

Times change so fast so teachers are required to have competencies compatible with the current sophisticated era, modern education is meant to ensure that the development of teachers goes hand in hand with the development of the times to have positive impact on human survival [14]

Is Modern Education Necessary?

Modernization is necessary since it not only prepares students for the rapid improvements in technology but also because academic curricula have become out of date. It prepares students to be flexible in the face of change by teaching them how to use both conventional abilities and technical know-how equally. Modernizing the academic curriculum is necessary to better teach pupils about the swift advancements in technology, in addition to keeping pace with the times. Students who can adapt to changing circumstances

will be better able to use both traditional skills and technical proficiency with equal ease.

In modern schools, teachers can ensure the quality of lesson processes using modern teaching models thus increasing the interest rates of students in the subjects as well as their active participation in the lesson process [15]

Grading & Assessment in Modern Education

Apart from the approach to teaching and learning, another unique aspect of modern education is introducing a grading system that focuses on providing students with certain grades rather than marks to eliminate the quantification of a student's knowledge about a subject. Traditional approaches to learning assessment are no longer sufficient to assess students' success and development [16]. While marks were the major assessment element in traditional education, modern education has brought forward a grading system, which is a better way to provide students with an overview of their knowledge and understanding of different subjects [17]. With this advanced marking pattern, students are relieved of the scoring pressure, and teachers can highlight the areas where a student needs to work more and where they can focus on helping the student perform better. Modern Assessment not only helps the students achieve greater success but also helps the teacher, according to [18]teachers have a high degree of positive attitude towards the application of modern approaches in the evaluation process in education.

Modern Trends in Education

With the advent of modern technology, educational institutes have tried to introduce new methods and tools that help in developing different skills among students. The focus on lifelong learning and teaching methodologies has turned into online classes that allow students to attend lectures from any corner of the world. While the traditional education system focuses on theory, modern trends include practical experience as well. This way, students can do things practically with proper guidance from teachers. Educators are trying to make the learning process more practical by focusing on self-driven study. Globalization has increased the demand for life-long learning among the young generations by including different skills in the curriculum. Teachers are not only confined to classroom teaching but also deliver lectures online through virtual platforms. Students are focusing more on getting practical experience than limited theory-based knowledge Parents and teachers consider a student's academic performance to measure his or her success rather than complete

personality development. There is a clear expansion of education and the incorporation of research into it. However, some negative trends are apparent as well, and one of them is the fact that in many parts of the world, students are forced to select their career paths in the early stages of their academics, which limits their creativity.

There is an emphasis on e-learning as well as blended learning and online learning [19]. There is also a lack of proper teacher training programs, so they cannot provide modern teaching skills among them. Many online universities and colleges are operating without proper recognition from government authorities [20]. The private sector has introduced different innovative methods for delivering education, but most of these institutes lack quality standards, faculty, students, and curriculums. The problem arises due to the absence of centralized authority that might control the activities related to private sector educational institutes.

Modern and Innovative Teaching Methods

Interactive lessons are innovative teaching methods that encourage active student participation in learning, using modern tools like interactive screens, educational games, and software.

Traditional and distance learning methods are integrated into modern and innovative teaching through Blended learning which is an innovative teaching approach that integrates, utilizing e-learning techniques like video meetings for both teachers and students. For instance, Classroom teachers can utilize e-learning platforms to offer educational content, create interactive tasks, and promote student participation, alongside traditional methods like lectures, discussions, and presentations.

Students are encouraged to learn through hands-on activities and projects, in a method known as Project-Based Learning. It enhances problem-solving, decision-making, creativity, and innovation. Teachers act as facilitators, while students take responsibility for their learning journey. An example is the "Clean Energy Production" project in the US, where students designed and built a clean energy production system. This approach enhances skills, motivates learning, and promotes lifelong learning.

Another innovative method called peer teaching enhances learning by integrating students into the process and empowering them to teach each other. An example is the "Math Buddies" project in California, where advanced students are

trained to assist their peers in mathematics, improving teaching skills and understanding.

The leaning style of students and their knowledge level is tailored to their individual needs. This is done by Personalized Learning, which is widely used in both traditional classrooms and remote learning. Finland's English language curriculum is a prime example, demonstrating its effectiveness in boosting student confidence.

Finally, Inquiry-based learning is a popular teaching method where students research open-ended questions or projects independently. This approach develops analytical, reasoning, and curiosity skills, as well as resourcefulness and observance. It can be done individually or in small groups and can also enhance communication and presentation skills.

Advantages of Modern Education Teaching Methods and Potential Difficulties in Implementing Them

Modern education enhances students' appreciation for learning and increases their interest in it. While it encourages the pupils' social and communication abilities.

Modern education encourages pupils to pursue a lifetime of learning and greatly helps in improving their future academic pathways.

Enhancing critical thinking and creative thinking capabilities, as well as problem-solving techniques [21]. Using technologies in modern education reduces the workload of teachers and equips students with the ability to access vast amounts of information instantly. Modern Education is known for boosting students' involvement in the learning process and encouraging their active participation.

It also strengthens pupils' comprehension of academic topics and their ability to apply them practically. These teaching strategies have several advantages that make them a great option for raising educational standards, even with potential implementation difficulties. Most governments and private institutions use smart learning to elevate their students' learning experience, to naturally tempt them to be inside the classroom more, and for learning to occur better than traditional classroom learning [22]

Modern teaching requires advanced tools and technologies like tablets, cloud computing, smart devices, and specialized software, which can be costly and time-consuming.

To effectively implement contemporary teaching methods, teachers require continuous training and skill updates, which require more time and effort.

Modern teaching requires accurate scheduling of instructional materials, resources, and time, necessitating well-planned and coordinated efforts between educators and educational administrations.

Somaliland's modern education system requires small class sizes, but the poor economic conditions of most families lead schools to opt for larger classes for revenue generation.

Recommendation on improving the status of Basic education in Somaliland.

Increasing the Number of Schools

The school is a learning environment for students. The purpose of the school is to provide a more effective environment for student development in mental, intellectual, cognitive, social, and other dimensions. School is the foundation of society`s life in general and student life in particular. Building a new school is crucial to fighting ignorance and finding a new generation of innovators in Somaliland. For many young people who are at risk of becoming extremists, it creates a new light for life. Extremists are a global issue and are opposed to international and national security. Mohammadi (2021) underlined the importance of education in reducing extremism in Afghanistan. He underlined that education and schools in Afghanistan deserve more investment to curb extremism rather than the cost of fighting. Ultimately, the government must increase the number of schools and the proportion of those enrolled in primary education.

Mobilizing Finances

The finances of education are directly related to the quality, quantity, and efficacy of education. As Somalia recovers from conflict, all stakeholders must focus on mobilizing education resources. Financial resources are very important in this. The education or desired goals cannot be met unless the funds are allocated.

These recommendations have a few implications which include that the Government of Somaliland needs to implement uniform policies for both private and public education.

A national curriculum should also be implemented by the government.

The qualification levels of teachers and school administrators need to be raised, and the Ministry of Education should extend its programs for educating teachers in all regions with adequate resources.

The administrative and leadership skills of professionals in education school administrators, and specialists at the institutional, regional, and ministry levels should be enhanced.

CONCLUSION

The process of schooling will inevitably change. However, there must also be a significant link between traditional and modern education, as well as constant adherence to the relevant culture and tradition. The so-called "modernization" wave shouldn't be allowed to ignore the traditional core of Somaliland, nor should the traditionality cause one to shun modernity. We must always establish crucial ties that will lead to more riches and yield outcomes. This must be a top-to-bottom change, with a grassroots movement started and implemented by the government accompanied by advertisement and awareness campaigns, as well as policy changes mobilizing the necessary finances for such a drastic change movement as well as building more schools, training more teachers in modern education methods, and acquiring more tools to aid in the transition to modern education. The minds of Somaliland citizens who are naturally overprotective of their traditions and allergic to any changes or modernization, especially anything with Western influence should be sensitized, informed, and impassioned about the advantages of modern education, knowing that a parent will always do what is best for their children even if that means to shun the familiar and comfortable traditional education in favor of the frightening and foreign modern education.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest concerning the review article, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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