

Exploring the Incorporation of National Values in the Ethiopian History Education Curriculum

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Abstract

Ethiopia is a country in the Horn of Africa that is home to more than 80 nations and nationalities. These ethnic groups have distinct indigenous knowledge encompassing cultural, social, and traditional administrative systems, as well as economic and political values. In countries with diverse nations and nationalities, such as Ethiopia, history education plays an important role in promoting national consensus, unity, and peaceful coexistence. The main aim of this study is to investigate how the history and values of all Ethiopian peoples has been incorporated into the secondary school historical education curriculum. To address the intended objective, the researchers conducted interviews with key informants who are familiar with the contents of Ethiopian history education, as well as document analysis of books, articles, journals, scholarly work, history syllabi, history teaching materials, and other relevant sources. The data gathered through interviews, and document analyses were cross-checked with existing literature and qualitatively analyzed. The study findings reveal that the secondary school history curriculum did not accurately and comprehensively cover the history of Ethiopia's nations, nationalities, and peoples' indigenous knowledge and values. The study emphasizes that secondary school Ethiopian history curricula have been dominated by political history, certain regions and foreign history rather than the history of the Ethiopian population. This resulted in a negative attitude towards the subjects and caused complaints concerning Ethiopia's history curriculum contents. So, it is recommended that historians, educators, curriculum experts, and stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels work together to incorporate the history and values of all Ethiopian peoples into the national history curriculum in a balanced manner.

Keywords: history education; incorporation, document review, Ethiopian national value